



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

TURASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL

ANNUAL REPORT



2022



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

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 GalwayCounty

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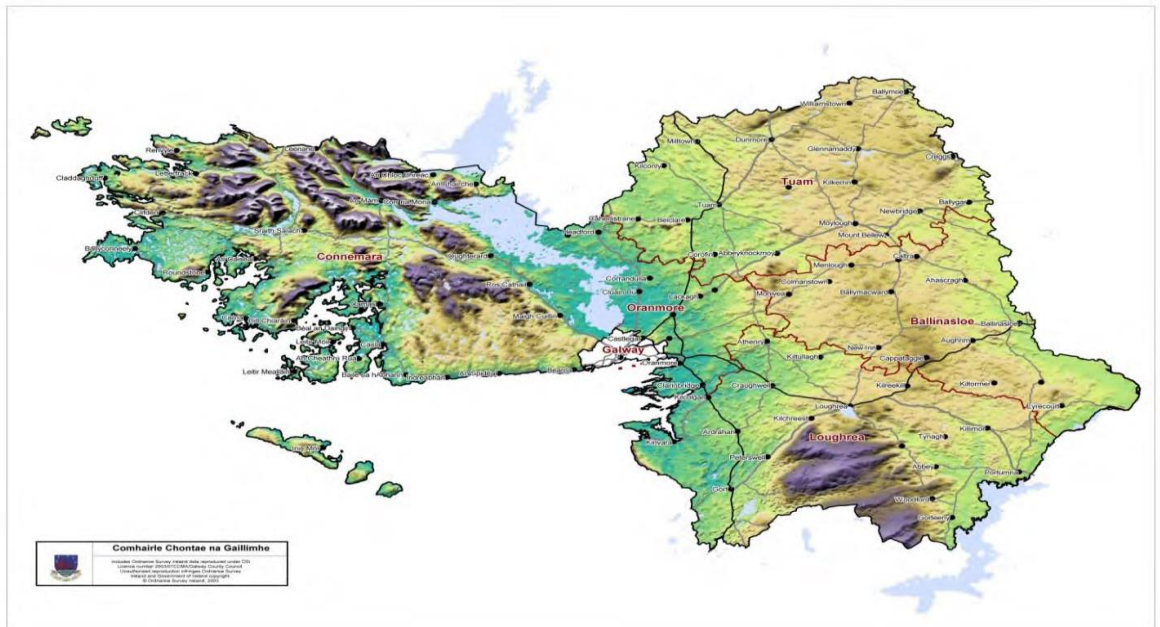
INTRODUCTION

MISSION STATEMENT

To enhance the quality of life for the people of County Galway by leading and strengthening Community and Economic development and delivering efficient and sustainable services.



CORE VALUES AND VISION



CORE VALUES

- **Accountable**
- **Helpful**
- **Inclusive**
- **Democratic**
- **Sustainable**
- **Value for Money**

VISION FOR GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

A county with a clear sense of identity, reflecting its heritage, language, and culture, that promotes sustainable economic and community development, citizen and stakeholder engagement, develops essential infrastructure and protects our environment.

MESSAGE FROM THE CATHAOIRLEACH OF THE COUNTY OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



As Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, it is a privilege to introduce this Annual Report, on behalf of Galway County Council, detailing what it has delivered for its customers and the citizens of the County during 2022.

It was a great honour to be elected as Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council on 17th June 2022 and to represent Galway as its first citizen for the County.

As a previously elected Cathaoirleach in 2011, it is an absolute privilege to have the opportunity to wear the chain of office and serve as Cathaoirleach for the County of Galway for the second time.

This report is a comprehensive record of what Galway County Council has delivered for its customers and the citizens of the county over the past twelve months. The range of initiatives and services delivered by Galway County Council across the county is considerable and the council continued throughout 2022 to ensure that our citizens received an efficient, and reliable service in a cost-effective manner.

Our annual report contains highlights from throughout the county that show just how much can be accomplished when local communities, businesses and local authorities come together. The momentum we built up in 2022 continues to this day, driving powerful improvements for individuals and communities. Given the challenges we all faced, it is truly inspiring to see what can be achieved, and I am confident that 2023 will be celebrated for the amount that was achieved for our communities.

As Cathaoirleach of the Council, I wish to sincerely thank the staff of the organisation for their work throughout the year and throughout the challenges that we faced. I wish to thank our Chief Executive Jim Cullen and his Executive team for supporting me and my fellow Elected Members in our work.

I would also like to thank Cllr. Peter Keaveney who presided as Cathaoirleach for the first six months in 2022 and also sincerely thank my colleagues on the Council for their support and co-operation during my term as Cathaoirleach of the County with a special word of thanks to my Leas-Chathaoirleach, Cllr. Eileen Mannion.

Is onóir mhór dom gur toghadh mar Chathaoirleach ar Chontae na Gaillimhe mé. Ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas a chur in iúl leis na comhairleoirí eile, leis an bhfoireann feidhmiúcháin agus le foireann na Comhairle ar fad. Leanfaimid orainn ag obair linn agus ag comhoibriú lena chéile, ar son mhuintir na Gaillimhe ar fad.

Michael Maher

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE



I welcome the publication of the Annual Report for 2022 which details the Council's progress on delivering the strategic goals of our Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024 and highlights the essential work and achievements of the Council in the past year in all our business areas.

In March 2022, just as we were emerging from the disruption and effects of the COVID pandemic, we found ourselves faced by the impacts of the war in Ukraine and the refugee crisis that quickly unfolded. Like many local authorities the council was quick to respond and in the early days of the crisis set up an emergency shelter in Oranmore with tremendous assistance from the local community. The response has had to continue through 2022 and now upwards of 3,500 Ukrainian have been accommodated throughout the county and received into local communities. I am very proud of the response by council staff to this crisis.

Supporting the Government's plan to increase social housing supply under the 'Housing for All' plan remains a priority for the council. In 2022 the council achieved its target to deliver 230 social houses and over the course of the year created a total of 307 new tenancies including 81 nominated to AHB properties.

After intensive public consultation and consideration, the County Development Plan 2022-2028 was finally adopted in May 2022 and came into effect on 20th June 2022. The Plan promotes the sustainable development of the County as an attractive place to live, work and invest, facilitating population growth in sustainable development patterns and enabling employment creation throughout the county.

Throughout 2022 the council continued to collaborate closely with the IDA in seeking to attract inward investment and open up the Strategic Economic Corridor. The site at Oranmore, where a significant land bank has been assembled, was under consideration for investment by a global scale technology company but we lost out to Germany in the end. Nonetheless, I remain confident that the enormous employment and economic potential of the Strategic Economic Corridor between Oranmore and Athenry will be realised in the short to medium term.

Efficient transportation is critical to the economic development of the County and in 2022 the council invested more than €36M in the maintenance and upkeep of our regional and local road network. The Galway City Ring Road which received planning approval in December 2021 was the subject of judicial review proceedings and has since been remitted for further consideration by An Bord Pleanála. It remains an absolute priority for the sustainable development of the City, County and region. Work continued on the Maigh Cuilinn bypass, and I expect it to be open to traffic in 2023.

The council was successful in securing funding of over €356,000 under the Brexit Adjustment Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Programme for works at nine piers and this work was completed in 2022. The development of a new pier at Inis Óirr remains a priority and the Compulsory Purchase Order to acquire the necessary lands was published in 2022. It is hoped that this project will commence in 2023. Improvement works are needed also at Inis Meain and the council is engaging with the Department and the island community to determine the optimal solution for future works.

The preparation of the county's first Tourism strategy commenced in 2022 with a draft to be brought forward in 2023. It will reflect the importance of tourism as a regional driver of economic social and cultural regeneration. Development work continued on the Conamara Greenway between Clifden and Recess. To date over 13KM has been completed and open to the public and a further 4.5KM under construction. It is hoped to complete this section and progress land acquisition for Recess to Oughterard in 2023.

In response to our obligation under Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030, the council has put in place the appropriate governance structures for responding to Climate Change. In 2022 a Climate Change Co-Ordinator was appointed with responsibility to develop a prioritised work programme for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from council facilities and activities. The council is already committed to the social housing retrofit programme, public lighting energy efficiency, a suite of active travel initiatives and a range of biodiversity measures.

2022 was an extremely busy and productive year and I would like to thank Cathaoirligh Cllr. Peter Keaveney and Cllr. Michael 'Moegie' Maher and all the councillors for their help and support in delivering what was a significant work programme in 2022. Their commitment to the development of the county is critical to its eventual success.

Finally, I want to thank the entire staff of Galway County Council for their dedication and commitment in providing vital public services to the citizens of County Galway.

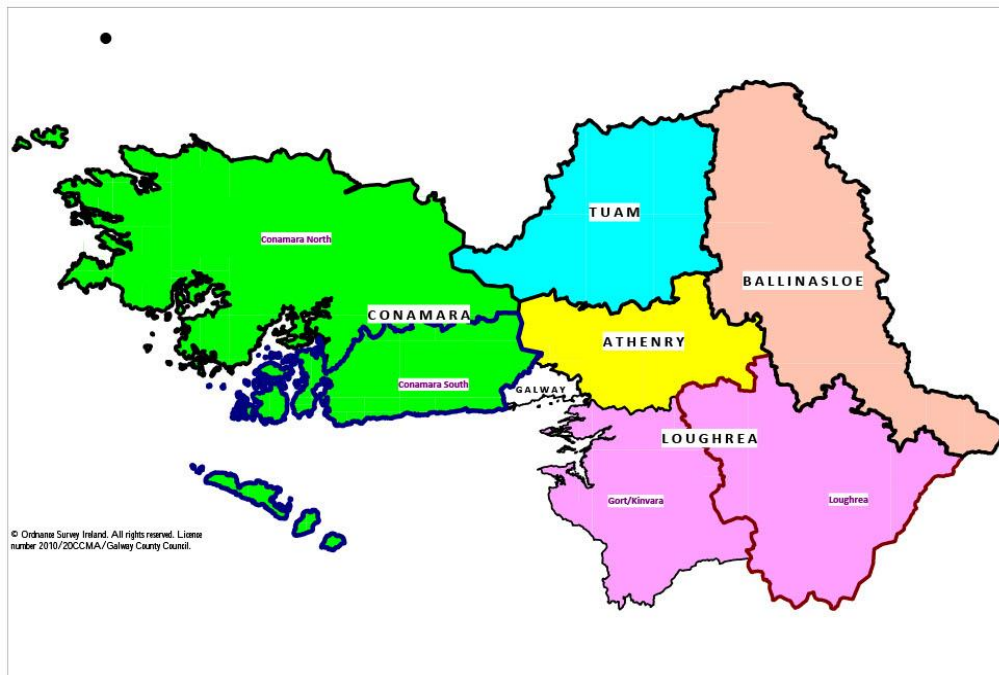
A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "J. Cullen", is written over a horizontal line.

LOCAL ELECTORAL AREAS/MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

In accordance with Statutory Instrument S.I. No. 618/218 - *County of Galway Local Electoral Areas and Municipal Districts Order 2018*, “the County of Galway shall have the following municipal districts for the purposes of section 22A (inserted by the Local Government Reform Act 2014 (No. 1 of 2014)) of the Local Government Act 2001 (No. 37 of 2001)”. The effect of the Order is to amend the division of County Galway into local electoral areas, to fix the number of members of Galway County Council to be elected for each such area and to determine the Municipal Districts for County Galway as follows:

- (a) The Municipal District of Ballinasloe consisting of the Local Electoral Area of Ballinasloe.
- (b) The Municipal District of Conamara consisting of the Local Electoral Area of Conamara North and the Local Electoral Area of Conamara South.
- (c) The Municipal District of Loughrea consisting of the Local Electoral Area of Loughrea and the Local Electoral Area of Gort — Kinvara.
- (d) The Municipal District of Athenry consisting of the Local Electoral Area of Athenry-Oranmore.
- (e) The Municipal District of Tuam consisting of the Local Electoral Area of Tuam.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS MAP



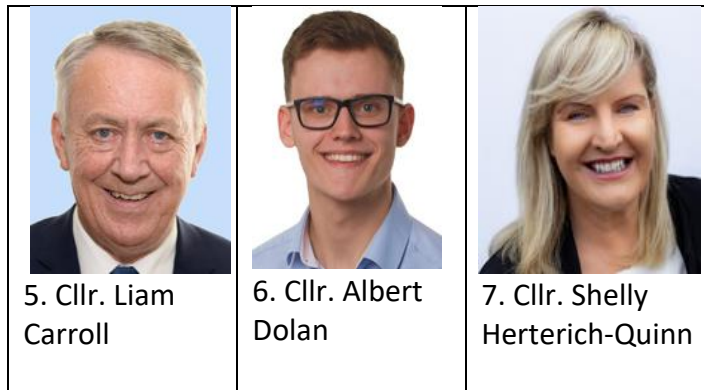
ELECTED MEMBERS BY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

The following pages list the Elected Members of Galway County Council for each Municipal District /Local Electoral Area:

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ATHENRY - ORANMORE

Athenry – Oranmore Local Electoral Area (7 Members)

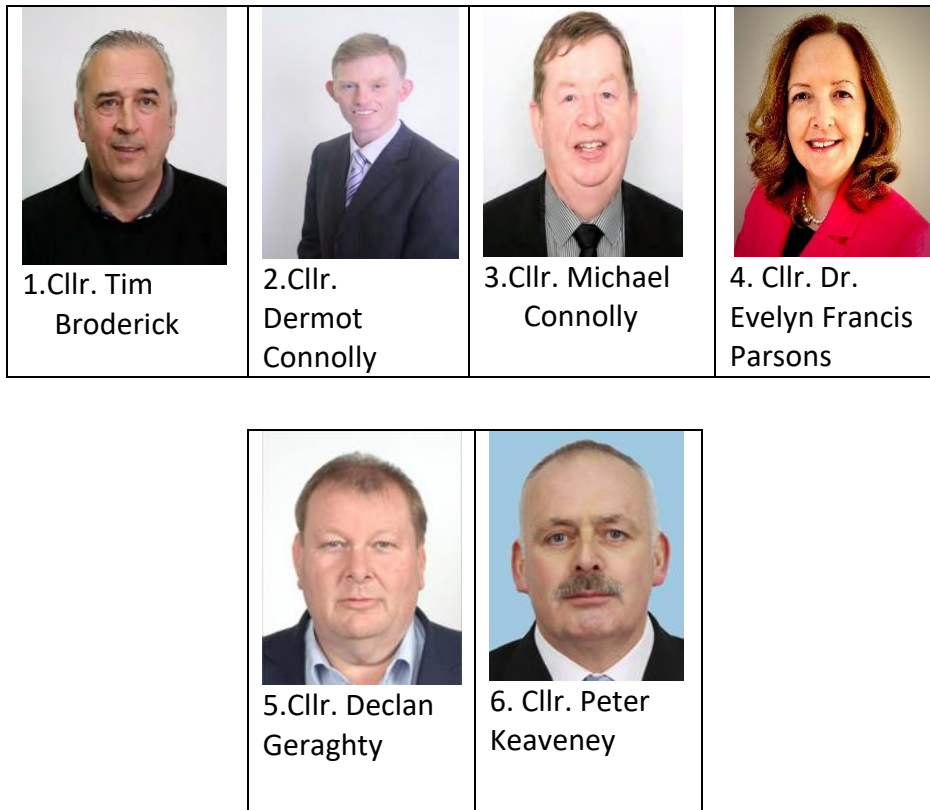




| Elected Members | Telephone | Mobile |
|---|---------------|-------------|
| 1. Cllr. James Charity, Tonegurrane, Cor an Dola, Co. Galway. | - | 087 2191792 |
| 2. Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly, Cloonkeen, Athenry, Co. Galway. | - | 087 2066810 |
| 3. Cllr. Jim Cuddy, An Laigndeacán, An Carn Mór, Oranmore, Co. Galway. | 091 798136 | 087 6360242 |
| 4. Cllr. David Collins, Waterview, Turloughmore, Co. Galway. | - | 087 7831687 |
| 5. Cllr. Liam Carroll, Frenchfort, Oranmore, Co. Galway. | 091 794677 | 087 6488684 |
| 6. Cllr. Albert Dolan, Monivea, Athenry, Co. Galway. | - | 086 7358081 |
| 7. Cllr. Shelly Herterich-Quinn, The Forge, Old Church Street, Athenry, Co. Galway. | - | 087 2871355 |

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE

Ballinasloe Local Electoral Area (6 Members)



| Elected Members | | Telephone | Mobile |
|-----------------|--|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | Cllr. Tim Broderick, Corraneena, Kilconnell, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. | 090 9686896 | 087 2728058 |
| 2. | Cllr. Dermot Connolly, Glennavaddogue, Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. | 090 9642986 | 086 0886160 |
| 3. | Cllr. Michael Connolly, Moyloughmore, Moylough, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. | 090 9679465 | 087 6829049 |
| 4. | Cllr. Dr. Evelyn Francis Parsons, Beechlawn Hill, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. | - | 087 1365793 |
| 5. | Cllr. Declan Geraghty, Williamstown Via Castlerea, Co. Galway. | 094 9643355 | 086 2543304 |
| 6. | Cllr. Peter Keaveney, Bushtown, Glenamaddy, Galway. | 094 9659388 | 087 2533098 |




MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CONAMARA

Conamara North Local Electoral Area (4 Members)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| 1. Cllr. Eileen Mannion | 2.Cllr. Thomas Welby | 3. Cllr. Séamus Walsh | 4. Cllr. Gerry King |

| Elected Members | Telephone | Mobile |
|---|------------|-------------|
| 1. Cllr. Eileen Mannion, Sky Road, Clifden, Co. Galway. | - | 087 9555645 |
| 2. Cllr. Thomas Welby, Cregg, Oughterard, Co. Galway. | 091 552748 | 087 2855676 |
| 3. Cllr. Séamus Walsh, Glann, Oughterard, Co. Galway | 091 552726 | 087 0519884 |
| 4. Cllr. Gerry King, Errislannan, Clifden, Co. Galway. | - | 086 1798749 |

Conamara South Local Electoral Area (5 Members)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. An Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin | 2. Cllr. Noel Thomas | 3. An Comh. Dáithí Ó Cualáin | 4. An Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire | 5. Cllr. Alastair McKinstry |

| Elected Members | Telephone | Mobile |
|---|------------|-------------|
| 1. An Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin, Na Foráí Maola Thiar, Bearna, Co. Galway. | - | 087 2933782 |
| 2. Cllr. Noel Thomas, Gort an Chalaídh, Maigh Cuilinn, Gaillimh. | - | 087 7372147 |
| 3. An Comh. Dáithí Ó Cualáin, Cor na Rón Láir, Indreabhán, Co. na Gaillimhe. | - | 087 9023755 |
| 4. An Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire, Na Doireadh, Baile na hAbhann, Co. na Gaillimhe. | 091 572974 | 087 9213795 |
| 5. Cllr. Alastair McKinstry, Croílár, Baile na hAille, Maigh Cuilinn, Co. na Gaillimhe. | 091 868678 | 087 6847928 |

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LOUGHREA

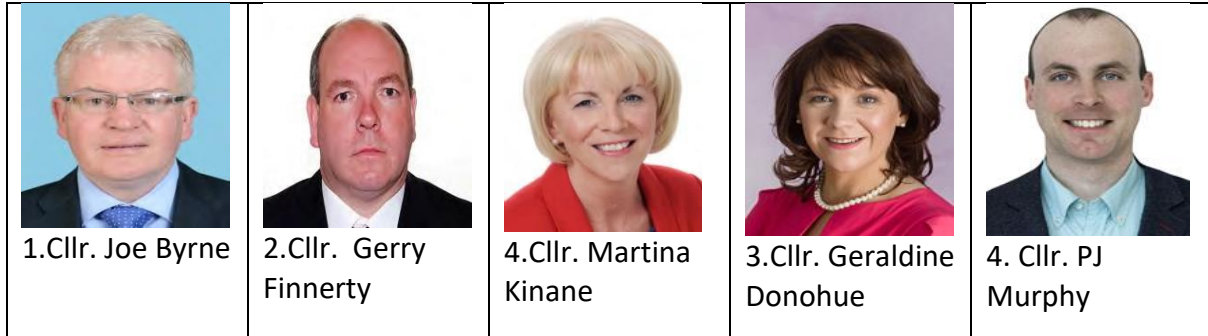
Loughrea Local Electoral Area (5 Members)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Cllr. Michael "Moegie" Maher | 2.Cllr. Jimmy McClearn | 3.Cllr. Declan Kelly | 4. Cllr. Ivan Canning | 5. Cllr. Shane Curley |

| Elected Members | Telephone | Mobile |
|---|------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Cllr. Michael "Moegie" Maher, Clostown, Loughrea, Co. Galway. | 091-842968 | 086 8109185 |
| 2. Cllr. Jimmy Mc Clearn, Tynagh Road, Killimor, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. | 090 9676235/9676963 | 087 2548723 |
| 3. Cllr. Declan Kelly, 7 College Green, St Brigid's Road, Portumna Co. Galway | - | 086 8032732 |
| 4. Cllr. Ivan Canning, Lecarrow Gortanumera, Portumna, Co. Galway. | - | 087 1376666 |
| 5. Cllr. Shane Curley, Raheen, Loughrea, Co. Galway. | - | 086 2706550 |

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GORT-KINVARA

Gort-Kinvara Local Electoral Area (5 Members)



| Elected Members | Telephone | Mobile |
|---|---------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Cllr. Joe Byrne, Highfield House, Cloonasee, Kinvara, Co. Galway | 091-638130 | 087 2625775 |
| 2. Cllr. Gerry Finnerty, Ballymurphy, Gort, Co. Galway | 091-632167 /091-633291 | 087 2674295 |
| 3. Cllr. Martina Kinane, Stradbally North, Clarenbridge, Co. Galway. | - | 087 2692102 |
| 4. Cllr. Geraldine Donohue, Springvale, Kylebrack, Loughrea, Co. Galway | - | 086 1692827 |
| 5. Cllr. PJ Murphy, Ballindive, Ardahan, Co. Galway | - | 087 7905401 |

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM

Tuam Electoral Area (7 Members)



| Elected Members | Telephone | Mobile |
|---|------------|-------------|
| 1. Cllr. Mary Hoade, Main Street, Headford, Co. Galway | 091 789854 | 087 2255979 |
| 2. Cllr. Peter Roche, Moyne, Abbeyknockmoy, Tuam, Co. Galway | 093 49187 | 087 8251470 |
| 3. Cllr. Donagh Mark Killilea, 171 Palace Fields, Tuam, Co. Galway | - | 086 6079563 |
| 4. Cllr. Karey Mc Hugh Farag, Brooklodge Demesne, Ballyglunin, Tuam, Co. Galway | - | 087 2822225 |
| 5. Cllr. Colm Keaveney, Kilcreevanty, Tuam, Co. Galway | - | 087 6776812 |
| 6. Cllr Andrew Reddington, Coarsepark, Headford, Galway | | 087 6458115 |
| 7. Cllr. Joe Sheridan, Milltown, Tuam, Co. Galway | | 087 9897072 |

GENERAL INFORMATION

Galway County Council is responsible for the administrative area of County Galway, excluding Galway City. The Council is responsible for the planning, design and construction of roads, drainage facilities, housing, fire stations, libraries, and burial grounds. Galway County Council is the custodian of the environment and through its planning and environment policies seeks to enhance the county while protecting its unique character and atmosphere. It also plays an active role in the development of the county's industrial, economic, business, social, arts, heritage, and cultural affairs.

In accordance with the Irish system of local government, which encompasses both democratic representation and public administration, Galway County Council as a local authority performs both a **representational** and **operational role**.

The functions performed by the elected Members are called "**reserved functions**". These lay down the framework of policy, under which the Chief Executive operates.

Such functions include:

- adoption of annual Budget.
- making or varying the County Development Plan.
- adoption of the Allocation Scheme for social housing.
- making, amending, and revoking bye-laws.
- approval for borrowing money.
- declaration of roads to be public roads.

The Council makes its decisions by resolution at its meetings.

The Chief Executive and staff perform the **operational role** of Galway County Council. They are responsible for the day-to-day administration of the County Council. The Chief Executive performs, what are called, the "**executive functions**" and the Chief Executive's decisions are made by written "Chief Executive Order".

These functions include:

- the allocation of houses
- the granting or refusal of planning permissions
- the appointment, of staff etc.,

The Chief Executive, in making decisions, must act in a way that is consistent with the policy, which has been established by the elected members while, at the same time, advising the members in relation to the performance of their reserved functions.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE IN GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2001, and Local Government Reform Act 2014 a primary function of the local authority is to provide a forum for the democratic representation of the local community and provide the community with civic leadership. In addition, the local authority has responsibility for the provision of a range of services, regulatory and enforcement functions and for the development of key areas including economic, business, heritage and cultural affairs.

The Reform Act which established the Municipal Districts and dissolved the Town Councils also introduced Local Community Development Committees (LCDC) to be established as committees of the local authority in each local government area. The legislation provided for the cessation of the County Development Boards and the introduction of the Public Participation Network.

THE COUNCIL

The thirty-nine elected Councillors from the Municipal Districts collectively lay down the framework for the policy under which an Executive Team operates. A Corporate Policy Group and six Strategic Policy Committees (SPC) formulate and agree policy. The SPCs comprise of elected councillors and voluntary/sectoral representatives who review and formulate policy across the range of Council functions. The Executive Team headed by Chief Executive operates in an executive capacity.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

Five Municipal Districts are established in the County of Galway, (with seven Local Electoral Areas), and are served by the elected representatives from that Area. The Municipal Districts are designed to enhance democratic governance, subsidiarity, and accountability. These arrangements are also intended to improve operational efficiency and value for money, with a single county-wide executive and operational structure. The Municipal Districts are decision-making entities rather than corporate structures.

CORPORATE POLICY GROUP (CPG)

The Corporate Policy Group comprises the Cathaoirleach of the County Council, Chairs of the Strategic Policy Committees and is supported by the Chief Executive. The CPG links the work of the different SPCs and provides a forum where policy positions affecting the whole Council can be agreed for submission to the full Council. The CPG advises and assists the Council and provides input on matters of general concern. It also has a role to monitor the overall performance of the local authority.

10 Meetings of the CPG took place in 2022.

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE (SPC)

The SPC structure makes available to elected representatives a framework and opportunity to fulfil their role as overall policy makers and furthermore, enables opportunities for partnerships with local interests and community representatives. SPCs provide a forum for better and enhanced capacity for involvement in policy formulation, review, and evaluation, with inbuilt assistance of relevant sectoral interests and supported by a Director of Services.

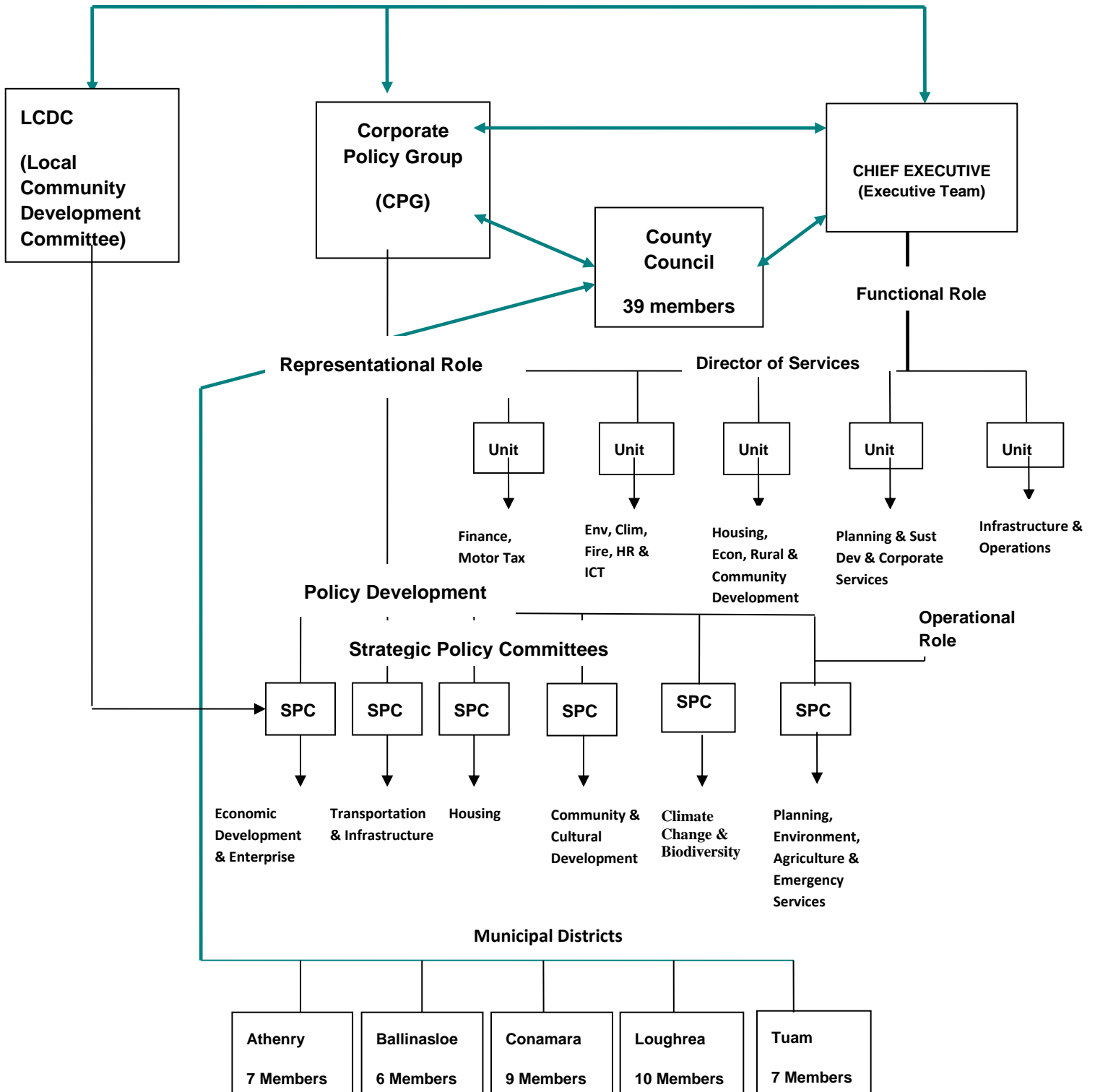
Six Strategic Policy Committees comprised of Councillors and Sectoral Representatives have been established in the Council as set out in the following table:

| SPC | Elected Members | Sectoral Representations | Committee Total |
|---|------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Housing | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| Economic Development & Enterprise | 6 | 4 | 10 |
| Planning, Environment, Agriculture & Emergency Services Community | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| Transport & Infrastructure | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| Community & Cultural Development | 6 | 4 | 10 |
| Climate Change & Biodiversity | 6 | 4 | 10 |

Executive Team

The Executive Team is headed by the Chief Executive and consists of Directors of Services, Head of Finance, the Law Agent, and the County Secretary.

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE 2022



GOVERNANCE

Governance is concerned with developing the appropriate structures and processes for directing and managing Galway County Council so that stakeholders can be assured that Galway County Council is operating effectively and efficiently. Governance focuses on the legal, regulatory, and service obligations and on the sets of relationships between the Council, the Committees, the individual Members, the Chief Executive, the Executive Team, staff, and stakeholders in determining the direction and performance of this Council.

The following six good governance principles and supporting principles, help to guide Galway County Council in its delivery of service.

CORE PRINCIPLE 1

Good Governance means focusing on the purpose of the authority, on the outcomes that deliver sustainable economic and societal benefits and on implementing a vision for the local authority.

Supporting Principles

1. Exercising strategic leadership by developing and clearly communicating the authority's purpose and vision through the corporate plan and ensuring that service users receive a high-quality service.
2. Ensuring that the authority, through its service delivery plan, makes best use of resources to ensure achievement of outcomes is optimised.

CORE PRINCIPLE 2

Good governance means members and officials working together to achieve a common purpose within a framework of clearly defined functions and roles.

Supporting Principles

1. Exercising effective leadership throughout the authority, being clear about reserved and executive functions and the respective roles and responsibilities of members and officials.
2. Creating a constructive and respectful working relationship between members and officials and ensuring that the functions of the Authority are performed to a high standard.

CORE PRINCIPLE 3

Good governance means promoting and demonstrating public service values through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour.

Supporting Principles

1. Ensuring members and officials, in exercising leadership, behave in ways that exemplify high standards of conduct, ethical behaviour and effective governance.
2. Fostering a culture and ensuring mechanisms that encourage and enforce adherence to ethical values and to the organisational values as espoused in the corporate plan.

CORE PRINCIPLE 4

Good governance means taking better informed and transparent decisions and managing risk and performances.

Supporting Principles

1. Being rigorous and transparent about the decision-making process and having good quality information, advice and support available to decision makers.
2. Ensuring that an effective risk, financial and performance management systems are in place. Which address uncertainties and exposures, enforce financial discipline, and emphasises strategic resource allocation and the efficient and effective delivery of services

CORE PRINCIPLE 5

Good governance means developing the organisational capacity and the leadership capability and competencies of members and officials to operate effectively and the purpose of the organisation.

Supporting Principles

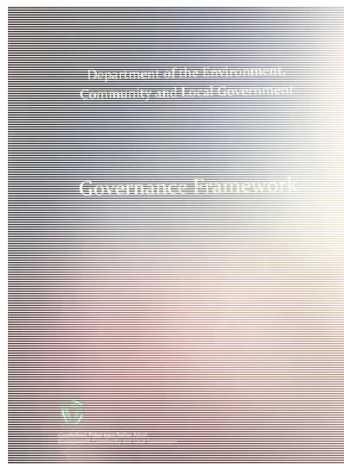
1. Ensuring that members and officials have the supports and appropriate structures they need to perform effectively in their roles.
2. Developing the capability of those with governance and leadership responsibilities to ensure outcomes achieved are consistent with good governance obligations.

CORE PRINCIPLE 6

Good governance means engaging openly and comprehensively with local people, citizens, and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.

Supporting Principles

1. Providing clarity in relation to accountability relationships and organisational assurance, audit, and scrutiny functions.
2. Ensuring there is a process and mechanism that deliver clear communication, effective stewardship, and accountability to stakeholders.



The Galway County Council Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024 as adopted by the Elected Members of Galway County Council, provides the framework to enable Galway County Council to guide the strategic direction and development of the County of Galway for the period 2020 - 2024.

The strategic goals and supporting strategies identified in the Plan support Galway County Council in carrying out its functions, prioritising its actions, and assessing its progress. The core values will underpin and guide the delivery of local authority services over the period 2020 - 2024, while the mission reflects the importance of enhancing the quality of life for people of County Galway by leading and strengthening community and economic development and delivering efficient and sustainable services.

The achievement of our mission and vision will be realised through the attainment of a number of interrelated Goals. To deliver these goals the council will implement a range of Supporting Strategies. These Supporting Strategies will form the basis of the functions as set out in the Annual Service Delivery Plans and schedule of Municipal District works.

STRATEGIC GOALS

Community Participation

“To facilitate the broadest possible participation by citizens in local decision making and the sustainable development of their communities and their county.”

Economic & Enterprise Development

“To maximise the continued and sustainable economic and enterprise development of our county.”

Infrastructural Capacity

“To ensure that our physical and social infrastructure is sufficiently developed to support economic development, and to enhance our quality of life.”

Organisational Capacity

“To maximise organisational capacity through the continuous review of operational efficiency, financial and risk management and the development of our Staff and Elected Members.”

Protection of Environment & Heritage

“To improve, protect and promote our environment, culture, heritage and language in the interests of present and future generations.”

Quality Customer Service

“To ensure that quality customer service is at the centre of everything we do.”

An assessment of our performance against the targets set in the 2022 Service Delivery Plan is also included on pages 309 to 369, while details of our performance against the national performance indicators is included on pages 307.

Note: Please refer to Galway County Council's Annual Budget 2023 for additional information on the Annual Progress Report on the Galway County Council Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024.

This Document can be located at: -

<http://www.galway.ie/en/services/yourcouncil/finance/annualbudgets/>

PLANNING &
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT &
CORPORATE SERVICES

PLANNING

In 2022 the Planning Unit continued to promote and support the sustainable development of the county so that our citizens can live in vibrant communities, where cultural differences are valued and encouraged, where everyone can be actively involved in economic, social, and cultural life, and where people have access to an acceptable level of services and infrastructure.

FORWARD PLANNING

REVIEW OF GALWAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (CDP) 2022-2028

The statutory process leading to the adoption of the Galway County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 continued during 2022.

The Chief Executive's Report on public submissions received was prepared. CE Report was circulated to Members for their consideration in October 2021. Council Meetings commenced in December 2021 and continued in January 2022 to allow for consideration of the Chief Executive's Report on the public submissions received relating to the Draft County Development Plan 2022 – 2028.

A number of proposed Material Alterations (Amendments) to the Draft Galway County Development Plan were agreed by the Members and those went out on public display in February 2022. Council Meetings were held in April and May 2022 for consideration of same.

Galway County Council finalized and adopted the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 in May 2022, and the Plan came into effect on the 20th June 2022.

The new County Development Plan sets out the strategy for the future planning and sustainable development of County Galway up to 2028 and beyond.

MINISTERIAL DIRECTION

A Draft Ministerial Direction was received on the Galway County Development Plan. Submissions were invited and subsequent Chief Executives Report was prepared. A final Ministerial Direction was received on the 28th of September 2022. The Galway County Development Plan was subsequently amended to reflect the Ministerial Direction.

REVIEW OF BALLINASLOE LOCAL AREA PLAN 2022-2028

A total of 40 no. submissions were received within the public consultation period for the Draft Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2022-2028.

The Chief Executive's Report on the submissions received was published in January 2022. Ballinasloe Municipal District Meetings were held on 09th and 16th February 2022 for consideration of same.

A number of proposed Material Alterations (Amendments) to the Draft LAP were agreed by the Members and those went out on public display in March 2022. The Chief Executive's Report on the Material Alterations was prepared and circulated to all Members. A further meeting was held in May 2022 for consideration of same.

The Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2022-2028 was finalized and adopted in May 2022 and came into effect on the 6th July 2022.

URBAN REGENERATION DEVELOPMENT FUND (URDF)

Work continued to progress the delivery of the URDF project at Garraun, Oranmore awarded in March 2021 with Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Irish Rail, and NTA.

There are three main elements to the project which is centred around the existing train station at Oranmore in County Galway's metropolitan area.

1. Railway Infrastructure Upgrades to include a 1KM passing railway loop at the existing Oranmore Train Station, including additional platform and associated infrastructure (12 million)
2. Design of the local centre (see attached) and lands south of the train station to include a detailed design of the local centre, associated car park (existing), (architectural/structural engineering detail) and landscaping plan (for public use); (€300,000)
3. A study on the Design Development of Typologies to implement the Urban Framework Plan (€75,000)

During 2022 actions included:

Prepared and agreed the Governance Structure with Irish Rail, NTA, Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government.

Prepared and submitted a Draft Business Case of Planning to the Department for review.

Preparing Tender Documents for a) Design of Local Centre; b) Design of Multi-Storey Carpark Structure (architectural/structural engineering detail) and c) Landscaping Plan (for public use).

Preparing Tender Documents for a Typology Study – Design Guidelines and preparation of Tender Documents.

RESIDENTIAL ZONED LAND TAX (RZLT)

The Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) was introduced by the Finance Act 2021 and the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997. RZLT applies to serviced land zoned suitable for residential development on or after 1st January 2022. Local Authorities were tasked to prepare a map indicating lands within their functional area which meet the relevant criteria within the scope of RZLT. In the course of 2022 Draft Map were prepared by Galway County Council identifying land within the scope.

Draft Residential Zoned Land Tax Maps went on public display from 1/11/22-01/1/23.

51 no. submissions that were received during public submission period.

PLANNING SPATIAL DATA CAPTURE PILOT INITIATIVE

Participated in the Planning Spatial Data Capture Pilot Initiative with the Department of Planning, Housing and Local Government. This initiative aims to capture all spatial Data within the county.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SECTION

Galway County Council have completed the pilot of Online Planning Applications using the National Portal. More than 70% of applications are being submitted via the National Portal and we have received very positive feedback from relevant agents. The portal has been developed for Submissions and Part 8 modules which became operational during 2022, while the national rollout continues with other Local Authorities around the country.

- 2,606 Planning Applications were presented to the Planning Office in 2022 of which 1,337 were e files and 1,269 were paper files.
- 2,036 Planning decisions were made in 2022.
- €844,582.92 was received in Planning Fees in 2022.
- 77 Exempted Development Declaration Applications were presented to the Planning Office in 2022.

Pre-Planning Meetings Majors/LRD/SHD

| 2022 | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Total Major Preplanning Meeting | 20 |
| Follow Up Major Preplanning Meetings | 2 |
| LRD Meetings | 1 |
| SHD Meetings | 2 |
| Total | 25 |

ENFORCEMENT MEASURES

It is the policy of Galway County Council to secure compliance with Planning Permission and to prevent Unauthorised Development in accordance with the statutory requirements as set out in the Planning and Development Act and the Planning and Development Regulations.

| | |
|---|-----|
| No. of complaints received in 2022 | 225 |
| Warning Letters served | 82 |
| Enforcement Notice served | 59 |
| No. of new cases referred to Law Agent and external Solicitors for Summary Proceedings | 21 |

BUILDING CONTROL

The Building Control staff carry out the following duties in conjunction with other Statutory Bodies.

- (a) Validating and registering Commencement Notices/7 Day Notices through the Building Control Management System,
- (b) Processing applications for Fire Safety Certificates and Disability Access Certificates through the Fire Service,
- (c) Advising Designers/Assigned Certifiers in relation to issues of compliance with the Building Regulations 1997,
- (d) Validating and registering the Certificate of Compliance on Completion,
- (e) Maintaining the Statutory Register,
- (f) Inspecting construction works in progress in relation to compliance with the Building Regulations 1997 and carrying out enforcement as necessary.
- (g) Ensuring compliance of Construction Products in line with EU(Construction Products) Regulations 2013(S I No. 225 of 2013) in conjunction with the National Building Control and Market Surveillance Office.
- (h) Ensuring compliance of Building Energy Rating Certificates in line with the EU(Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulation 2012 (SI No. 243 of 2012)

COMMENCEMENT NOTICES FOR 2022

| Number | Status on BCMS |
|---------|---|
| 780 no. | ‘Complete’ status of Commencement Notice on the BCMS: (732 no. Valid Commencement Notices and 8 no. Invalid Commencement Notices) |
| 116 no. | ‘Revised Information’ of Commencement Notice on the BCMS |

ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION

Galway County Council continued to work to implement the statutory legislation set out in Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) which provides for the protection of the architectural heritage, which is a unique resource for County Galway. This included the provision of advice to the statutory agencies, local communities and to owners and occupiers of buildings and places of special architectural merit.

The Conservation Unit continued in 2022 to promote awareness of historic buildings and places and the traditional skills and materials necessary to secure their survival into the future. Best practice in conservation and traditional skills was promoted through various conservation projects, and in

cooperation with national bodies and community groups in securing the conservation of traditional buildings of special interest.

A collaborative approach was adopted to promote place making with local communities to make our towns and villages better places to live, visit and work.

The following are the core activities undertaken in 2022:

- Identified, evaluated, and provided advice on structures, groups of structures, areas and other features of architectural heritage significance and provided advice to owners and occupiers of historic structures on good practice and on the availability of assistance, including financial assistance, for such conservation.
- Preplanning consultations and advice given on architectural conservation within the local authority and to the statutory and non-statutory bodies.
- Assessed structures on Record of Protected Structures (RPS) with a view to issuing Declarations as to works that require planning permission and provide pre planning advice to owners /occupiers. Reported and advised on planning applications where architectural heritage issues arise.
- Monitored the state of repair of structures on RPS, and as necessary, made recommendations on the need, if any, for the planning authority to take enforcement action.
- Inspected and assessed structures for inclusion on RPS,
- Carried out Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) assessments, including of historic demesnes.
- Maintained the Architectural Inventory System (AIS) database of protected structures in liaison with GIS section.
- Input into relevant chapters of County Development Plan review.
- Liaison with community groups and statutory bodies regarding the conservation of graveyards.
- Liaised with local communities and tourism development bodies regarding Tidy Towns.
- Liaison with ICOMOS Ireland
- Participant in Creative Ireland Team.

HISTORIC STRUCTURES FUND 2022

The **Historic Structures Fund** invests essential capital in our valuable built heritage and helps the owners and custodians of historic structures to safeguard them into the future for the benefit of communities and the public.

The core aims of this fund are to:

- **enable** larger scale conservation works to be carried out on heritage structures which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support.
- **encourage** the regeneration and reuse of heritage properties and to help to secure the preservation of protected structures and/or historic-culturally significant assets;
- **support** the investment of private capital in labour-intensive projects to conserve historic structures in public and private ownership for community use.

The Department encourages project promoters to incorporate a traditional skills training element in the project.

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

(i) Protected Structures: Structures in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) of each Local Authority.

(ii) Structures eligible for or proposed for inclusion in the RPS but not yet formally approved for inclusion. Such structures must meet the criteria for inclusion in the RPS by the Local Authority, i.e. must be of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical point of view;

(iii) Structures or works within Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs), or within the amenity of a National Monument, where exceptional circumstances apply.

Cill Einde An Spideal, repairs to masonry and roof

FUNDING UNDER THE HISTORIC STRUCTURES FUND 2022

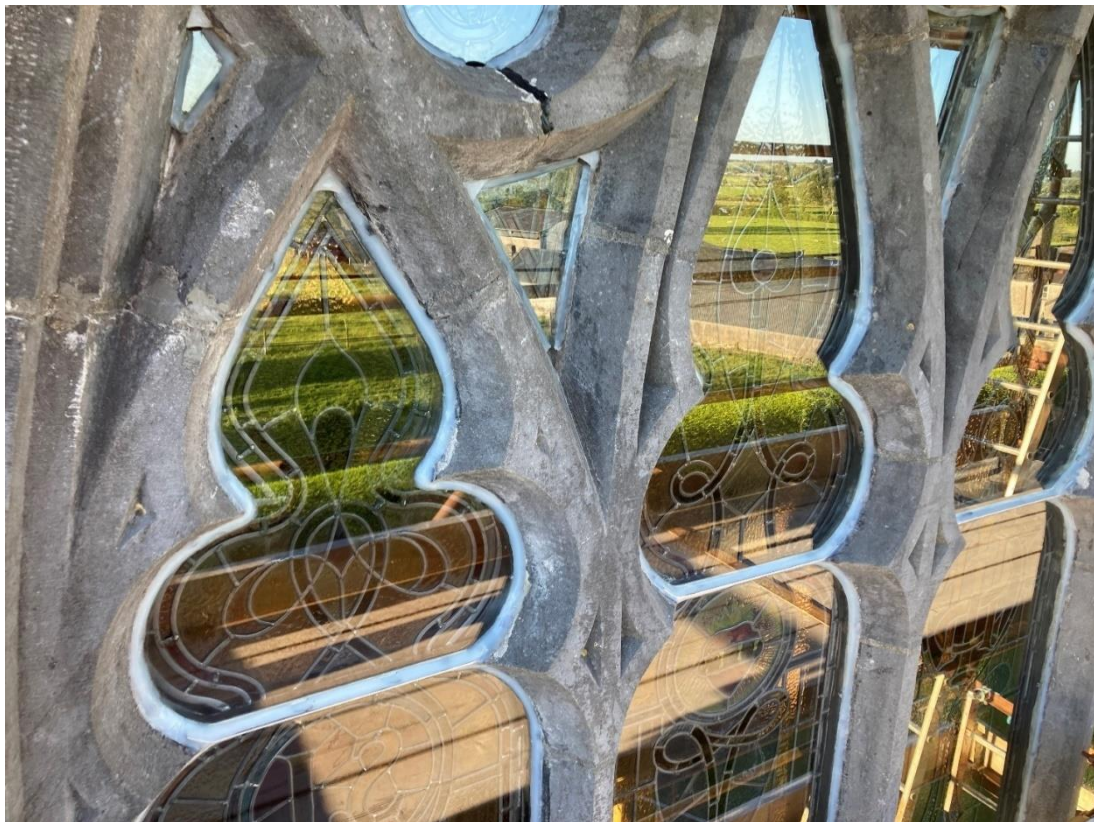
REF. NO: HSF 22/01 Vernacular Stream
STRUCUTRE: Keane’s Thatch, Maree, Oranmore, Co. Galway
WORKS: Repairs to front & back of thatch
PAID: €7,695.00



REF. NO: HSF 22/03
STRUCTURE: St. Peter & Paul’s Church, Ballymacward, Ballinasloe
WORKS: Repairs & restoration to 5 stain glass windows.
PAID: €35,000.00



Cracked glass decayed lead comes , algal growth due to water ingress



Storm glazing inserted.

REF. NO: HSF 22/04
STRUCTURE: Neo Gothic Church, Kylemore Abbey, Connemara H91 VR90
WORKS: Repair/Replacement of cast iron gutters/downpipes
PAID: €50,000.00



Tour, Workshop

Conservation Tour, The Gothic Church, Kylemore Abbey

Wednesday, October 5, 2022

10:30 16:20



Conservation training as part of Architecture at the end festival



BUILT HERITAGE INVESTMENT SCHEME 2022

The **Built Heritage Investment Scheme** seeks to encourage the investment of private capital in a number of small-scale, labour-intensive projects to repair and conserve historic structures and to support the employment of skilled and experienced conservation professionals, craft workers and tradespeople. The scheme is designed to assist the owners/occupiers of protected structures.

Galway was allocated €126,400 which was fully allocated to 14 projects, including thatching roofs, repair of slate roofs, repair of sash windows and stain glass, throughout the county providing employment to skilled tradesmen and women, and professional advisors in building conservation.

Table of funding under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2022

| Ref No | Structure | Works | Paid |
|------------|---|--|------------|
| BHIS 22/01 | Presbyterian Church, Society St, Ballinasloe | Restoration of windows | €5,378.00 |
| BHIS 22/02 | Thatched House, Summerfied, Claregalway | Repairs to thatch roof | €5,000.00 |
| BHIS 22/03 | Kelly's Monument, Killeroran, Ballygar. | Repairs & restoration of railings | €2,500.00 |
| BHIS 22/04 | Thatched Dwelling House, Lisheenoran, Corrandulla | Repairs to thatch roof | €5,000.00 |
| BHIS 22/05 | The Old Barracks, Main St, Oughterard. | Reconstruction of 70m wall | €8,000.00 |
| BHIS 22/07 | Clareville House, Oughterard | Reinstate cast iron gutters chimney repair | €15,000.00 |
| BHIS 22/09 | Thatch Cottage, Oranhill, Oranmore | Repair windows | €5,000.00 |
| BHIS 22/10 | Lisbeg House, Eyrecourt, Ballinasloe | Repair windows | €7,625.00 |
| BHIS 22/11 | Redemptorists Monastery, Esker, Kiltullagh, Athenry | Repair doors and windows | €9,250.00 |
| BHIS 22/12 | Thatched Dwelling, Bunnatubber, Corrandulla | Rethatching of roof | €5,000.00 |

| | | | |
|------------|---|--------------------------------|------------|
| BHIS 22/13 | Creggs House, Creggs, Co Galway | Repair windows | €2,505.00 |
| BHIS22/14 | The Old Teachers's Residence, Leam East, Recess PO | Replacement of roof slates | €15,000.00 |
| BHIS 22/15 | RIC Barracks, Georges St, Gort | Repair roof | €8,000.00 |
| BHIS 22/19 | The Cottage, Cave, Clarinbridge | Repairs to thatch roof | €7,000.00 |
| BHIS 22/21 | St. Brendan's Church, Townland of Woodpark, Annaghdown | Repair windows | €15,000.00 |
| BHIS 22/22 | Stowlin House, Eyrecort, Ballinasloe | Repair walls around orchard | €2,750.00 |
| BHIS 22/23 | Dwelling House, Cluide, Corrandulla | Repair windows | €675.00 |
| BHIS 22/27 | The Glebe House, Cherkelly, Ardahan | Repair windows & door heads | €7,217.00 |
| TOTAL | | | €125,900 |

Summerfield Baile Chláir, Co Galway



Clareville, Oughterard



Bunatuber, Corrandulla



Stowlin House, Eyrecourt





Former Presbyterian Church Ballinasloe



HISTORIC ASSETS

The Historic Assets group works in a cross departmental manner within Galway County Council to manage strategically buildings in the ownership of the local authority which are on the Record of Protected Structures or landmark buildings in an Architectural Conservation Area. In 2022 the Architectural Conservation office liaised with the regeneration team on the refurbishment of the former courthouse in Portumna, the Town Halls in Loughrea and Tuam and on town centre refurbishment and regeneration .

RAISING AWARENESS

Galway Architectural Conservation unit supported **Architecture at the Edge** which is a weekend celebration of architecture in the West of Ireland.

Featuring a series of online talks, tours, workshops and exhibitions, the festival invited people of all ages to explore the built environment of their city and county. Architecture at the Edge encourages debate on standards of urban design, planning and sustainability through public engagement in a variety of events in 2022.

FOR ITS 6TH EDITION, ARCHITECTURE AT THE EDGE INVITED ARCHITECTS, ARTISTS, ACADEMICS, ACTIVISTS AND OTHERS TO SUBMIT PROJECTS, PRACTICES AND PERSPECTIVES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FESTIVAL AIM: TO SHOWCASE ARCHITECTURAL PROJECTS THAT ARE CONCEIVED THROUGH 'ACTS OF REPAIR'.

With Galway County Council **Creative Ireland** funding The Conservation Unit supported ICOMOS *Baile* Small town and Village group and Burren Lowland Development group in engaging with owners of houses in the town centre to promote energy efficiency in traditionally built structures in the historic town centre .



Gort - a more sustainable place to live and work

In 2022 a detailed energy audit was carried out on the former RIC barracks in the town of GORT



Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
 Programme
 2017–2022



Creative Ireland

A bilingual brochure and film was commissioned to celebrate the surviving thatch on Inis Oírr , **Seanteach Phetie: An Teach Ceann Deireanach ar Inis Oírr le Tomás Ó Loingsi** in association with Cleas and Comhar Caomhán teoranta Inis Oírr



COMMUNITY MONUMENT FUND 2022

| STREAM 3 | | |
|--|--------------------------------|------------|
| Ref: No. | Structure: | Paid: |
| Galway County Council CMF22-2-1-GA005 | St Mary's Athenry Graveyard | €14,940.20 |

St. Mary's, Athenry Conservation Management Plan for conservation works to boundary walls of graveyard including input from conservation architect, engineer, ecologist and archaeologist.



HERITAGE

During 2022, the Heritage Office of County Council continued its work to promote awareness, knowledge and appreciation of the rich heritage and biodiversity of the county of Galway.

The Heritage Office works to promote interest, education, knowledge, and pride in the heritage of County Galway. The following are some of the projects undertaken in 2022:

TOBAR BEANNAITHE AN CHEANTAIR

Tá do chónamh ag teastáil ó Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe agus ón gComhairle Oidhreachta i gcomhar le IFA na Gaillimhe.

Táimid ag bailiú eolais faoi thoirbreacha beannaithe i gCeantair Bhardasacha Thúama agus Bhaile Átha an Rí/Órán Mór.

MY LOCAL HOLY WELL

Galway County Council and the Heritage Council in partnership with Galway IFA need your help.

We are collecting information about holy wells in the Municipal Areas of Tuam and Athenry-Oranmore

● An bhfuil aon eolas agatsa faoi aon tobar beannaithe i do cheantarsa?

● Have you any information about your local holy well?

● An mbíonn lá pátrúin ar siúl gach bliain ag an tobar?

● Is there an annual pattern day at the well?

● Cén uair a dtugann daoine cuairt ar an tobar?

● When do people visit the well?

● An bhfuil aon seanchas agat faoin tobar?

● Do you know any stories about the well?

Seolaigh bhur gcuid scéalta, taithí agus grianghraf ar ríomhphost chuig

Please send your stories, experience and photos to

galwayholywells@gmail.com

galwayholywells@gmail.com

míschadh ar Thoirbreacha Beannaithe i gContae na Gaillimhe
Griomh de chuid Plean Oidhreachta agus Bithéagsúlachta Chontae na Gaillimhe 2017-2022

The Audit of the Holy Wells in the County of Galway
An action of Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Plan 2017-2022

1. Holy Wells Audit 2022

The Audit of the Holy Wells in the County of Galway was initiated to collect and collate as much information as possible about this valuable aspect of our intangible heritage. Information about our holy wells may be in danger of being lost due to a largely, older generational knowledge base and development pressures, including land clearance.

The Audit is planned on a phased basis, due to the geographical spread of the County and the number of recorded (Records of Monuments and Places – National Monuments Service) and potentially unrecorded holy wells present. Field research uses the Municipal District as geographical units.

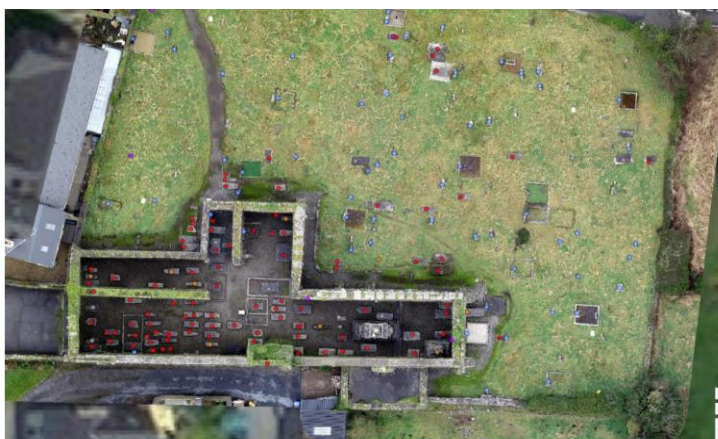
Phase one (2020) focused on the development of a comprehensive, future proofed, digital field data collection methodology and a searchable database for storage and dissemination of information and the collecting of baseline information on the recorded holy wells in the County, through desk research and community consultation.

Phase Two (2021) focussed on the holy wells in the Municipal Districts of Loughrea and Ballinasloe. Phase 3 (2022) audited the wells in the Tuam and Athenry/Oranmore District. To date 132 holy wells have been audited.

2. Bi-lingual Geological Heritage Workbook, Videos & Podcasts for Junior Certificate

The new Junior Cycle Geography course commenced in 2018 with classroom-based assessments (CBAs) on local geography. Teachers and students need high quality varied resources to suit the learning and teaching needs. There is a lack of Irish educational resources and this mix of a bi-lingual workbook, podcasts and videos using local examples to explain complex geography and geology will be of enormous benefit to the school community. These resources can also be a template for other counties to use. This project was developed by the Heritage Office of Galway County Council in partnership with Geological Survey of Ireland and was funded by Galway County Council, Geological Survey of Ireland, and the Heritage Council.

3. Digital Mapping of Graveyards Project 2022



Example of Athenry Abbey Drone captured aerial imagery output.

This project was developed by the Heritage Office in partnership with the GIS Section of Galway County Council. The aim of the project is to support our communities to connect with their past by unlocking valuable graveyard data sources and making them available as open-source data that will be free for all to use.

A drone and remote controller have been procured and drone training has been completed by the GIS Officer. The drone has been used to survey 2 graveyards to date and imagery products have been created from use in Graveyard Surveys.

The new Graveyard Search application has been designed, developed and is currently in user acceptance testing phase. The application consists of 3 main elements enabling public user to:

- Search for Burials
- Download Burial data (Open Data)
- View and interact with Burial Statistics.

The application will be available through the County Council and Galway Community Heritage websites, and code can also be provided to integrate into any website of interest.



Training and support to local community and heritage groups is being provided by in relation to how to carry out surveys using the mobile Graveyard Survey app developed by the Council. Technical support is being provided by the Councils GIS section. To date in total 20 individual graveyards surveys (approx. 5000 graves) are now complete and will be made available in the Graveyard Search application as part of go-live. Another 15 have been facilitated and are underway.

4. Athenry Town Walls Capital Works Programme 2022



Fig. 1 Site Setup (GAA side of wall)



Fig. 2 Site Setup (GAA side of wall)



Fig. 3 Area of wall not repointed as repointing is intact in this area



Fig. 4 Area of wall not repointed as repointing is intact in this area

The Southwest Tower and South Wall are essential components of the medieval fortifications of Athenry. The walled town is one of the most intact examples of its type in Ireland and survives in various states of repair. Altogether 500 metres of town wall, the North gate tower, the Northwest Tower, Guard House and the Southeast Tower have been repaired in eight phases since 2008. The town retains almost 1.5 kilometres of the original wall that once extended to 2.5 kilometres in length. The wall is a National Monument and along with the rest of the town is included in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP ref. no. GA084-001) and as such are protected by the National Monuments Acts, 1930 – 2004. The town walls are a Protected Structure and help define the extent of the Athenry Architectural Conservation Area.

In 2022 Galway County Council continued the repair of the Athenry Town Wall with this round of emergency repairs to the south wall. This work was funded by the Heritage Council and Galway County Council.

5. Galway Community Archaeology Project

Galway Community Archaeologist continued to promote awareness, knowledge and understanding of our diverse archaeological resource among individuals and community groups in the county and promote heritage best practice in relation to researching and undertaking works relating to archaeological heritage.

Community Outreach

The Galway Community Archaeology Project promotes awareness, knowledge and understanding of our archaeological resources. Advice and guidance is provided to individuals, consultants and government bodies on a daily basis through telephone conversations, e-mails and on-line portals. A number of short videos have been produced targeted at Tidy Towns Groups and Community Groups to advise on the promotion of archaeology in the community through modern and sustainable techniques and the internet. I shall continue to create partnerships between individuals, communities, academic institutions, CHG, NGOs, farming organisations and the local authority.

Community Archive and Heritage Groups Conference 2022

Galway Community Archaeology Project, as part of the Irish Community Archive Network had a stand at the conference. This was an invaluable networking event to reach out to and inform communities of the role of the Galway County Community Archaeologist. The conference was held at NUI Galway and hosted by Special Collections, Hardiman Library, NUI Galway, Galway County Council and National Museum of Ireland. It was attended by the Chair and CEO of The Heritage Council



B. Doherty, Galway County Community Archaeologist, Virginia Teehan, CEO The Heritage Council and Martina Malone, Chair, The Heritage Council at the Community Archives and Heritage Groups Conference 2022 at NUI Galway

Omev Island Outreach

Galway Community Archaeologist was invited to attend a meeting at Claddaghduff to assist the National Monuments Service in delivering information on previous archaeological investigations on Omev Island. Delivered by Michael McDonagh, Chief Archaeologist of the National Monuments Service, The Community Archaeologist's Role was introduced to all in attendance. We are currently working with a group of locals in setting up a heritage group and assist in the delivery of a plan of action for the island as a whole. This steering group is headed by The National Monuments Service, and supported by The Heritage Officer, Galway County Council and National Parks and Wildlife Service. This has resulted in the Community Archaeologist meeting with locals and commonage holders to explain the benefits of an all-island survey/management plan and forwarding their concerns to all government bodies involved. It is hoped that funding can be sourced to prepare an all-island management plan over the next number of years.

Collinamuck Heritage Group – Save our Cillíní

An information evening and presentation of a management plan for three cillíní took place September 28th, 2022, at Ower Equestrian Centre, Collinamuck as a follow up to an ecological survey by a student and archaeologically monitored 'clean-up' by local people. The Galway Community Archaeology Project supported the student in her queries re Archaeological impacts and while it focussed on the natural habitat and wildlife the presentation highlighted how archaeologists and ecologists work together and share our knowledge and expertise during any works at sites and monuments. This was very well attended by locals, students, and a variety of representatives of other heritage groups.



Saving Our Cillíní presentation at Ower Equestrian Centre, Collinamuck, September 2022

Heritage Council funded projects

Monivea Heritage, Kilcooly Heritage and Glinsk Community Development Group were successful in their applications to fund Conservation Management plans and capital works at archaeological monuments in their communities. Guidance in preparing applications, getting quotations from relevant professionals, and advising and commenting on draft conservation management plans and reports is vital in maintaining a high standard that is expected from the funding authorities. Assistance with Heritage Week Events, sourcing specialists and advising consultants on the ground is key in the delivery of projects on time.



Before and after shots of the east gable at Ballinakill Abbey, Glinsk, County Galway which received Heritage Council Funding 2021 & 2022.

Community Monuments Fund 2022

A total of eleven Galway Projects were forwarded for Community Monuments Funding. Working with the Heritage Officer in the administration of applications, assessing applications involved site visits, liaison with community groups, Galway County Council staff, National Monuments Service personnel and various heritage professionals.

Site visits, method statements and grant applications were prepared in support of Galway County Council's applications for Community Monuments Funds under National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Despite a very narrow window and tight schedule for submissions Galway County Council again got a generous allocation of the funding.

Introduction to 3D Photogrammetry

An Introduction to Photogrammetry event was held at Colaiste Einne, Kilronan, Aran in collaboration with Comharchumann Forbartha Árann Teo. The aim of the event to bring like-minded people within the community together to generate interest in promoting the lesser-known archaeological heritage sites on the island. In particular Mainistir Chiarain which was excavated in the nineties. Sinead Ni Ghabhlain is currently working on her publication of the excavations. She invited community participation in furthering her knowledge of associated sites. Galway Community Archaeologist was invited by a landowner to help assist in identifying a site on his property with a view to assisting in its promotion and making locals aware. The day was a great success as the event brought a number of like-minded people together who wanted to share their family traditions and

See more <https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/community-archaeology/introduction-to-photogrammetry>



Introduction to 3D Photogrammetry, Inis Mór Heritage Week Event 2022 – Empowering communities and landowners to take ownership of their archaeological heritage.

Practical Archaeological Consultancy

Working with community groups, heritage groups, tidy towns, and cemetery groups I assist with informing best heritage practice in recording and promoting our archaeological heritage. Where applicable I have assisted groups in notifying the National Monuments Service on proposed works and carried out archaeological monitoring and reporting of same.

Archaeological Monitoring & Reporting

- Clean-ups within children's burial grounds at Park & Ower, Collinamuck
- Removal of overgrowth at Kilcummin Graveyard, Oughterard to facilitate drone footage and recording of the graveyard in advance of Survey 123.
- Notifications to National Monuments Service for a variety of projects – graveyard maintenance, signage, and graveyard surveying.

Site Visits - Farming /Community Group/ landowners/individual queries Galway Community Archaeology project 2022

Being available for the public is one of our core aims. An e-mail or phone-call can bring you to any part of the county in any given week. The nature of the job requires flexibility and commitment. This ensures confidence within communities and custodians that support is available where necessary when they are dealing with the complexities of caring for our archaeological heritage. In most instances follow-up visits and/or reporting are necessary. Consultation with relevant government bodies include National Monuments Service, TII, IFA, Teagasc and The national Museum of Ireland.

Sample of Site Visits 2022

- Inis Nee re erection of memorial within a graveyard.
- Abbeygormacan & Finnure graveyard site visits re graveyard mapping
- Gurteen – Site Visit - discovery of un recorded archaeological features
- Clonbern Graveyard + 5 Children's Burial Grounds (Graveyard mapping project)
- Aran – landowner query re site on land and 3D Photogrammetry x 2 visits
- Kilchreest Church & Graveyard; Site Visit and On-line Zoom meeting
- Tuam High Cross – Community Monuments Fund Application and Delivery
- St Jarlath's Church and graveyard, Tuam x 2 visits Query regarding funding and Community Employment Scheme participation in maintenance of graveyard
- Monivea - Heritage Council Funding
- Kilcummin Cemetery, Oughterard – Graveyard Mapping, monitoring of graveyard maintenance.
- Ardahan Church of Ireland – Query regarding funding and Community Employment Scheme Participation.
- Forramoyle East, Bearna – Landowner query re possible monument on farmland – unrecorded. Liaison with TII Archaeologist Jerry O'Sullivan and Martin Jones.
- Lackagh Church and Graveyard - Community wanting help re conservation of church
- Roscahill Milestone – Re-instatement of Milestone requested by community – Liaison with TII Archaeologist Jerry O'Sullivan required.
- Willmount Graveyard Committee – Query re graveyard mapping (Supporting 5 days professional and 15 days voluntary)
- Kilcloony Cemetery, Ballinasloe – Query re conservation of church and graveyard (Supporting Voluntary group to date)

- Kilcuan Church and Graveyard – Query re conservation of burial monument and church ruin
- Kilcoo Graveyard – Round Tower query re removal of ivy.

6. *Athenry Walled Town Day*



Over five and a half thousand people came to Athenry Medieval Festival over the course of Walled Towns Day Sunday 14th August. Included in that number were over 70 Ukrainian people who are staying in nearby Esker. The one-day festival, which is in existence since 2006 had a diverse range of activities that highlighted the Anglo-Norman influences on the medieval town. Athenry's Community Park, Athenry Heritage Centre, Madden's Forge and Athenry Castle were the locations for the event.



The festival provided a platform for regional crafts to display their workmanship and let members of the audience engage with the various craft activities. This also included demonstrations of birds of prey, arts, crafts, have a go archery, kid friendly craft stations, medieval music, dance, and puppet shows were among the activities on offer.

7. Loughrea Medieval Festival



Loughrea Medieval Festival which took place in the last weekend of August was a great success and brought out local people, visitors from various parts of Ireland, UK, Australia, and the USA as well as a large number of the Ukrainian community who live in Loughrea and Esker. The festival which has been in existence since 2011 had a diverse range of activities that highlighted the Anglo-Norman influences on the medieval town. Loughrea Library, Clonfert Diocesan Museum, The Temperance Hall, The Fair Green and Loughrea Hotel and Spa were the locations for the weekend events.

A family fun filled day of arts, crafts, food, and music took place in the Temperance Hall on Saturday 27th. Crafts included basket making, spinning, straw craft and beadmaking, while Custard Pie (Lambert Puppets) had puppet shows which enthralled the younger members of the audience. Also returning to Loughrea Medieval Festival was Loughrea Craft Club, the Flea Circus, cookery demonstration with Noel Loughnane and guests, Tralee Medieval Society. Music Generation held free children's' workshops, which included "Music in Nature", a song writing workshop, SEnergy – a fun, engaging and varied musical session, tailored to the needs and interests of young people with special educational needs. They also held an "Introduction to Junk Percussion" in the Fair green, where kids were given the opportunity to make instruments from several household items. The official launch of the 'Loughrea Heritage Trail Brochure and Loughrea Children's' Medieval Activity book was performed by Cllr Michael 'Moegie' Maher, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway.



On Sunday 28th August activities moved to the Loughrea Hotel and Spa, where a free conference entitled ‘Discovering our Medieval Past’ took place. Dr Kieran O’Conor gave a very insightful talk about “Moated Sites in Medieval Ireland” while Dr Yvonne McDermott gave another very interesting lecture about “The Franciscans and Dominicans in the west of Ireland in the late medieval period.” “Loughrea and Its Vicinity in Medieval Times” was discussed by Dr Nollaig Ó Muraíle and Monsignor Cathal Geraghty “The Irish Madonna - Our Lady of Gyor. The link between Clonfert and Gyor” Also speaking at the conference were Dr Ann Buckley discussed the “Recovering the Sacred Music of Medieval Ireland” and local man Comdt (Retd) Kevin Mc Donald spoke about "Living with the Lake, The Archaeology of Lake Settlement in Loughrea and the Surrounding Landscape” His limited-edition booklet on his lecture was given out to the audience on the day. The Medieval weekend finished with Turoe & Guests who took the audience on a musical journey of discovery with a lively mix of music and song through the ages in the East Galway Tradition. Turoe is composed of Ciarán Cannon, TD, Harry Monson, and Val Broderick.

8. Community Monuments Fund 2022

A total of eleven Galway Projects were forwarded for Community Monuments Funding. This funding stream involved the administration of applications, assessing applications involved site visits, liaison with community groups, Galway County Council staff, National Monuments Service personnel and various heritage professionals. This work was undertaken primarily by

Galway Community Archaeologist, the Heritage Officer and Heritage Office Staff and staff from the Environment Section of Galway County Council.

Site visits, method statements and grant applications were prepared in support of Galway County Council's applications for Community Monuments Funds under National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Despite a very narrow window and tight schedule for submissions Galway County Council again got a generous allocation of the funding. The following is an outline of the projects that were funded and works undertaken.



Signage on CMF includes The Heritage Council Logo and Galway Community Archaeology Project Logo acknowledging its support, without which these would not have been possible.

Abbeygormican Phase 3

Abbeygormican Cemetery Committee was again successful in their application for funding capital works. This involved liaison with the community, NMS, Conservation Specialists and Archaeologists. An update of the works has been uploaded onto Galway Community Archaeology Website.:

<https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/new-contributions/abbeygormacan-2>

Cloonkeenkerrill

Following the preparation of a Conservation Management Plan in 2021, Gurteen Community Council were successful in funding Capital Works at the church and graveyard. This is Phase 1. An update of works will be uploaded onto the Galway Community Archaeology Website.

<https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/community-archaeology/cm21-galway-county/st-kerrills-abbey-cloonkeenkerrill>.

The Bardic School, Kilclooney, Milltown

Milltown Heritage Group were again successful in their application for funding Capital Works at Kilclooney Tower House, Milltown. This is a privately owned site, and liaison with the landowner has ensured that works could be carried out in conserving this tower house to halt any further deterioration.

<https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/archaeology/castles/kilclooney-tower-house-2>

Tuam High Cross & St. Mary's Cathedral Digitisation Project

The Old Tuam Society were successful in their application to digitize the Tuam High Cross and Romanesque Archway at St. Mary's Cathedral, Tuam. This shall enable access to the High Cross and closer studies of the Romanesque archway via The Old Tuam Society Website. <http://oldtuamsociety.blogspot.com/2022/08/digitising-medieval-monuments-of-tuam.html>.

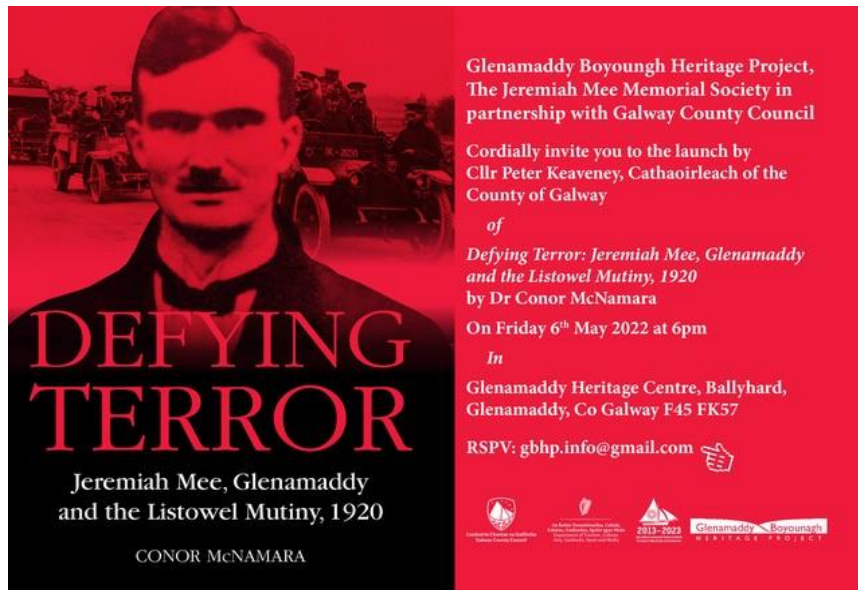
Killeroran Conservation Management Plan

Galway County Council were successful in their application to fund a Conservation Management Plan for Killeroran Church and Graveyard, Ballygar. This will inform Galway County Council, NMS, Tidy Towns and Cemetery committee on the best management of the site. There were a number of issues with works being carried out ad-hoc without proper management and supervision.

Issertkelly Church & Graveyard

Galway County Council were successful in their application to fund a Conservation Management plan for Issertkelly Church and Graveyard. This will inform Galway County Council, National Monuments Service and local graveyard caretaker on best management of the site. This is an extremely overgrown church with safety issues regarding falling masonry. Works are ongoing between all stakeholders regarding the ongoing issues of instability and safety.

9. Launch of new publication *Defying Terror: Jeremiah Mee, Glenamaddy and the Listowel Mutiny, 1920*



Cllr Peter Keaveney, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway launched the publication entitled *Defying Terror: Jeremiah Mee, Glenamaddy and the Listowel Mutiny, 1920* on Friday 6th May 2022 at 6pm in Glenamaddy Heritage Centre, Ballyhard, Glenamaddy, Co Galway



This book was written by Galway County Historian in Residence, Dr Conor McNamara and was produced to mark the centenary of the Listowel Mutiny, led by Galway native, Jeremiah Mee, and his comrades in Listowel RIC barracks, who resigned from the police rather than had their barracks over the Crown Forces in June 1920.

This publication was produced by Galway County Council as part their commemorative strategy for the decade of commemorations, 2013- 23. The decade between 1913 and 1923 was a period of unprecedented change in Irish society and saw extraordinary change at both a local and national level. Galway County Council recognises the importance of playing a positive and proactive role in leading commemorative celebrations and activities in the course of the decade that reflect and explore events concerning County Galway.

10. Black 47 Workhouse Conference



The Irish Workhouse Centre in Portumna held a conference entitled Black '47. This conference had a number of very high-profile lecturers and marked the 175th anniversary of the Great Famine. It was supported by the Heritage Office of Galway County Council.

11. Galway County Council Decade of Centenaries Projects

The following is a listing of projects that were undertaken by the Heritage Office in 2022:

Historian in Residence 2022

The aim of this residency was to encourage Galway people at home and abroad to remember our shared history and to reflect on the events which shaped us. It aims to allow us to uncover and explore the many other stories of the period, that reveal the intertwining of our history and our lives, as we remember those times. The aim of the residency also was to place a strong emphasis on encouraging and enabling active community participation and engagement in our Decade of Commemorations in 2022. Dr Conor McNamara was the Historian in Residence for 2022.

“Garda Síochána Galway/Gaillimh 1922- 2022” A Bi-Lingual Exhibition



A bi-lingual exhibition entitled *Garda Síochána Galway/Gaillimh 1922- 2022* was produced and put on display in Galway City Museum.

This exhibition gave an insight into the founding of An Garda Síochána and how An Garda Síochána developed its own style of policing in Ireland since the foundation of the state. With a particular focus on County Galway and its Gaeltacht, the exhibition highlights how An Garda Síochána has contributed to building a safe and peaceful society, and how members of An Garda Síochána forge strong relationships with the local communities in which they work and live.

It shows the changing roles and evolving codes of conduct of An Garda Síochána over the past 100 years, which do not only manifest themselves in the training and behaviour of the members of the force but also in their gender and cultural backgrounds, their uniforms and their equipment.

Furthermore, the exhibition pays tribute to members of An Garda Síochána who made outstanding efforts to keep their communities safe, some of them losing their life in doing so. Their bravery is remembered in a Roll of Honour and through the awarding of Scott medals.

Project Development Team were Superintendent Damien Flanagan, An Garda Síochána; & Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Galway County Council; Dr Conor McNamara, Historian in Residence, Galway County Council; Eithne Verling, Director, Galway City Museum;

Damien Donnellan, Exhibitions and Education, Galway City Museum, Eoin O'Neill, Collections, Galway City Museum, James Reynolds, Conservation, Galway City Museum.

The exhibition was funded by Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (Decade of Centenaries Local Authority Funding), An Garda Síochána, Galway County Council & Galway City Council.

The exhibition is also available online at

<https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/an-garda-siochana-galway-gaillimh-1922-2022>

In addition to this the exhibition was also put on display in several venues around county over the year.

Bi-lingual Book: A History of An Garda Síochána in County Galway: A Century of Service

Research commenced in 2022 with regards to the production of a bi-lingual publication. It will deal with the formation of An Garda Síochána, the coming of the force to Galway on 25 September 1922. It will also give how An Garda Síochána has contributed to building a safe and peaceful society in particular as it relates to County Galway and how members of An Garda Síochána contribute to the local areas in which they work and live. It also aims to show the changing roles of An Garda Síochána over the past 100 years. It is intended to finalise this publication in 2023.

Workbook on An Garda Síochána in County Galway: A Century of Service for primary schools

Work also commenced on the development of a bi-lingual workbook is aimed at 5th and 6th class students will be integrated into the primary school curriculum and will focus in on creating an awareness, knowledge and interpretation of life in 1920s Ireland and the role of An Garda Síochána over the past 100 years. It is proposed to embed videos and podcast into the workbook, and this will assist in bringing history to life in the classroom. It is envisaged that this project will be completed in 2023.

THE LOUGHNANE BROTHERS HERITAGE TRAIL Go Explore the Historic Sites & Memorials of Ireland's War of Independence & Creation of a Story Map



The bilingual guidebook titled *“The Loughnane Brothers Heritage Trail: Explore Historic Sites & Memorials of Ireland’s War of Independence”*, co-authored by Atlantic Technological University’s Dr Eilish Kavanagh and Dr Mark McCarthy, was launched in the ATU Galway City on Monday 12 December 2022 by Cllr Moegie Maher, The Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway and Dr Orla Flynn, President of ATU.

The publication focuses on Harry Loughnane and his brother Pat, who was an IRA volunteer. Following their capture by British forces at their farm in Shanaglish, County Galway on Friday 26 November 1920, they were tortured and then shot dead by the Auxiliaries, who were a paramilitary unit of the police. The bodies were then burnt, before being deposited in a turlough. Photographs of the badly mutilated remains of the brothers in open coffins garnered significant international attention and turned the brothers into republican martyrs.

With the passage of time, key historic sites associated with the story of the Loughnanes have become significant spaces of memory and post-conflict heritage. Using the methods of public historical geography and heritage studies, *The Loughnane Brothers Heritage Trail* draws together varieties of tangible evidence in south County Galway. Descriptions, photographs, and SAT NAV coordinates are included for eleven points of interest along the trail, as is an easy-to-follow fold-out route map. The publication is complemented by an ArcGIS ESRI StoryMap version of the heritage trail, which can be accessed online via the Maps and Data Portal on Galway County Council’s website.

Both versions of this heritage trail were developed by Galway County Council, in partnership with the ATU Heritage Research Group. The project is an action of the *Commemorative Strategy for the County of Galway 2013-2023 and Galway County Heritage Plan 2017-2023*. It was co-funded by the Commemorations Unit, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media (under the Community Strand of the

Decade of Centenaries programme); Galway County Council; ATU Galway-Mayo (under RISE: the Research and Innovation Strategic Endowment); and the Irish Research Council (under the Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Programme).

The StoryMap can be found on the following link:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/5f9f8b8cc7de43349cd59f5f0d993579>

Eibhlín Uí Choisdeailbh (elected as a Cumann na nGaedheal member to the first Free State senate on 7 December 1922): Exhibition

Eibhlín Uí Choisdeailbh, (Edith Costello) (1870–1962) was a folksong collector, Irish language enthusiast, and political activist, was born 27 June 1870 in London. She was christened Edith Drury and raised a member of the Church of England.

She qualified as a teacher and later became principal of St Michael's Church of England school, Buckingham Palace Road, London. She joined the Irish Literary Society in London where she became acquainted with the Yeats sisters. She began collecting songs in Irish from emigrants there and joined the London branch of the Gaelic League (Conradh na Gaeilge) at its inaugural meeting in 1896. During the next six years she played an active role in the organisation, being elected to the committee on 3 November 1898. She was also involved in other Irish-language organisations in London and taught singing classes.

She travelled as a delegate to the Conradh ard fheis in Dublin in 1902, remaining in Ireland afterwards. She changed her name to Eibhlín and moved to Tuam in 1903 to become a teacher in the Presentation convent. Between 1908 and 1913 she began collecting folksongs from Irish speakers and others in Galway and Mayo while accompanying her husband, Thomas Bodkin Costello on his medical rounds in the county. Eighty of these were included in vol. xvi of the *Irish Folksong Society Journal* (1918). She later became vice-president of the Irish Folk Song Society and in 1923 published a collection under the title *Amhráin mhuighe seola*. This was one of the first publications of Irish songs that included the text and the music as well as translations and notes.

During the War of Independence, she stood for Sinn Féin in the 1920 local elections and became the first woman district councillor for north Galway. She became a Tuam town commissioner and was subsequently elected chairman; it is reported she never missed a meeting, even during the Black and Tan raids. Her own house was raided because she often hid Volunteers who were on the run. Also, in 1921 she was elected to the Tuam board of guardians and became a judge in the Sinn Féin arbitration courts between 1921 and 1922.

She was elected as a Cumann na nGaedheal member to the first Free State senate on 7 December 1922. She remained a senator until her defeat in the 1934 election.

A supporter of the treaty, in 1923 she joined Cumann na Saoirse, a women's organisation founded the previous March to help the establishment of the new state.

The exhibition was developed by the Old Tuam Society and will be launched in 2023.

Galway County Council Decade of Centenaries Projects Decade of Centenaries Specific Centenary Project of Significance A l e e n I s a b e l C u s t 1 8 6 8 - 1 9 3 7

12. First woman veterinary surgeon in Ireland, Britain & Europe



The Aleen Cust Memorial Society, Galway County Council, Roscommon County Council, Tipperary County Council working in partnership with the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, Teagasc, several second level schools and community groups in the three counties commemorated and sought to remember this very courageous and determined Irish woman who overcame all odds to become the first female veterinary surgeon in Ireland, Britain and indeed Europe.



About Aleen Cust

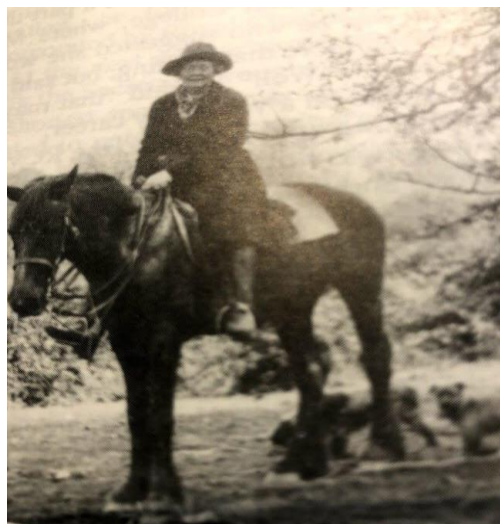
Aleen Cust was a pioneering Tipperary woman who commenced her studies in veterinary science at the New Veterinary College in Edinburgh. She qualified in 1900 but was not allowed to call herself a veterinary surgeon as the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) claimed to have no power to admit women. After over 20 years of fighting, Aleen Cust was finally awarded her qualification in December 1922.

The road to becoming a veterinary surgeon and her post in Galway County Council

Her guardian encouraged her decision to become a veterinary surgeon, despite her mother's disapproval. She enrolled in the New Veterinary College, Edinburgh. She was an excellent student, coming top of her class in her first year. She completed her training in 1900 but was barred because of her gender from using the title 'veterinary surgeon'.

Aleen had excellent references and when William Byrne, an esteemed vet in Athleague, Co Roscommon, heard of her case he offered her a role working as his assistant.

She was appointed as a veterinary inspector by Galway County Council in 1905 under the Diseases of Animals Acts, an appointment that was denied by the RCVS due to her lack of professional recognition. The post was advertised again, and when Cust was again selected for the post in 1906 an agreement was reached under which she carried out the duties of the position with an amended title of "inspector".



World War 1: Volunteer on the Western Front

In 1915, she took a leave of absence from Galway County Council and drove her own car to Abbeville, France, to volunteer in the treatment and care of horses on the Western Front. She worked as a bacteriologist with an animal vaccine unit and looked after many horses.

Final Recognition

The passage of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act in 1919 prohibited the exclusion of women from professions and meant that the RCVS were now required to consider Aleen's membership. She was finally awarded her diploma in December 1922, 22 years after sitting her final exams.

Aleen Cust Memorial Conference at Mountbellew Aug 11-12th



This event took place over two days at the Agricultural College Mountbellew, now part of the newest university, the Atlantic Technological University. Maria Walsh MEP opened the conference with an incisive speech on diversity and inclusion which set the tone for the first Chair of Animal Welfare and Ethics at UCD, Siobhan Mullan. Siobhan entertained her audience of veterinary surgeons from a wide variety of fields including the Department of Agriculture, The Local Authorities, and practitioners from all over Ireland, with an interactive presentation on awareness and advocacy. The Presidents of the Veterinary Council of Ireland, Vivienne Duggan, and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS), Melissa Donald were honoured guests as well as Joe Collins, President of Veterinary Ireland. Meta Osborne of the great Osborne dynasty followed through on the question of are healthy horses happy? The afternoon began with the renowned Dr Temple Grandin, an American animal behaviour specialist and spokesperson on neurodiversity (autism). Temple spoke with a passion on how we must look at things differently and see things as others, particularly the animals in our surrounds see us and react to our presence. Dr Grandin spoke of the contrast between verbal thinkers and those who think in pictures and how it was necessary to integrate both to gain the creativity which had put a man on the moon. Mary Fanning followed through with a laughter filled delivery about how she made the iconic Nationwide TV program on uncovering Aleen Cust. The centenary conference marks the one hundredth year since Aleen's admission to the RCVS twenty-two years after she left the Veterinary College in Edinburgh and came to Athleague in 1900

to work with another remarkable person, William Augustine Byrne MRCVS. In their role as trailblazers themselves embracing change and looking at things differently, Kepak Athleague and their own pioneering lady Lorna Kennedy, organised Temple Grandin’s travel and looked after her so well while visiting Ireland.



The second day of the conference had a history and heritage focus with local historians Dr Des Murnane of Tipperary speaking on the Tipperary background of Aleen Cust and Albert Siggins of Roscommon on *“Cures, ailments and potions on the farm long ago”*. Retired vet Brendan Gardiner from Mountbellew gave a very informative talk on the quest to find Aleen’s grave in Jamaica. Dr Laura Kelly of University of Strathclyde spoke on *“Irish women’s experiences in the medical profession in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century”* while Dr Martina Moloney, Chairperson of the Heritage Council gave a very though provoking presentation on *“Celebrating untold stories”*.

Dr Rita Gately, County Veterinary Officer with Galway Co Council, spoke about *“Galway County Council Veterinary Service. 1905 and 2022”*. Aleen Cust was one of the earliest vets — and the first woman — to work within the Council.

Veterinary surgeon Elizabeth Clayton, Department of Agriculture, a native of Athleague, discussed *“Mr William A Byrne (Willie), MRCVS – A profile”* (qualified in London in 1890, died in 1910); while Mary Burke, historian and *Tuam Herald* contributor gave a very interesting talk on *“The d’Arcy Diary: A short Sojourn on Lough Mask with Aleen Cust and friends”*. A thought provoking final open discussion on remembering and commemorating the life and work of Aleen Cust was moderated by Dr Carmel Connolly of NUI Galway.

Distinguished guests on the second day of the conference included Virginia Teehan, Chief Executive Officer of the Heritage Council, Dr Sinéad McCoole, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media and Dr Orla Flynn, first president of Ireland's newest university, Atlantic Technological University; Cllr Eileen Mannion, Leas Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway; Cllr Laurence Fallon, Leas Cathaoirleach of Roscommon County Council and Cllr Roger Kennedy, Cathaoirleach Tipperary County Council.



There were several excellent exhibitions, displays and vintage machinery and tools on display which really enhanced the conference.

Exhibition

This exhibition comprised of several pull-up banners and dealt with various aspects of Aleen's life, what Ireland and in particular Tipperary, Roscommon and Galway were like in 1922. It was launched as part of Ballinasloe 300 Horse Fair.

Workbook for Primary School Children

This bi-lingual workbook for primary school children will be integrated into the primary school curriculum and focuses in on creating an awareness, knowledge, and interpretation of life in 1920s Ireland, Britain, and the world at large, work, the life of women, World War I, life in the big house, the political landscape in Ireland of the 1920s. Aleen is the central character in the workbook, and it looks at her upbringing, her quest to become a veterinary surgeon, her work in the sphere of animal welfare and her work on the Western Front. It shows how she overcame many barriers to

practise a profession she dedicated her life to. It will assist in cross-curricular learning as students will read broadly across aspects of local, national, and international history. It will help extend their vocabulary and the podcasts and videos can be imbedded in the workbook and will assist in brining history to life in the classroom. This will be launched and distributed in 2023.

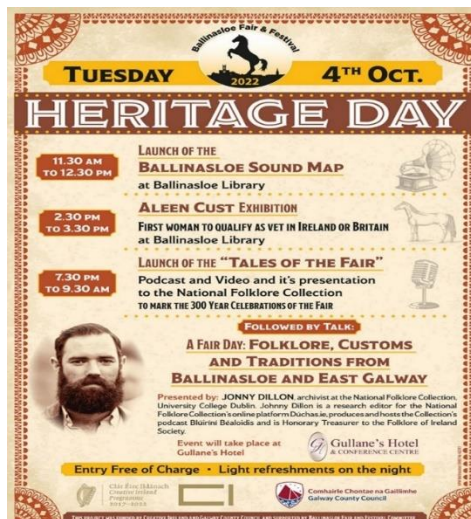
Podcasts and Videos

A short video and several podcasts that examined various aspects of Aleen’s life and showing the places associated with Aleen’s life was developed and was launched as part of Ballinasloe 300 Horse Fair.

13. Ballinasloe Horse Fair 300 Ballinasloe Heritage Day 2022



The 300th anniversary of the Ballinasloe Horse Fair took place 2022. Galway Community Archaeology Project worked with the Heritage Officer, Ballinasloe Library Staff and Ballinasloe Fair and Festival Committee in coordinating a day of Heritage Events. These included the launch of Ballinasloe Townlands and Sound-maps, Aleen Cust Film and Podcasts and Tales of the Fair.



14. Launch of 'Reading Your Local Landscape – Heritage Audit Toolkit' publication



As part of the National Biodiversity week celebrations in County Galway, Cllr Peter Keaveney, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway launched the publication *'Reading Your Local Landscape – Heritage Audit Toolkit'*. The launch took place on Thursday May 19, 2022, in Dunmore MacHales GAA Clubhouse Meeting Room, Dunmore Co. Galway and was hosted by Dunmore Heritage Group. This bi-lingual publication is based on the learnings from a series of community-based training courses and heritage audits undertaken throughout County Galway by Galway County Council, Heritage Office and the author, Zena Hctor, over several years. It provides a comprehensive, easy use toolkit to help people discover, explore, and document the heritage features of their local area. Illustrated with colourful photographs and maps, the book provides useful tips and sources of information on planning and researching the natural, built, and cultural heritage features of the County Galway landscape.

Produced by Galway County Council with support funding from the Heritage Council, copies are available through the Galway County Heritage Office.



15. Launch of Barn Owl Survey Report Launch

THE GALWAY BUZZ!

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY WEEK 2022


GALWAY TELEWORK, MOUNTBELLEW
FRIDAY 20TH MAY 2022
3:00pm – 4:30pm

BARN OWLS IN GALWAY

A visual presentation on one of our most iconic birds and the conservation efforts to help restore Barn Owl populations in Galway. This free presentation by John Lusby, BirdWatch Ireland and hosted by the Heritage Office of Galway County Council for Biodiversity Week, will celebrate one of our most iconic birds and their changing fortunes in Galway in recent years.

Through footage, images and tales of personal experiences studying Barn Owls, John will explore why the Barn Owl is so special in Irish culture and in the Irish countryside and detail the results of a recent survey of Barn Owls in the county and what the future holds for Barn Owl populations in Galway.

Barn Owl in Ash tree nest
Courtesy of Mike Brown



An initiative of Galway County Council and part funded by Galway County Council, the Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the National Biodiversity Action Plan (2007 - 2021) and supported by the Local Authority Marine Programme and The Heritage Council.

BirdWatch Ireland in partnership with the Heritage Office of Galway County Council undertook a survey of Barn Owls in the county, the results of which show that the fortunes of this iconic farmland bird may be changing, as Barn Owls were recorded returning to parts of the county where they have been absent for decades.

Surveys show that Barn Owls were widespread in the east of the county in the late 1960s, but 40 years later their numbers had diminished, and their range had contracted significantly in east Galway, and they were incredibly rare west of Lough Corrib. However, a recent survey carried out

by BirdWatch Ireland in partnership with Galway County Council with the support of the National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund, provides cause for optimism and the first evidence that the fortunes of Barn Owls may be changing in east Galway.

The Barn Owl survey enlisted the help of farmers and the general public who reported information on Barn Owls across the county, and the survey also involved systematically checking a wide range of ruined structures, which are the typical nesting sites of Barn Owl. This included ruined buildings which were previously known to be occupied by Barn Owl over the last thirty years. This provided a reliable indication of Barn Owl trends and their distribution across the county. The results were positive, as Barn Owls were recorded across most of the east of the county, however, remain scarce in the west. Nonetheless, this represents a significant increase on the known breeding range of Barn Owls ten years ago, which indicates that Barn Owl populations may be slowly recovering after a period of extensive declines.

16. Biodiversity & Pollinator Action Plans for each Municipal District



Inputs were sought from Heritage Groups, Tidy Towns, Community Groups, Organisations and Schools by Galway County Council's Heritage Office with regards to the drafting of Biodiversity & Pollinator Action Plans for County Galway Municipal Districts. In person meetings were held in Williamstown on the 19th May 2022 & An Spidéal on the 23rd May 2022 and people also had to opportunity to post or email their submissions to Galway County Council. Information was also sought from various sections of the Council including the Area Offices, Environment & Housing Sections as well as other stakeholders and relevant organisations. The five plans were developed in 2022 and will be translated in to Gaeilge in 2023, published and launched in 2023.

17. Breeding bird survey in the Connemara Bog Complex SPA

The primary aim of this project was to carry out a breeding bird survey in the Connemara Bog Complex SPA, to determine the presence and abundance of bird species and how species composition varied across the SPA and in relation to areas affected by turf-cutting and areas where there was no evidence of disturbances. A line transect survey was employed, using 22 transects with a total length of 35km, which were surveyed twice between April and June 2022. The line transects were selected to represent the SPA and each of the three distinct polygons within, and to represent areas where evidence of turf-cutting was visible and areas where there was no evidence of turf-cutting. Incidental records of bird species were also recorded while in transit between transects or while conducting a dedicated Merlin survey within the SPA. A total of 28 species were recorded, which included six Red-listed Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Curlew, Golden Plover, Kestrel, Meadow Pipit, Red Grouse, Snipe) and 11 Amber-listed species (Common Gull, Common Sandpiper, Merlin, Mute Swan, Ringed Plover, Skylark, Starling, Swallow, Teal, Wheatear, Willow Warbler). There were 0.03 species per hectare and 0.20 birds per hectare recorded on the line transect survey in the Connemara Bog SPA. The most common species recorded on the line transect survey by number and birds per hectare were Skylark (0.28 per ha), Meadow Pipit (0.24 per ha) and Golden Plover (0.02). Breeding densities were estimated using distance sampling for Meadow Pipit, which were recorded at a breeding density of 58.3 per km² in the Connemara Bog Complex SPA. There were a similar and higher number of species per hectare recorded in the western polygon (0.06) and the eastern (0.05) than to the central polygon (0.02). There were also a similar number of birds per hectare in the western (0.62) and eastern polygon (0.66) compared to the central polygon (0.47). Breeding densities of Meadow Pipit were similar in the western and eastern polygon (63.9 Meadow Pipit per km²) and lower in the central polygon (47.4 per km²). There were a similar number of species per hectare recorded in the areas where turf-cutting was carried out and the areas where there was no evidence of turf-cutting (0.03) but a higher number of Red-listed Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland in the latter (n = 4) compared to the areas where turf-cutting was evident (n = 2). There were more birds per hectare where there was no turf-cutting (0.84 birds per ha) compared to the areas cut for turf (0.27 birds per ha). A dedicated survey of Merlin in the Connemara Bog Complex SPA and surrounds was also carried out. All lakes with islands which are potentially suitable for breeding Merlin (over 100 lakes with islands assessed) were checked for the presence of Merlin either by visiting the islands to check for nests or with the use of a drone and thermal sensor (under licence to NPWS). Six Merlin breeding pairs in or immediately adjacent to the SPA were recorded. This information provides a baseline of bird species composition and assemblages in the Connemara Bog Complex SPA, collected using standardised and repeatable methods and can be used to measure future changes in bird species in the Connemara Bog Complex SPA. This information should also be used to inform management of the SPA including future restoration works and to measure the effectiveness of these measures for breeding birds. In addition, this information will be used to highlight the importance of the Connemara Bog Complex SPA and blanket bogs more generally in west Galway for priority bird species such as Curlew, Golden Plover and Snipe. All data collected has been

provided to NPWS (Birds Unit and local NPWS rangers), NBDC and the Heritage Office of Galway County Council and will also be used towards a publication.

18. Working with Nature

A series of workshops were held in Letterfrack and Ballinasloe, Co. Galway between June - September 2022. The aim of the workshops was to enhance biodiversity by raising public awareness of the impacts of herbicides and pesticides, in the terrestrial and aquatic environment.

Five workshops were developed and delivered to meet this aim:

"Weed or wildflower" Letterfrack (Kay Synott, Living Gardens): An illustrated talk on appreciation of wildflowers followed by a practical plant ID and natural weeding demonstration.



"Pots for Pollinators" Letterfrack (Kay Synott, Living Gardens): A practical community workshop on sustainable container planting for pollinators

"Impact of rodenticides on biodiversity" Online (John Lusby, Birdwatch Ireland): Increase awareness of the risks of using rodenticides and to promote best practice rodent control.

"Create a pollinator plan for your open space". Ballinasloe (Janet Laffey, Green Sod Ireland & Kay Synott, Living Gardens): An illustrated talk on pollinators and wildflowers followed by a practical workshop on creating a pollinator plan.

"Care for blue spaces" Letterfrack (Conor Ruane, LAWPRO): An illustrated talk and demonstration on the impacts of herbicides and pesticides on water quality and potential projects to help your water body.

Participants of the workshops included staff from the Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board and Connemara National Park. Members of various Tidy Towns groups, anglers, farmers, private individuals, local CE scheme participants and members of the Rehab/National Learning Network also attended.

Attendance of the online rodenticide workshop was low. Future initiatives tackling this topic will see that is addressed at in-person workshops, with a wider wildlife focus, generating a greater

appeal and boosting participant numbers. This will allow for the message on responsible rodenticide usage have a larger reach.

Following on from the workshops, a bi-lingual practical guide on the identification, wildlife value and control of common wildflowers was published in swatch format. This has been circulated to workshop participants, the relevant Galway County Council staff, Tidy Town groups, gardeners, and environmental groups around the county.

The training of broad range of people through these workshops will ensure that the impact of herbicides and pesticides on biodiversity will be better understood in various organisations and settings across the county. This, combined with the Weed or Wildflower swatch, will provide a legacy of the Working with Nature project.

19. Gunnera Control

This project focused on the management of Invasive Alien Plant Species (IAPS) in the Clifden area of Connemara. Last year, Local Biodiversity Action Plan funding was used to survey this locality for the presence and distribution of IAPS. Using these datasets and maps, management sites were selected for species where specific treatment would take place. Throughout the week of the 12th to 16th of September 2022, five IAPS were selected as the target of control works. Giant rhubarb (*Gunnera tinctoria*), Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*), Bohemian knotweed (*Reynoutria x bohemica*) and Himalayan knotweed (*Koenigia polystachya*) were treated by foliar herbicide application (Roundup Pro Biactive at a calibration rate of 5L/ha) in the Clifden area. Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) was manually removed along the Owenglin River and other outlying areas of infestation. All species are contained in National Legislation (S.I. 477/2011), while Gunnera, Himalayan balsam and Himalayan knotweed are contained in International Legislation (EU 1143/2014). The work was carried out following best practice management guidelines for all species, the herbicide manufacturers guidelines for Gunnera/Knotweeds and by staff wearing suitable PPE and in possession of the relevant qualifications. INVAS Biosecurity staff members also follow a company biosecurity Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) before, during and after all site visits. Sites for all species will be visited in June 2023 to assess the efficacy of the treatment. Some areas of infestation were located on private property and could not be managed under the remit of the local authority. However, lessons for the future may involve local landowner engagement to help improve the management practices being implemented by Galway County Council. It is expected that an excellent level of control will be observed for all species in June 2023. However, as with any IAPS management project, ongoing management will be required to ensure the long-term success of these works.

20. North-East Galway Wetlands Audit

County Galway is known to contain a wide variety of wetlands, which support many flora and fauna species of high conservation concern. Due to the varying topography, geology, hydrology, climate, and soils present, Northeast Galway has wetland habitats ranging from bogs (raised and

upland blanket as well as cutaway bogs), turloughs, lakes, fens, marshes, rivers and associated floodplains, springs, and wet woodland habitats.

The Northeast Galway Wetland Audit 2021 was funded by the National Biodiversity Action Plan. As part of this audit site boundaries were mapped for the 442 main wetlands identified during the audit, which include both those within the NPWS network of designated sites and those wetland areas that fall outside the designated network.

These 442 sites cover an area 29,439ha or 17% of the study area. Of the 442 wetland sites identified, 66 sites lie within areas designated for nature conservation while the remaining 376 are outside of designated areas. A significant proportion of these undesignated sites, most of which have not been subject to ecological survey, are likely to support habitats and species of conservation importance.

According to the 2021 audit it is thought that 327 of the wetland areas in Northeast Galway have not been subject to any detailed wetland survey, suggesting that a targeted wetland survey should be a key priority to gain a better understanding of the wetland resource and to ensure that those sites of highest importance are afforded appropriate protection. A recommendation of the 2021 report is that sites to be prioritised for field survey should include those that have not been surveyed in detail in the past and those that are likely to contain wetland habitats of high conservation importance.

Therefore in 2022 it was proposed to undertake a field survey of selected wetlands in northeast County Galway and make detailed recommendations in relation to habitat and biodiversity management. Due to the size of the area and the extent and diversity of wetland habitats, it was proposed to focus on previously unsurveyed wetlands of potential ecological interest, outside of areas designated for nature conservation. In total 12 sites were surveyed, and the final report is currently being reviewed.



21. Sustainable Gardening Courses Tuam & Clifden

Galway County Council: Tuam Area Office, Heritage office and Galway County Public Participation Network offered a FREE in person Sustainable Gardening Course designed to get everyone improving their gardens and community areas for biodiversity, eliminating harmful chemicals, and learning about drought resistant plants.

The workshops were run over one day from 10 am to 4 pm on Friday the 8th July in Clifden and Saturday the 9th of July at the Palace Grounds, Tuam.

Clifden Tidy Towns and Tuam Tidy Towns partnered with Galway County Council on organising and promoting the events.

These courses were of particular interest to Tidy Towns Groups, Community Groups and those trying to improve their planting for biodiversity and create habitats.

The courses were practical in nature. During the course participants got the chance to learn about Irish pollinators and how to protect them, to dig without damaging their back, take cuttings, sow seeds and prune trees. Notes were sent out to everyone after the session and lots of time was given for questions and answers.

Over 40 people attended the courses.

22. National Biodiversity Week

The Galway Buzz!

National Biodiversity Week was celebrated in the County of Galway from 16th to 23rd May 2022.

National Biodiversity Week is all about connecting people with nature and inspiring them to learn more, see more and do more for biodiversity.

It's also about communicating the importance of biodiversity and encouraging people to play their part in protecting it as well as enjoying it. Therefore, a number of community events were held during the week including the following: "**How to Create a Biodiversity & Pollinator Plan**" in Williamstown Parish Hall This workshop was open to all and suitable for community groups, Tidy Towns, schools and villages who were interested in developing a Biodiversity & Pollinator Plan for their area. Participants were shown how best to approach the creation of a plan in a step-by-step easy manner.

23. The Big Boats are Coming

This event was organised in partnership with the Heritage Boats Association and Waterways Ireland in Ballinasloe

THE BIG BOATS ARE COMING!

BALLINASLOE HARBOUR
28th May – 6th June 2022

Week long event from Sat 28th May to Monday 6th June at Ballinasloe Marina on the River Suck Waterway.

Celebrating 21st anniversary of the Heritage Boats Association with barges dating back to 1847. All welcome to come view the barges and explore the past. With the Heritage Boat Association (HBA) and IWA River-Suck branch with Waterways Ireland and Galway County Council.

ALL WEEK 28th May – 6th June
All week in the marina, the boats will have information boards displaying their histories.

WEDNESDAY 1st JUNE
7pm - Historical/Heritage tour of Ballinasloe, guided by local historian Sean Tully.

THURSDAY 2nd JUNE
7pm - Historical/Heritage tour of Ballinasloe, guided by local historian Sean Tully.

FRIDAY 3rd JUNE
3pm - Beer barrel delivery by barge linking back to the Grand Canal from Dublin to Ballinasloe, reception with Heritage Boat Association in Ballinasloe Marina with Cathaoirleach of Ballinasloe Municipal District Cllr Dermot Connolly.

SUNDAY 29th MAY
All day - continued arrival of the Heritage fleet.

MONDAY 6th JUNE
The Heritage Fleet will commence departing the harbour and along the River Suck through history lock and up towards the Shannon.

SATURDAY 4th JUNE
Culture and Heritage Celebration in association with Waterways Ireland and Galway County Council.

- 1pm – 3pm Join us for the Cruinnidh event, a family friendly event showcasing Ireland's cultural heritage, arts and crafts, boiler making, Flea Circus, a talk on the famous Galway Hooker sailing boats.
- Have a look at the historic Bolinder engine, the power plant that replaced horses on the Grand Canal Barge Fleet.
- Music and craic in the harbour all afternoon with:
 - 2pm Ballinasloe Town Band
 - 3pm Bobby Kilkenny & Friends – Trad session
- 5.30pm in the marquee, join Dr Christy Cunniffe for a historic talk on the Ballinasloe Grand Canal branch from Fanninga lock to Ballinasloe.
- 6.30pm in the Marquee, join Conor Nolan from the Heritage Boat Association for a talk about the HBA and a tour of our information boards.

heritageboatassociation.ie | facebook.com/heritageboats | @heritageboats

Supported by Galway County Council and Waterways Ireland

HBA | Clárúcháir Chloiche na Gaillimhe Galway County Council | Waterways Ireland

24. Féile na gCloch, Inis Oírr

Féile na gCloch
Inis Oírr 2022
Festival of Stone | Inisheer

Déardaoin 15^ú go Dé Domhnaigh 18^ú Meán Fómhair

Ceardlann Tógála Balla Cloiche

Ceardlann Snioidóireachta Cloiche

Ceardlann Snoiteán Litreacha

Sceltseáil ar an Suíomh

Ceardlann Meascadh & Cur Suas Moirteál Aol Te

Ag cur áit in áireamh agus ag loc d'Fhéile na gCloch
Tá spásanna teoranta agus cathfhear iad a chur in áireamh agus a loc ag an nasc seo:

<https://feilenagcloch.clr.events>

Clárúcháir Chloiche na Gaillimhe Galway County Council | Clárúcháir Chloiche na Gaillimhe Galway County Council | Clárúcháir Chloiche na Gaillimhe Galway County Council

Over 100 people attended Féile na gCloch on Inis Oírr in September 2022, participants came from all parts of Ireland, USA, Austria, UK, Canada, and Korea. This year’s festival included workshops on stone wall building, stone carving, stone lettering, hot lime demonstrations and a number of talks on various aspects of stone walling.

25. Invasive Species

The Invasive Species working group of Galway County Council has established a system to record details of invasive species that are submitted by members of the public and staff with regards to

invasive species on Council property. Targeted Gunnera and Japanese Knotweed control measures took place in a number of places in the ownership of Galway County Council and an audit of invasive species took place in North Connemara.

26. ICAN – Community Heritage website

The Heritage Office continued to work in partnership with the Museum of County Life Castlebar and various communities throughout the county to further develop this website. Both technical and heritage training has been provided to the groups throughout the year.

Townland Research

Working with Galway Community Heritage, GRD, Forum Connemara, Athenry Active Retirement, CDS Cornamona on recording and documenting townland historical research. Please see the following for more information:

<https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/townlands-of-county-galway>

<https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/joyce-country-places>

<https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/galway-east-townland-research>

<https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/connemara-roots-nw-connemara-heritage>

Community Support Scheme Grants: Heritage

Rolled out of the Heritage Grant Scheme as part of Galway County Council's Community Support Scheme Grants.

Golden Mile Calendar

The *Golden Mile Calendar* was produced in partnership with Galway Rural Development in 2022 and distributed throughout the county.

Creative Ireland Project, Heritage Office: Galway Forged Gates Project

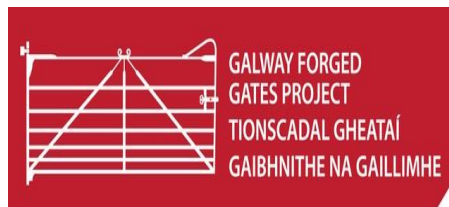
About the Project

The vernacular forged wrought iron field gate is a very valuable, but often neglected, aspect of the cultural heritage of our rural landscape in county Galway. These field gates were for the most part forged in the local blacksmith's forge.

They are practical and functional while at the same time are an artistic expression of the blacksmith who made them. During the twentieth century cast-iron, tubular steel and other mass-produced gates became more common while at the same time the forged wrought iron gates went into decline as did the blacksmiths forge. In addition to this changing farming practices has led to many of these gates being abandoned in hedges and fields throughout the county, as the older forged wrought iron field gates became too small to accommodate big new machines entering fields. However, to the careful observer there are still many beautifully crafted wrought iron field gates to be found around the county.

According to ICMOS “The built vernacular heritage is important; it is the fundamental expression of the culture of a community, of its relationship with its territory and, at the same time, the expression of the world's cultural diversity.”

Therefore, the aim of this project is to identify, record, raise awareness and knowledge of the wealth of wrought iron field gates that are to be found in the county of Galway. It will also seek to identify the names of the local blacksmiths and their forges.



Galway 2022 Forged Gates Project

In this phase of the project Galway County Council’s Heritage Office worked with Skehana Heritage Group and Holy Rosary College Mountbellew. Over 200 hundred locally forged gates have been recorded and in addition to this photograph of the remaining local forges were taken and interviews, podcasts and recordings were undertaken with members of the local community including farmers, blacksmiths, descendants of blacksmiths and others who have knowledge of the work of the blacksmith and the forged gates of the area.

Funding

This project was funded by Creative Ireland and Galway County Council with voluntary contributions from Skehana Heritage and Holy Rosary College Mountbellew

See <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/galway-forged-gates-project>

CORPORATE SERVICES

The Corporate Services Unit offers trusted and consistent excellence in administrative services to the Elected Members, Plenary Council, Senior Management, and the general public. The Unit aims to continually develop a positive Corporate image of the Council, through the provision of efficient professional support services in the form of Corporate Secretariat to the Council and its sub-structure as well as a wide variety of services including the Register of Electors, Freedom of Information, Promotion of the Irish Language, Recreation & Amenity Policies, Customer Services, Casual Trading, Corporate Policies, Management and Servicing of the Council Office Network, Archives and Records Management, Library Services, Internal Audit and Legal Services.

Progress and achievements of the Unit for 2022 are presented below appropriate to the relevant strategic priorities contained in the Corporate Plan 2020 - 2024.

CORPORATE PLANNING & SUPPORT

Galway County Council's Plenary Council of 39 members met for eleven monthly meetings in 2022, to carry out their Reserved functions and consider the social, economic and cultural issues critical to the sustainable development of the County in line with the Strategic Priorities and Objectives of the Corporate Plan.

To comply with Covid-19 restrictions in place at the time, the January, February, March and April Plenary Meetings were held remotely via Microsoft Teams.

The Annual Meeting of the Plenary Council was held on 17th June 2022 in Council Chamber in the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae. Cllr. Michael "Moegie" Maher was elected to replace Cllr. Peter Keaveney as Cathaoirleach. Cllr. Eileen Mannion was nominated to replace Cllr. Jim Cuddy as Leas-Chathaoirleach.



Cathaoirleach Cllr. Michael "Moegie" Maher and Leas-Cathaoirleach Cllr. Eileen Mannion



Galway County Councillors from Annual Meeting 17th June 2022

The Council held its Annual Statutory Budget Meeting on 28th November 2022 in the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae to consider and adopt the 2023 Revenue Budget and Three-Year Capital Programme

| Monthly Meetings of the Council | Meetings |
|--|-----------------|
| Ordinary Monthly Meetings | 11 |
| Special Meetings – County Development Plan | 1 |
| Annual Meeting | 1 |
| Budget Meeting | 1 |

CIVIC RECEPTIONS 2022

On 22nd July 2022 a Civic Reception was held in Áras an Chontae to honour the Kilkerran-Clonberne Ladies Football Team on being crowned All-Ireland Senior Club Football Champions for 2021





On 24th October 2022 a Civic Reception was held in Áras an Chontae to honour Dr. Ronan Glynn in recognition for outstanding service as Deputy Chief Medical Officer and Acting Chief Medical Officer 2018 - 2022, Galway All-Ireland Camogie Champions 2021 and the Lackagh Comhaltas Group in Recognition of outstanding musical achievements





MINISTER EAMON RYAN VISIT – MAY 2022



Cllr. Alastair McKinstry, Cathaoirleach Peter Keaveney, Minister Eamon Ryan T.D. and Mr. Jim Cullen, CE.



Mr. Jim Cullen, CE, Ms. Eileen Ruane, DOS, Minister Eamon Ryan T.D. and Ms. Tina Ryan, Climate Change Co-Ordinator

CHINESE AMBASSADOR VISIT TO GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL – 28TH NOVEMBER 2022



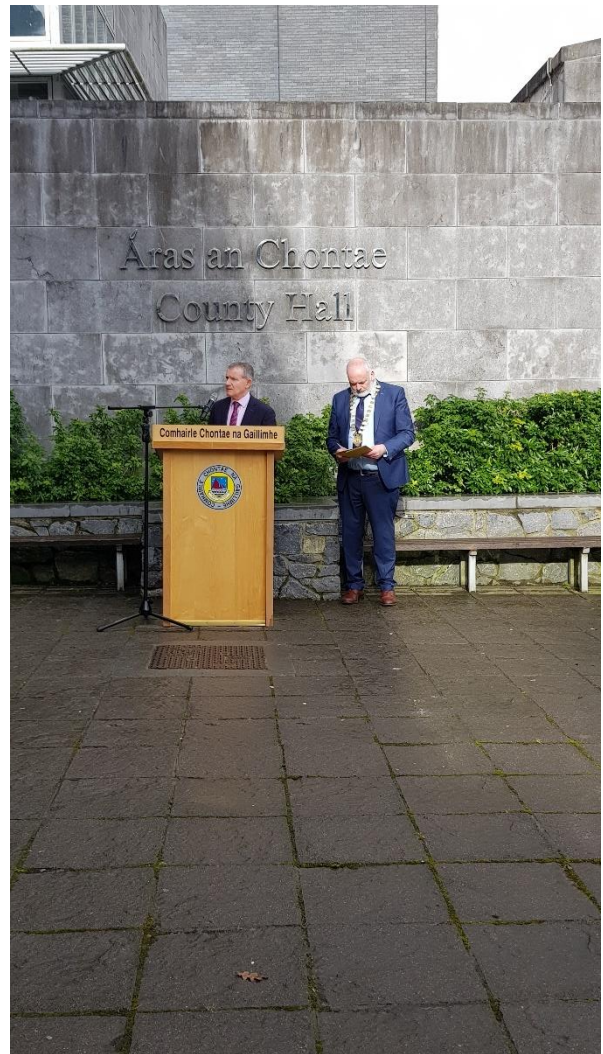
Cathaoirleach Cllr Moejie Maher, H.E. He Xiangdong, Chinese Ambassador to Ireland, Madam Xia Lining and Jim Cullen, Chief Executive

MEMORIAL DAY RENVILLE

In March 2022, Galway County Council held a tree planting remembrance ceremony in Renville Park



RAISING OF THE UKRANIAN FLAG



MAYORAL BALL 2022

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Peter Keaveney held a Mayoral Charity Ball on Saturday 11th June 2022 in the Ard Rí Hotel, Tuam. Proceeds from the Mayoral Ball were donated to Galway Hospice Foundation with over €31,000 raised for the charity and 300 people in attendance on the night.





CORPORATE POLICY GROUP

The Corporate Policy Group is organised and administered by Corporate Services and is supported by the Chief Executive.

| Corporate Policy Group | Meetings |
|------------------------|----------|
| Corporate Policy Group | 10 |

JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

The legislative framework for the establishment of Joint Policing Committees is set out in Section 36 (2) of An Garda Síochána Act 2005:

“The joint policing committee’s function is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority’s administrative area”

Section 37(1) also provides:

“A local authority shall, in performing its functions, have regard to the importance of taking steps to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within its area of responsibility.”

JPCs operate under revised guidelines issued by the Policing Authority in 2022 after consultation with the Minister for Justice, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Garda Commissioner.

The County Galway JPC meetings were held on the following dates during 2022:

- 7th February 2022
- 9th May 2022

- 12th September 2022
- 14th November 2022 – our Annual Public Meeting

VISIT FROM THE GARDA COMMISSIONER

The Garda Commissioner, Drew Harris, attended our September meeting following an invite from the committee, to discuss the new Policing Operating Model and other topics. He received a very warm welcome from the Committee. He detailed the progress that has been made nationally during his time in the role and he also outlined the plans that are in place for the future and what they hope to achieve going forward.



The Garda Commissioner, Drew Harris, pictured with members of the County Galway Joint Policing Committee in Áras an Chontae

ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING

Our Annual Public Meeting in November was held in the Claregalway Hotel in Baile Chláir. We had over 50 in attendance on the night, with a significant amount of engagement throughout the meeting.

This was also the first meeting for our new Chief Superintendent, Gerard Roche.



Members of the public attending our Annual JPC Meeting in the Claregalway Hotel on the 14th November 2022

The continuing work of two sub-committees afforded the JPC the opportunity to progress some key initiatives as set out in their Annual Work Plan for 2022.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE JPC

The following table shows the numbers applicable for each category of membership for the County Galway Joint Policing Committee.

| Local Authority Elected Members | Oireachtas Members | Local Authority Officials | An Garda Síochána | Community/Voluntary Representatives |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 15 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 7 |

REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The Council is responsible for the compilation of the Register of Electors for County Galway (excluding Galway City area). The Register of Electors for 2022 was published on the 1st February 2021. The total number of Electors on the 2022 Register of Electors was 139,496.

ELECTORAL REFORM ACT 2022

The Electoral Reform Act 2022 was signed into law by the President on 25 July 2022. The Act provided the legislative underpinning for a range of significant electoral reforms:

- The establishment of an independent electoral commission – An Coimisiún Toghcháin
- The modernisation of our electoral registration process to deliver greater accessibility and improved integrity
- The regulation of online political advertising to provide for transparency during electoral campaigns and ensure that our elections remain free from hidden influences on how we vote
- The protection of the integrity of our electoral processes which will see the regulation of electoral process information, and online electoral information to guard against manipulative or inauthentic behaviour during electoral campaigns
- The strengthening of our regulatory regime in respect of political donations and accounts, including the provision of new investigatory and enforcement powers to the Standards in Public Office Commission
- Amendments to electoral law to provide that voting on the islands will take place on the same day as for the rest of the country; and
- Amendments to facilitate voting when Covid-19 type restrictions are in place.

From the 13th October 2022, the legislative framework for the modernisation of our electoral registration process, including the move to a rolling, or continuous, registration, and the standardisation and simplification of the registration process came into effect. All applications will be made to the registration authority in the first instance and only appeals will fall to be considered by County Registrars.

It sets out to provide a clear legal basis for data sharing and the use of PPSNs in the process and includes several new provisions including supporting registration for those who have no address, and anonymous registration for persons whose safety may be at risk if their names are published in the register.

Existing flexible voting facilities which are currently available to persons with physical difficulties are also being extended to electors with mental health difficulties. It also makes provision to allow 16- and 17-year-olds to pre-register and abolishes the edited register.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

A total of 125 requests were received by Galway County Council during 2022 under the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

| Decision | Number* |
|------------------|---------|
| Requests Granted | 45 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Requests Part-granted | 24 |
| Requests Refused | 39 |
| Requests Transferred | 3 |
| Requests Withdrawn | 3 |
| Withdrawn and handled outside of FOI | 4 |

*3 cases were carried forward from 2021 and as of year-end 2022, 10 cases were carried forward to 2023

ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

A total of 30 requests were received by Galway County Council during 2022 under the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007-2018.

| Decision | Number* |
|--|---------|
| Requests Granted | 10 |
| Requests Part-granted | 10 |
| Requests Refused | 9 |
| Requests Transferred | 0 |
| Requests Withdrawn | 1 |
| Requests Withdrawn and handled under FOI | 0 |
| Deemed Refusal | 1 |

*2 cases were carried forward from 2021 and as of year-end 2022, 1 case was carried forward to 2023

DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS

In performing its functions, Galway County Council is required to process significant amounts of “Personal Data” within the meaning of the Data Protection Acts and the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Galway County Council respects the privacy rights of those whose personal data we process, and we are conscious of our obligations under Data Protection Law.

Galway County Council’s commitment is that the personal data individuals may be required to supply to us is:

- Obtained lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner
- Obtained for only specified, explicit and legitimate purposes
- Adequate, relevant, and limited to what is necessary for the purpose for which it was obtained
- Recorded, stored accurately and securely and where necessary kept up to date
- Kept only for as long as is necessary for the purposes for which it was obtained.
- Kept in a form which permits identification of the data subject
- Processed only in a manner that ensures the appropriate security of the personal data including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing.

Galway County Council has implemented a Data Protection Management System across the organisation to assist with the Council's continued compliance with GDPR and Data Protection law.

STAFF TRAINING 2022

Staff training and induction in relation to Data Protection & Cyber Security was provided online. In-person Staff Awareness Training was also made available for all staff and a Staff Newsletter was published quarterly to promote awareness in relation to Data Protection.

DATA SUBJECT ACCESS REQUESTS 2022

17 Subject Access Requests were received and responded to.

The Council's Data Protection Officer is part of the Corporate Services Team and can be contacted by email at: dpo@galwaycoco.ie or by phone at: (091) 509319.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

- The Facilities Section commenced energy saving and energy efficiency works to the velfac windows in County Hall building by the replacement of all ironmongery and seals.
- Four new EV Charges were installed at the upper carpark at County Hall and our two caretakers replaced their diesel LCVs with EV LCVs.
- Completed the fire safety and energy efficiency works to the Clifden Library and Office.
- The Facilities Section continued to provide caretaking and facilities management services for the Council's building network of offices and libraries, of which 26 no. are directly owned by Galway County Council. There are presently 38 different types of planned preventative maintenance contracts in place which give rise to over 1,500 different inspections across this network of buildings.
- The Facilities Unit continued to undertake procurement processes for a range of facilities management related contracts to ensure value for money and quality of services are maintained.
- Facilities carried out the installation and integration of the door access control system at Ballinasloe Library building in view of creating a centralised administrative system.
- Facilities assisted the library section in obtaining the first operational My Open Library at Ballinasloe Library.
- Facilities carried out access improvement work to the rear entrance of County Hall.

ENERGY MANAGEMENT & ENERGY REDUCTION INITIATIVES

- Energy efficiency monitoring and management continued to be a priority focus for the facilities unit.
- Undertook the statutory electrical certification of Council buildings
- County Hall continued to improve its operational Building Energy Rating (BER).

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- The Corporate Services Unit continued to deliver on its requirements under the Safety Management Programme in areas such as PAT testing, legionella testing, periodic testing of electrical installations, VDU assessments for all Offices and Libraries, fire alarm and emergency light testing & maintenance programme, statutory inspection and maintenance of passenger lifts, roof access systems and heating system operating on Gas.
- Health & Safety Inspections continued to be carried out on a regular basis in line with implementation of the Council's Health & Safety Management Plan.
- Rinville Park landscaping maintenance was undertaken while continuing to work in conjunction with the local Community & Employment Scheme. Upgrade works were completed to the public seating areas and waste collection facilities.
- Facilities in collaboration with our Human Resources section, undertake the role out of Fire Warden training.

COMMUNITY WARDEN SERVICE/CORONERS SERVICE

COMMUNITY WARDENS

The Community Wardens are a uniformed service of the Local Authority with several roles across a range of Local Authority functions including:

- Enforcement - statutory traffic offences, litter offences, abandoned vehicles, waste disposal/illegal dumping, dog licenses and casual trading.
- Monitoring - housing estates, public amenities such as recycling centres, bring banks, parks, beaches and playgrounds.



- Assistance – to tourists, elderly, schools, neighborhood communities, An Garda Síochána and other state agencies.
- Litter pollution/Derelict Sites Surveys were carried out, whilst regular inspections of playgrounds, parks Local Authority estates, Halting Sites, pier, ring buoys and bottle banks continued to be undertaken by the Community Wardens during 2022 and the assistance with Community Clean ups continued during the year.
- 1147 investigations under Air Pollution, Waste Management and Water Pollution legislation were carried out.
- 231 surveys were carried out by the Community Wardens Service in relation to litter pollution in accordance with National Service indicators.
- Environmental Enforcement including the issuing of litter fines and notices under the Waste Management and Water Pollution Acts continued to be undertaken by the Community wardens. A total of 67 litter fines were issued in 2022.
- Community Wardens continued to assist with the operation of pay and display parking and the implementation of traffic management plans in several towns across the County.
- The Housing Department request the services of the Community Wardens in implementation of the Control of Horses Act 1996.
- Dog licensing inspection campaigns also continued throughout the year.
- Community Wardens under the Roads Act 1993 assisted in the removal of abandoned vehicles throughout the year.

CORONERS SERVICE

The Council continued to provide administrative support for the processing of all payments of fees for the City and County Coroners Service. The full cost of the Coroners Service is borne by the Council through its revenue budget, with no mechanism for recoupment.

INTERNAL AUDIT/LEGAL ADVISORY SERVICE

INTERNAL AUDIT

The purpose of the Internal Audit Unit is to provide the Audit Committee and Management, with an independent and objective opinion on governance, risk management and internal control and their

effectiveness in achieving Galway County Council agreed objectives. It also has an independent and objective advisory role to help line managers improve governance, risk management and internal controls.

The Internal Audit Plan 2022 which forms the Internal Audit Unit’s annual programme of work was drawn up in conjunction with the Chief Executive, Executive Team, Audit Committee, and the Head of the Internal Audit. The plan contained 5 areas for audit examination as listed below.

| Reference | Title |
|-----------|---|
| IA22/01 | Public Spending Code Quality Assurance Report In-Depth Checks* |
| IA22/02 | Outdoor Seating & Accessories Scheme for Tourism & Hospitality Sector |
| IA22/03 | SICAP – 2020 & 2021 Verification review* |
| IA22/04 | Commercial Rates Waiver 2021 |
| IA22/05 | Capital Works Construction of Fána Bhuí Tuam M7-2-300 |

***Statutory Audits**

INTERNAL AUDIT WORK UNDERTAKEN IN 2022

The audit findings in respect of each review, together with our recommendations for action and the management responses are set out in our detailed reports.

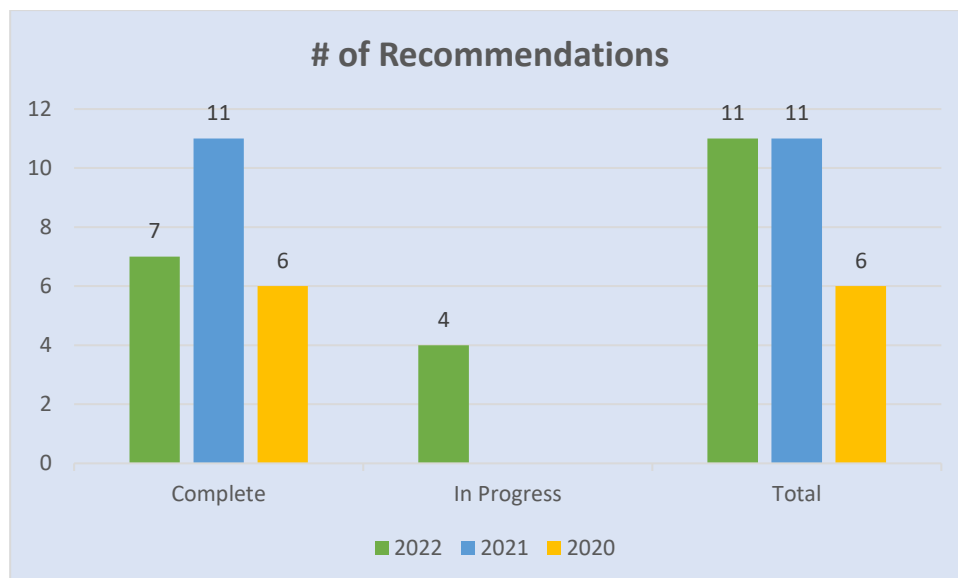
Internal Audit undertook five audit reviews during 2022, four of which were completed by year end, one in progress and one was postponed.

| Audit Area Audits - Final Reports | Assurance Level | Recommendations | | | | Accepted |
|---|---|-----------------|--------|-----|-------|----------|
| | | High | Medium | Low | Total | |
| Public Spending Code | Substantial | - | - | - | - | |
| Outdoor Seating & Accessories Scheme | Substantial | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| SICAP | Substantial | - | 1 | 1 | - | 2 |
| Vacant Homes Action Plan | Moderate | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 6 |
| Work In Progress | Status as at 31/12/2022 | | | | | |
| Commercial Rates Waiver 2021 | In Progress – Audit testing being carried out | | | | | |
| Capital Works Construction of Fána Bhuí Tuam N7-2-300 | Postponed – due to resources availability, review scheduled to commence in January 2023 | | | | | |

In addition to the audit reviews listed above, compliance checks are done, subject to availability of resources, on a few service areas within the Council on a periodic basis.

Implementation of Recommendations

The following table provides a status of agreed audit actions. Four recommendations are ‘in progress’ from an Audit completed in late 2022 and is due for review in 2023.



AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee fulfils an important role in the governance framework by assisting the Council monitor the internal control environment, risk management, financial reporting, and internal/external audit functions.

There were 4 no. Audit Committee meetings held in 2022 and there was strong participation from all Committee members at each meeting.

| Audit Committee Members | Meeting Dates | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 22/06/2022 | 06/09/2022 | 15/11/2022 | 13/12/2022 |
| Mr. Des Mahon, Cathaoirleach | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Mr. Seamus Duffy | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Ms. Sarah Roarty | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Cllr. James Charity | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Cllr. Liam Carroll | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

During 2022, the Audit Committee fulfilled its obligation to prepare two statutory reports to the Council as set out below:

Pursuant to Section 15 of Local Government (Audit Committee Regulations 2014) the Committee's 2021 Annual Report on activity was presented to the Council at the plenary meeting held on the 23rd May 2022. [Minute 3972](#)

Pursuant to Section 60 of the Local Government Act 2014 the Audit Committee prepared a statutory report on the Local Government Auditor's 2021 Annual Financial Statement which was presented to the Council at the plenary meeting held on 19th December 2022. [Minute 4078](#)

LEGAL ADVISORY SERVICE

The Law Agent Department continued to provide the usual legal and advisory services for all programme areas and Directorates during 2022.

These services included the acquisition and sale of properties (an area of practice which continued to return to usual levels following the impacts of the Covid 19 Pandemic), the conduct of litigation to include District Court enforcement prosecutions, Circuit and High Court, including Judicial Review, all of which have now resumed to normal levels with developments within the Court Services to provide for both in-person and online court hearings. The completion of land acquisitions, CPOs on inter-urban routes and road widening schemes, were also substantial areas of work for the Law Agent Department. Code Enforcement also represents a significant workload for the department involving both planning and environmental prosecutions at various court jurisdictions.

The Case Management System, which facilitates the use of templates to create workflows for the efficient and cost-effective delivery of legal services, continues to be updated on an ongoing basis. Some staff members have been upskilled to assist in the day-to-day management of this system which is critical for the operation of the unit.

Work is ongoing, in conjunction with other areas and units within the organisation, to maintain and further develop the council Register of Lands. This involves, in particular, co-operation with our partners in IT, Finance and Housing. Significant progress has again been achieved in terms of the Register during 2022 with some staff specifically delegated the task of identifying lands and completing 'First Registration' applications in the Property Registration Authority.

The Law Agent Department has also provided additional support and advisory services to the Executive of the Council and organisational staff within the specialised areas of Data Protection and Freedom of Information, to include the sourcing of specific Advice and Opinion from Legal Counsel, as and when appropriate.

OPERATION OF MARKETS. CASUAL TRADING & FILM LICENCES

The Casual Trading License year runs from the 1st April until the 31st March. Licenses are issued annually on payment of a fee for several towns and villages throughout the County in line with the Casual Trading Byelaws.

The locations of the towns and villages are as follows:

- Athenry
- Ballinasloe
- Clifden
- Dunmore
- Gort

- Headford
- Loughrea
- Mountbellew
- Tuam
- Portumna

CASUAL TRADING BAYS

| Annual Licences | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Area | No. of Licences issued 2022 |
| Athenry | 5 |
| Ballinasloe (St. Mary's Square) | 5 |
| Clifden | 8 |
| Dunmore | 1 |
| Gort | 9 |
| Headford | 1 |
| Loughrea | 2 |
| Mountbellew | 4 |
| Portumna | 3 |
| Tuam | 8 |

| Special Event Licences | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Area | No. of Licences Issued 2022 |
| Tuam | 1 |
| Ballinasloe | 2 |
| Ballygar | 17 |
| Clifden | 3 |
| Maam | 7 |
| Dumore | 28 |

| Permits for Ice Cream Vendors at Designated Beaches/Park | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Area | No. of Licences Issued 2022 |
| Tracht, Kinvara | 1 |
| Tra na bhForbacha | 1 |
| An Trá Dóilín | 1 |
| Roundstone | 1 |

FILM LICENCES

During the course of 2022 Corporate Services received 25 requests from film production companies for use of public property to film. Some of the requests were for a day whilst others would extend to a few days.

RECREATION, AMENITY, PARKS & OPEN SPACES

Galway County Council continues to invest in play facilities in the County by providing public liability insurance to a number of community managed playgrounds as part of formal maintenance agreements with local groups, as well as the direct maintenance of playgrounds in our main towns. In accordance with previous commitments under the Council's Play Policy, assistance has been provided to playgrounds through direct funding and provision of insurance. To-date, a total of 77 playgrounds have been developed in the County, under this policy which provides one of the most extensive networks of playgrounds in any County available free of charge to residents of all main settlement centres and in key tourist locations.



Galway County Council are pleased to confirm the refurbishments and Repairs at the Leisure Centre Playground, Ballinasloe, and Portumna Playground after successfully securing funding from the Department of Children Equality Disability Integration and Youth.



Installation of New Equipment at Portumna Playground



Installation of New Equipment at Ballinasloe Leisure Centre Playground

Galway County Council are happy to confirm the continuation of the Installation of Communication Boards to Leisure Centre Playground, Ballinasloe and Portumna Playground. The Communication Boards provide support to all children but especially those with Autism to better visualise and understand language, while providing a social gathering spot for all users to interact together. The communications board are bilingual (Irish and English)

The on-line inspection ‘app’ continued to work well in 2022 as it assists Community Wardens carry out inspections using their smartphones and submit reports automatically. Reports are automatically filed providing a record of weekly inspections required for maintenance and insurance purposes

RINVILLE PARK

Rinville Park is one of the County’s largest parks, with a network of walkways, a playground, and an outdoor gym. Rinville Park is managed by Galway County Council is owned jointly by Galway County Council and Galway City Council. It is a designated location on the ‘Wild Atlantic Way’. It is used extensively by local residents, visitors, and local organisations such as Scouting Groups.

A seasonal Caretaker was employed by the Council from March to October 2022. A Concession for the provision to sell light refreshments at Rinville Park from March to September was continued.



Picnic seating at Rinville Park Oranmore

DUNLO ATHLETIC TRACK, BALLINASLOE

Dunlo Athletic Track is a valuable amenity for the community of Ballinasloe and East Galway region in the ownership of Galway County Council.

Galway County Council acknowledges the support of the TUS programme in the provision of services at the facility. The support services provided under the Scheme supports the operation of the facility and ensures that the facilities can be made available for the enjoyment and benefit of the local community and clubs.

BATTLE OF AUGHRIM VISITOR CENTRE

In June 2022, the Battle of Aghrim Visitor Centre re-opened after being closed since 2019 due to Covid-19 restrictions. The centre re-opened from June to August with approximately 1,000 visitors coming to the centre for its summer season, including a number of school tours from the region and neighbouring counties.

A launch night was held on Wednesday 15th June 2022 with Cathaoirleach Cllr. Peter Keaveney opening the centre with a great turn out of locals, Councillors and invited guests from the tourism and local business industry.



Cathaoirleach Cllr. Peter Keaveney, Laura Sharkey, Administrative Officer, Corporate Services and Cathaoirleach of Ballinasloe MD Cllr. Dermot Connolly



The Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre was used for filming for Discovery + Channel in October 2022 with presenter Vogue Williams filming in the Centre for 2 days.



Laura Sharkey, Administrative Officer, Corporate Services, Vogue Williams, TV Presenter, Abbie McGowan, Ballinasloe Library and Michael Riddell, Cath Eachroma 1691

HERITAGE WEEK

On Saturday 20th August 2022, the Cath Eachroma 1691 group held a brilliantly attended Walk About and Talk About Event at the Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre for Heritage Week.

Over 100 people attended to listen to stories of the battle and then participate in a walk of the battlefield.



MARTIN JOYCE SUMMER LECTURE SERIES 2022

8 lunchtime lectures were held on Fridays throughout the summer season 2022 in the Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre with a variety of topics and lecturers invited to speak. Each lecture was well attended with refreshments available for all.

| 2022 Dates | Speaker | Lecture Title |
|------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 24-Jun | Joe Joyce | "Was Henry Luttrell Really a Traitor?" |
| 08-Jul | Michael Riddell and Abbie McGowan | "The Folklore of the Battle of Aughrim". |
| 15-Jul | Daniel Curley | Aughrim Uí Maine in the later medieval period, an illustrated talk |
| 22-Jul | Joe Kelly | "Muintir Uí Ceallaigh" - An Introduction |
| 05-Aug | George Geraghty | "The Rise and Fall of the House of Stuart" |
| 12-Aug | Dr Pdraig Lenihan | "A panorama of Aughrim by Jan Wyck or Dirck Maes: A Moment in Time?" |
| 19-Aug | Joe Loughnane | The Connaught Rangers Mutiny in India, June 1920 and some Local Involvement |
| 26-Aug | Ronan Killeen | Bridewells of East Galway in the 19th Century |



Cllr. Evelyn Francis Parsons and Joe Joyce at the Martin Joyce Summer Lecture Series 2022



LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES PROGRAMME

Strategic Priority: To enhance the well-being of the county, its communities and people, developing sustainable communities, maximizing social inclusion and supporting active citizenship.

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES PROGRAMME

Galway Public Libraries worked extensively throughout 2022 to deliver an enhanced, inclusive and supportive service to communities in both urban and rural settings. Library services continue to be an important resource for children, adults and families in Galway city and county. Throughout 2022 the library delivered a tailored suite of services, programmes, workshops, lectures and projects that maximized inclusion, promoted literacy awareness and encouraged active citizenship.

In order to deliver on the strategic priorities, Galway Public Libraries provides a diverse range of services throughout the extensive network. These are listed here to give a service overview.

- 29 Branch Libraries
- Mobile library service
- Schools service for primary and post-primary schools
- Archives Department
- Local History service
- Audio-Book Service for persons with a visual impairment
- Sensory services and programming
- A Virtual Library platform offering services 24/7 these include the following
 - eBooks and eAudiobooks
 - eMagazine subscriptions
 - Graphic novels and comics
 - Online courses covering a vast array of subjects, topics, and skillsets
 - Literacy supports for children with access to learning support platforms such as Nessy learning, TTRS.
 - Multi-lingual resources allowing children learn, read, and experience up to 300+ languages through LOTE website.
 - Medici TV – providing free online access to a wealth of musical resources, lectures and master classes
 - Access to International newspapers

The active library membership for Galway Public Libraries was 33,497

In 2022, 592,604 items were issued (this figure does not include eBooks and eAudio books) and there was in excess of 360, 000 visits to our libraries

Indicative Activities in 2022:

- Libraries remained one of the most visited public spaces in County Galway. Our libraries are established civic and cultural centres in their communities, a free amenity with a welcome for all.

- Public reaction to the National Distribution service has been hugely positive due to the availability of out-of-print titles, access to new fiction and non-fiction and course textbooks. This service continues to increase in use in line with our increased footfall post pandemic.
- Public internet access was upgraded in branch libraries throughout the city and county. WIFI services were also extended and upgraded in a number of libraries.
- The continuous promotion and the awareness around online resources has had multiple benefits with various languages, courses and learning platforms now supporting our diverse communities. Staff have assisted in digital skills training, and this has contributed to a sustained rise in usage.
- Key priorities within our business plan were delivered as part of the successful funding applications that were made to the Dormant Accounts Fund. These programmes focused on supporting those who are marginalized, socially excluded, and disadvantaged within our communities. Funding was also received to provide digital equity and facilitated the purchase of literacy, numeracy and digital skills licenses and apps.
- A new Sensory Room was opened in Westside Library with a designated member of staff in charge. The roll out of Sensory services was also enhanced with the provision of sensory materials to all libraries in the network. Information leaflets designed specifically to highlight the range of associated sensory services available in the city and county were also circulated. Staff were trained in Autism Awareness.
- The first Galway Public Libraries MOL (My Open Library) was launched in Ballinasloe Library in November 2022.
- The National Age Friendly Library Recognition Programme continues to be rolled out in Galway Public Library service. Five library service points have been awarded the Age Friendly Charter and a further twenty-four librarians are moving onto the last phase of training before their libraries will be awarded the Age Friendly Charter.
- Seachtain na Gaeilge was celebrated again in 2022 with wonderful displays of Irish language material which are available in all our library branches for both adults and children. Galway Public library service is committed to allocating a percentage of its book fund to the purchase of Irish language material. Irish language versions of popular board games such as Scrabble and Monopoly were also distributed to our libraries.
- Ukrainian supports were established for those displaced by the ongoing war. The application process to join the library was reviewed and streamlined to allow for immediate access to our resources. Stock was purchased and distributed, and our online resource platforms were amended to offer material in Ukrainian. Our outreach initiatives ensured that all support workers were advised of the free WIFI and public PC access that our libraries have for public use. Our libraries also hosted community integration events such as 'Stay and Play' and coffee mornings.

NATIONAL INITIATIVES:

Healthy Ireland at Your Library

Galway Public Libraries participates in the national Healthy Ireland at Your Library Initiative which aims to establish public libraries as a valuable source of health information for communities. The

Healthy Ireland at Your Library Programme addresses six key areas- Healthy Childhood, Healthy Eating and Active Living, Wellbeing and Mental Health, Positive Ageing, Alcohol and Tobacco.

The Healthy Ireland at Your Library Programme enhances current health information in Galway Public Libraries by providing a comprehensive collection of new books, e-books, e-audiobooks, e-magazines and online courses on health and well-being. The Healthy Ireland book stock and online resources are complemented by a series of online and in-branch talks and workshops with a focus on physical and mental health and health literacy.

In 2022, Galway Public Libraries Healthy Ireland programme featured 21 talks and workshops on topics including healthy nutrition, getting fit and staying active, understanding menopause, parenting anxious children, sleep hygiene, preventing and recovering from burnout, work wellness and managing allergies. A selection of Irish language talks on various health topics were held Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua and shared via Galway Public Libraries' social media and YouTube channel.

Right to Read

Right to Read is a national programme to promote literacy and reading development for people of all ages. Launched as part of the *Opportunities for All: the public library as a catalyst for economic, social, and cultural development 2013-2017* (Public Libraries' strategy), it currently includes four national programmes designed to promote children's reading and literacy. The four programmes are as follows:

- Spring into Storytime
- Summer Stars
- Children's Book Festival
- Family Time at Your Library

During the months of April and May, Galway Public Libraries hosted 15 online and in-branch story-time and craft workshops to celebrate **Spring into Storytime** with over 166 participants taking part.

The **Summer Stars** reading adventure took place throughout the County with 3,184 children registering to take part. Our Libraries organized one hundred and fourteen events throughout the Summer with over 1,300 children participating in these events. These included author visits, pottery, dance, pollinator, and circus workshops, 3d experiences, and craft workshops ranging from origami to making your own fascinators.



Family Time at Your Library was a great success with 37 events hosted at family friendly times with 527 participants. The library service chairs the local Right to Read Network, which includes representatives of agencies working in the area of literacy development and support. The Network meets twice a year.

Children’s Book Festival ‘Book It!’ is a Children's Book Festival which takes place each October throughout Galway Public Libraries with the support of the Galway County Arts Office and the Galway City Arts Office. The festival is a celebration of books and reading and is a chance to meet new or favourite authors, participate in various workshops and enjoy the process of reading.

Through our work in the library service, we are cognisant of the impact that the last few years have had on the mental health of our young people. Our theme for 2022 was ‘Be Kind to Your Mind’ and our events aimed to promote mindfulness, positivity, and self-belief in our young people. Children and teenagers were engaged in mindfulness and wellbeing workshops facilitated by authors, illustrators, and mindfulness practitioners throughout the month.



The Little Library Book Bag initiative is a new collaboration between libraries, the Department of Rural and Community Development & the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. Galway Public Libraries distributed over 1,200 Little Library Book Bags to over 300 Early Learning Centres in county Galway.

FEBRUARY 25TH 2022: IRELAND READS DAY

National day to celebrate reading allowed libraries across the city and county to host events and programmes to encourage reading in all formats.

External storybook trails were launched to showcase reading and biodiversity. Our events were supported by Elected Members, writers and poets who joined in various reading campaigns.



CREATIVE IRELAND

GALWAY'S GREAT READ 2022: WANDERING WEST WITH WORDS



Galway's Great Read is an annual programme of events, organised by Galway Public Libraries during November. Its purpose is to promote our literary heritage, history, and our unique culture, and foster an appreciation for its diversity and richness.

Galway's Great Read 2022: Wandering West with Words was a literary journey through South Connemara, wandering west in the footsteps of various travel writers and discovering the spoken word, poetry, prose, and song which is embodied in some of our western writers such as Máirtín Ó Cadhain, Joe Steve Ó Neachtain, Caitlín Maude and many more.

A series of in person events were held in Leabharlann an Spidéil and Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua during November 2022 to highlight and examine the lives and works of writers and artists from South Connemara.

A travel documentary showcasing the writer's trail along the western seaboard, and which highlights the beauty of the landscape; the places where the words were written, the songs were sung, the poetry was spoken and the historical and archaeological sites that were explored will be available on the Libraries YouTube channel April 2023.



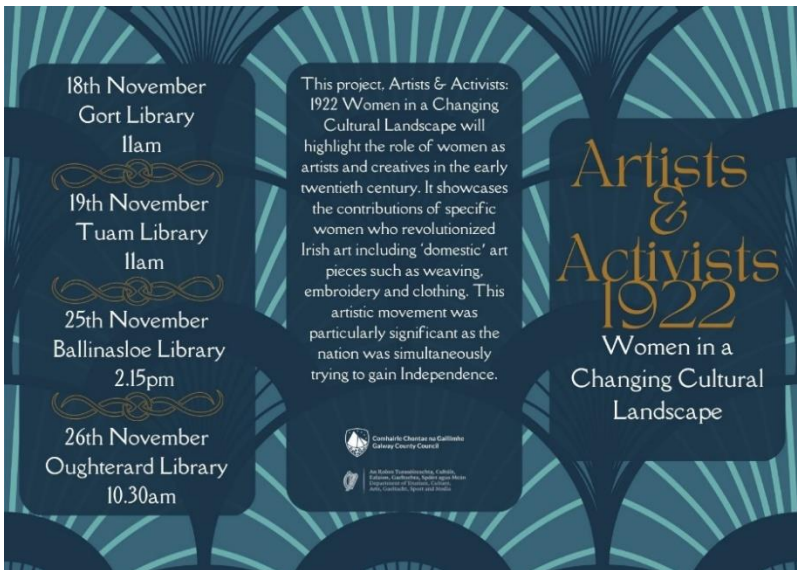
DECADE OF CENTENARIES

Galway Public Librarians as part of Galway County Council's Decade of Centenaries programme launched two projects' *Artists & Activists: 1922 Women in a Changing Cultural Landscape* and *1921: A Dialogue through Poetry and Music*

These projects focus on the everyday experiences of ordinary people living in extraordinary times.

Artists & Activists: 1922 Women in a Changing Cultural Landscape highlights the role of women as artists and creatives in the early twentieth century by showcasing the contributions of specific women who revolutionized Irish art including 'domestic' art pieces such as weaving, embroidery and clothing.

The project included a series of talks, workshops and four commissions.

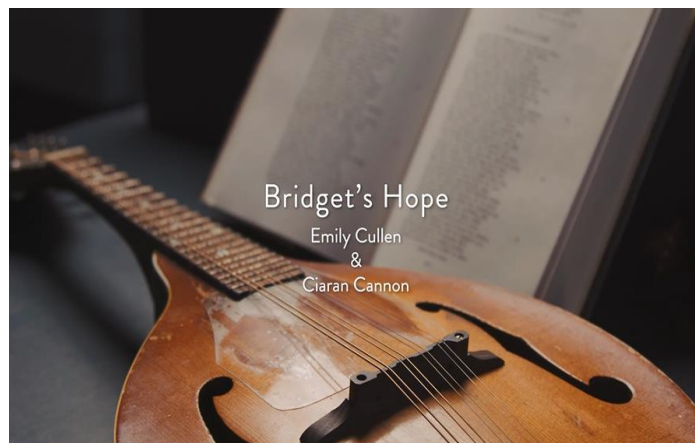


'Behind the Scenes' is the title of the craft commission by Jean Moran. This is one of four different Commissions from Artists and Activists

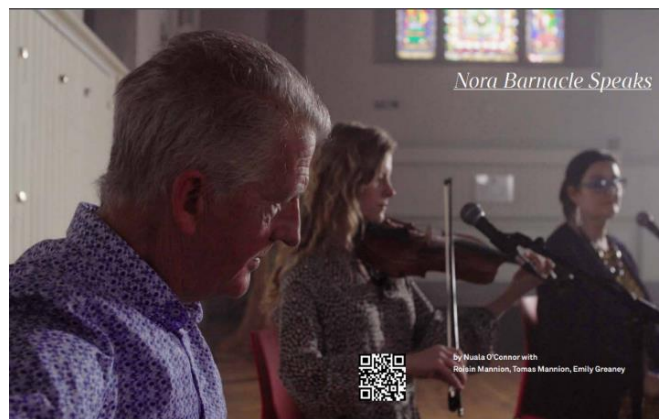
This handwoven weave represents the many women who in the time of the Irish Revolution and Cultural Revival Ireland were overshadowed and overlooked though their input and work was large and significant.

1921: A DIALOGUE THROUGH POETRY AND MUSIC

This project *1921: A Dialogue through Poetry and Music* which was launched in 2022, was a collaboration between 5 Poets and Musicians who were commissioned to create new poetry and musical works on the theme of 1921. Their combination of words and music lead us past the hard politics of the era to reflect more on a social, cultural, and creative Ireland.



We are indebted to all our creatives who worked on these two projects.



EUROPE DIRECT CENTRE:

Europe Direct Ballinasloe Library provides information materials, answers questions and hosts events based on European priorities and activities. Ballinasloe Library also manages a European Information Point in Leabharlainn na Ceathrún Rua to insure access to materials as Gaeilge.

2022 activities included:

- The delivery of bike repair workshops to TY classes, University of Galway students and Athenry Women's shed.
- Europe Direct purchased 5 Home Energy Saving Kits which can be loaned from Galway Public Libraries.
- Organised a visit to Scoil Chuimsitheach Chiaráin by MEP Maria Walsh who met with the current national winner of the Europe Direct Soapbox competition as well as the County Librarian and local councillors. Ukrainian families who had just been welcomed to the area were introduced to library and Europe Direct supports for the community. The visit was featured on TG4 and RnaG.
- Welcomed 100 students from on the 'All Aboard Train' – an initiative to showcase Europe Direct Ballinasloe and Library. -

My Open Library MOL

In November Ballinasloe Library was delighted to be the first library in Galway to open as a 'My Open Library'.

My Open Library is a service which offers extended opening hours to library members on a self-service basis outside normal opening hours, from 8am to 10pm, seven days a week.



Library members must be 16 years or over to avail of the service. There are no staff present when My Open Library service is in operation.

Galway County Council had received investment from the Department of Rural and Community Development to facilitate the rollout of the My Open Library project.

Cllr. Michael (Moegie) Maher, Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council said:

“This initiative is a welcome addition to the other services that Libraries provide to our local communities”.



LAI PUBLIC LIBRARIES CONFERENCE



LAI (Library Association of Ireland) Public Libraries Conference was hosted by Galway Public libraries from November 8-10th 2022.



The theme of this very successful and enjoyable conference was ‘It’s not easy being green: Libraries, SDGs & climate change’, a theme that could not be more appropriate or relevant, given that our world leaders were discussing an array of issues critical to tackling the climate emergency at COP27 the same week.

Over 160 delegates from all over Ireland attended

EVENTS FOR ADULTS:

- Galway Public Libraries hosted events to celebrate Culture Night in September
- Westside Public Library in conjunction with community partners delivered the Westside Arts Festival
- Collaboration and support for local festivals including Cúirt, Shorelines Arts Festival in Portumna, Clifden Arts Festival and East Galway Art Trail
- Bealtaine Festival in May was celebrated in a number of libraries
- Art exhibitions, book launches and readings were held once pandemic restrictions were lifted
- Digital literacy classes delivered as part of our Age Friendly initiative.
- Ballinasloe library supported Heritage week hosted two events showcasing GAA heritage of the county and display of 17th century regiment flags.
- A talk on the archaeological discoveries found during the Ballinasloe 'Big Dig'
- Yarn bombing events in the county creating community impact and bringing a smile to residents

PROPOSALS FOR 2023

- Work will continue to maintain and improve library services in Galway as per the Galway Public Libraries Development Programme (Interim) 2022-2023, while being mindful of budgetary constraints
- National programmes including Right to Read, and Healthy Ireland at Your Library will continue to be rolled out across the branch library network, availing of relevant funding streams, with the aim of ensuring a range of services in both urban and rural branch libraries
- Planned opening of another MOL library in Clifden
- Efforts to enhance the use of technology will continue, with the extension of self-service technologies and promotion of online resources
- Automation of smaller branch libraries will continue, subject to staffing levels and funding
- The expansion of services provided on the mobile library will be a priority
- Galway Public Libraries applied for and, was successful as one of ten Local Authorities to pilot the Citizen Science Kit. Launched by The Heritage Council the Citizen Science Kit Pilot Programme is an initiative that will empower the public to collect information about biodiversity in their local area.
- Galway Public Libraries will continue to develop our events and outreach programmes, engaging with individuals and communities, availing of national funding opportunities, while operating within the constraints of local funding.

ARCHIVES & MANAGEMENT OF RECORDS

The collective memory of the people of Galway is of vital importance in preserving cultural identities, in bridging the past and the present and in shaping the future. The documentary heritage residing in Galway County Council Archives constitutes a major part of that memory and reflects the diversity of the people, history, and culture of the county. The Archives strives on a continual basis to preserve, manage, and make accessible that memory. It undertakes to provide bona fide users access to the archives consistent with preservation requirements and within the limitations of available resources. The Section also provides policy advice to the Council on the care and management of its records.

PROMOTION OF THE IRISH LANGUAGE

Galway County Council is committed to improving services through Irish and to continue to meet the relevant obligations under the Official Languages Act 2003 together with the implementation of an Scéim Teanga. The Council also looks to support and promote the Irish language throughout the County. Some of the activities undertaken in 2022 were:

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Irish language was specifically included as a category in the Community Support Schemes in 2022. Small scale grants totalling €5,000.00 was allocated for projects by Community & Voluntary Organisations to support the promotion and increased use of the Irish language.

PROMOTION OF GAEILGE

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe continued its support of the promotion of Irish in communities throughout the County through sponsorship of a Glór na nGael Award, which was presented to Craobh Mhaigh Cuillin, Maigh Cuillin, Co. na Gaillimhe, in February 2022.

The email address gaeilge@cocogaillimh.ie continues to be promoted to customers as part of enhanced service delivery.

Irish language classes (beginner and intermediate levels) were available for staff of the local authority and classes were also available for Councillors who expressed an interest in same.

Information and consultation continues to be provided to staff of Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe regarding language duties, obligations and legislation, including ensuring bilingualism on www.galway.ie / www.gaillimh.ie, in line with our language scheme.

Mobile Simultaneous translation equipment continued to be available for Council meetings or other meetings at which translation may have been required.

Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta Phádraig Mhic Phiarais / Pádraig Pearse Scholarships: Due to the uncertainty of Covid restrictions at the beginning of the year there was no draw for scholarships but successful applicants from the draw in 2020 were able to avail of a placement. Only 4 took up the scholarship places.

OIFIG AN CHOIMISINÉARA TEANGA

The Council continued to co-operate with Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga, in dealing with issues raised by members of the public, regarding Irish language services and legislation.

CUSTOMER SERVICES

The email address, customerservices@galwaycoco.ie and gaeilge@cocogaillimh.ie remains a central point of access to information for Staff and Customers alike. Staff are asked to submit information on projects, campaigns, events, works etc. so that the Customer Services Team are aware what events are taking place across the Council and are better informed to handle queries. The general public can also email these addresses with general queries, which are acknowledged and directed to the relevant sections as required for their attention.

Customer Services continues to maintain the system of re-formatting new application forms and updating existing forms when requested. We now have 287 forms and memorandums in total on our register/coding system, available via our website. Door access system cards and car park fobs continue to be issued and maintained by Customer Services.

Advance copies of public notices prior to notices appearing in the various newspapers appear on social media and are sent to Elected Members with relevant contact details included.

CUSTOMER SERVICES DESK & COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE

The Customer Services Desk continues to be operated to provide efficient referral/query handling for customers as they enter Áras an Chontae. The phone service continues to be operated from the Customer Services Communications Centre on the second floor of Áras an Chontae.

Corporate Services staff based in Customer Services are assigned to support the Mobile Phone Policy of the organisation and day to day administration of the account.

COMMUNICATIONS & SOCIAL MEDIA

Galway County Council grew its Facebook followers by 12.93% to 15,187 and its Twitter followers by 3% to 16,298 from 2021 to 2022. Overall, women constitute 68% of all followers compared to 32% of men, with 35 – 44-year-olds being the largest demographic at 25%. An Instagram account was set up in June 2022 to communicate to a wider and younger demographic. It generated 301 followers by the end of year 2022.

Social Media has been integrated with Advertising and other Promotional Campaigns of the Council and specific attention given to the use of Social Media during severe weather events. There has been an increase in the posting of events on behalf of staff with a focus on Road Works, Water Disruptions and any other day to day events happening throughout the County.

The Customer Services team participated in 'Your Council Day' twitter campaign nationally as coordinated by the LGMA on the 1st July 2022.

Galway County Council #YourCouncil Day



Galway County Council @GalwayCoCo · Jul 1, 2022

Some of our lifeguards braving the weather and patrolling the beaches today. [#YourCouncilDay](#)



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Galway County Council @GalwayCoCo · Jul 1, 2022

Cilfden/Roundstone CE Scheme installed a stainless steel handrail on the steps leading down to Gurteen Bay Beach [#YourCouncilDay](#)

Chuir Scéim Fostaíochta Pobail An Chlocháin/Cloch na Rón ráille láimhe cruach dosmálta ag na céimeanna ag dul síos chuig Trá Phort na Feadóige



🗨️ ↻ 2 ❤️ 9 📊 📤



Galway County Council @GalwayCoCo · Jul 1, 2022



Galway County Council Tourism Officer, Ruth Mulhern, presenting to a meeting of local Tourism experts [#YourCouncilDay](#)

Ruth Mulhern, Oifigeach Turasóireachta Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe ag déanamh cur i láthair do shaineolaithe turasóireachta áitiúla ar an 21 Meitheamh



HOUSING, ECONOMIC
RURAL AND
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING

Strategic Goal

To ensure that our physical and social infrastructure is sufficiently developed to support economic development, and to enhance our quality of life.

The Housing & Ukrainian Response Directorate of Galway County Council strives to provide a service for those individuals and communities that require assistance in the areas such as social housing provision, regulation of standards in the private rented sector and estate management. The housing unit carries out its activities within the governance frameworks of the local authority sector.

Galway County Council provides approx. 2,900 social houses. As of the end of 2022 the vacancy rate was cut from 7.2% to 4.2% following a significant turnover of voids units with energy retrofits by the maintenance team and a concentrated effort by staff on the Allocations team to nominate tenants to properties.

The Capital Build programme delivered on the recognised targets set by the Minister for Housing with 231 units delivered across Galway County Council Social Housing and Approved Housing Bodies.

HOUSING FOR ALL

Housing for All - a New Housing Plan for Ireland' is the government's housing plan to 2030.

It is a multi-annual, multi-billion-euro plan which will improve Ireland's housing system and deliver more homes of all types for people with different housing needs.

The government's overall objective is that every citizen in the State should have access to good quality homes:

- to purchase or rent at an affordable price
- built to a high standard and in the right place
- offering a high quality of life

The government's vision for the housing system over the longer term is to achieve a steady supply of housing in the right locations with economic, social, and environmental sustainability built into the system.

It is estimated that Ireland will need an average of 33,000 new homes to be provided each year from 2021 to 2030.

The policy has four pathways to achieving housing for all:

- supporting home ownership and increasing affordability
- eradicating homelessness, increasing social housing delivery, and supporting social inclusion
- increasing new housing supply

- addressing vacancy and efficient use of existing stock

The pathways contain actions to be taken by government departments, local authorities, State agencies and others. The pathways are supported by actions to enable a sustainable housing system.

Housing for All contains 213 actions which will deliver a range of housing options for individuals, couples, and families.

Galway County Council brought 190 new homes into active social housing stock through build and acquisition programmes in 2022. The number comprise as follows:

- 186 builds
- 4 acquisitions

PART V ACTIVITY

A total of 43 units were completed and acquired under Part V Agreements in 2022 at the following locations throughout Galway County:

Local Authority:

- An Saileachan, Athenry (5 units)
- Coill Clocha, Oranmore (7 units)
- Garrai Glas Drive, Athenry (5 units)
- Coill Ard/Bun na Coille, Moycullen (5 units)
- Gairdin Cul, Loughrea (1 unit)
- Carraig Weir, Tuam (1 unit)
- Cullairbaun, Athenry (12 units)

Approved Housing Bodies:

- Gort na Fuinse, Headford (7 units)

A further 9 Part V Agreements are in place with combined total of 40 Part V Units at the following locations:

- Limehill, Dunlo, Ballinalsoe
- An Saileachan, Athenry
- Bun Na Coille, Moycullen
- Lorrogate, Athenry
- Oranhill, Oranmore
- Kilgarve, Ballinsloe
- An Maolan, Barna

- Rivercrest, Tuam
- Vicars Coral, Tuam

A total of 26 pre-planning “Letters of Understanding” were issued in 2022 with a combined potential total of 95 units subject to planning.

Under the Affordable Housing Act 2021 provision for Part V compliance increased in September 2021 from 10% to 20% under certain criteria included within the Act. A quarter of all “Letters of Understanding” provided in 2022 include the provision of 20% which if granted will see a substantial increase in both social and affordable housing delivery via this process in the years ahead.

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

Cullairbaun, Athenry (58 Units): Construction commenced in mid-2021 on this brownfield site which was derelict for since 2007 and phase 1 (14 units) and 2 (13 units) where completed in 2022. The development consists of a mixture of 2 bed and 3 bed, bungalows, terrace, and semi-detached units. The 2 bed bungalows have been adapted for persons with particular needs.



Garrai Glas, Athenry (7 Unit): As part of a wider development of 46 units, 7 No. 2 bed units were acquired and delivered in 2022 within this development. These units were constructed with Insulated Concrete Formwork (ICF) which is a first for Galway County Council to acquire/build units via this method. It is anticipated will result in a “near to zero” building energy rating.



Single Rural Programme (6 Units): As part of the single rural programme an initial 9 units were redeveloped. However, due to the feasibility and other development constraints only 6 of this site's advanced to the construction stage. In June 2022, contracts for the demolition and construction of new residential units were signed and works begun on all sites for delivery in 2023.



Fana Bhuí, Tuam (48 units): Works commenced on this scheme towards the end of 2020 and delivery had been impacted due to Covid closures on the site during 2020 and 2021. The scheme was completed in full in 2022.



Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage visit to Fana Bui, Tuam, July 2022 – photo Aidan Cunningham.

Garraí Ghuaire, Cartron, Kinvara (10 units): Construction works continued in 2022 for a 10-unit housing development comprising 2 bed units in a mix of single storey, dormer and 2 storey houses. The development was substantially complete by end of 2022.



Under Construction photo from Garrai Ghuaire October 2022

Pairc an Darach, Ballymoe (8 units): Approval was received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in Q3 2023 to proceed to tender for construction for 8 housing units in

Ballymoe village, Galway further to successful grant of Part 8 planning permission. A tender package is being developed with a view to advertising on e-Tenders in Q1 2023.

DESIGN & PLANNING ACTIVITY

Caislean Raithin, Ardrahan (10 units): Part 8 Planning permission was prepared in late 2022 for the provision of a 10-unit housing development as an extension to the Caislean Raithin estate in Ardrahan, The 10 units comprise: 6 No. 2 bed 2 storey units, 3 No. 2 bed 1 storey and 1 No. 3 bed 2 storey. All of the units are south-west facing and have dual aspect with private open space directly accessible from the main living space. A Chief Executive's Report is due to be brought before the Elected members of Loughrea MD for a vote in Q3 2022.



Artist's impression of 10-unit development at Caislean Raithin, Ardrahan

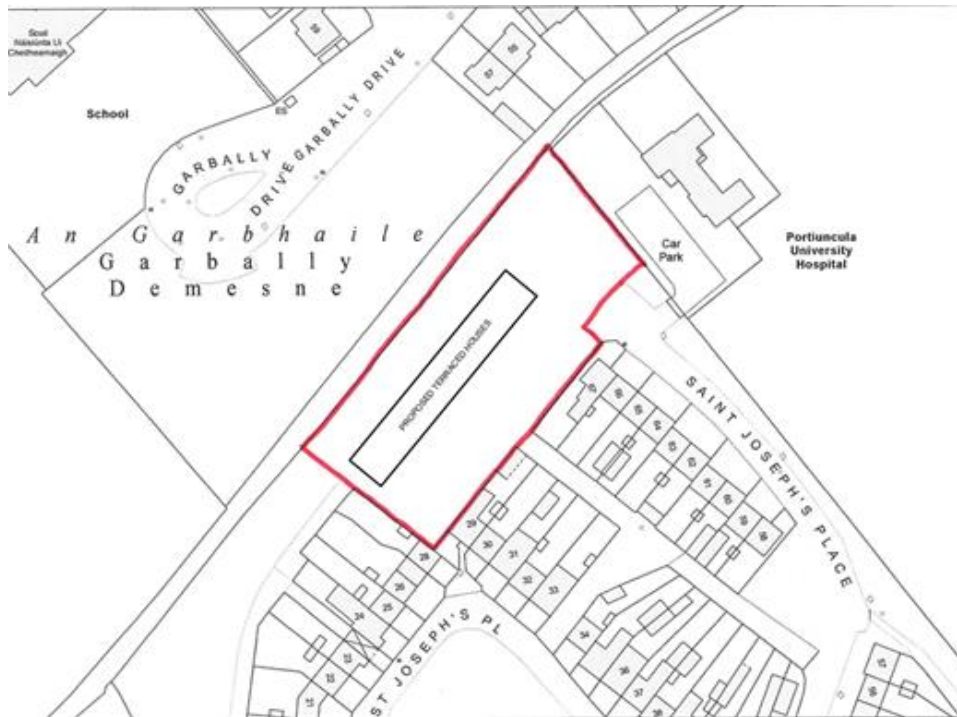
Gort Ui Lochlainn, Maigh Cuilinn (24 units): There was a previous unsuccessful Part 8 planning application for 31 units at this site in 2021. A re-design of this scheme, which includes the reduction in the number of houses and the inclusion of community facilities, commenced in 2022. It is envisaged that a revised planning application will be lodged in 2023. The planning route will be determined by the outcome of environmental screening reports to be undertaken.

Cluain na Gaoithe, Baile Chláir (88 units): Design Team were appointed in 2021 for the provision of a mixed tenure social: affordable scheme at this location. Design, specialist reports and site investigations continued in 2022 and planning stage drawings are being developed. It is envisaged that the project will progress through the Part X planning route and is due to be lodged with An Bord Pleanála in Q2 2023.

Cosmona, Loughrea (75 units): A Design Team were appointed in 2021 for the provision of a housing scheme for both social and affordable homes. Specialist reports and site investigations continued in 2022 and planning stage drawings are being developed. The planning route will be determined by

the outcome of environmental screening reports to be finalised. At this stage, it is envisaged that the project will progress through the Part 8 planning route and due to be lodged with the planning department in Q2 2023.

St. Joseph's, Ballinasloe (8 units): A Design Team were appointed in Q3 2022 for the design of an 8-unit infill housing development at the existing St. Joseph's estate in Ballinasloe. Specialist reports and surveys were undertaken in 2022 and a planning pack is to be completed by Q2 2023.

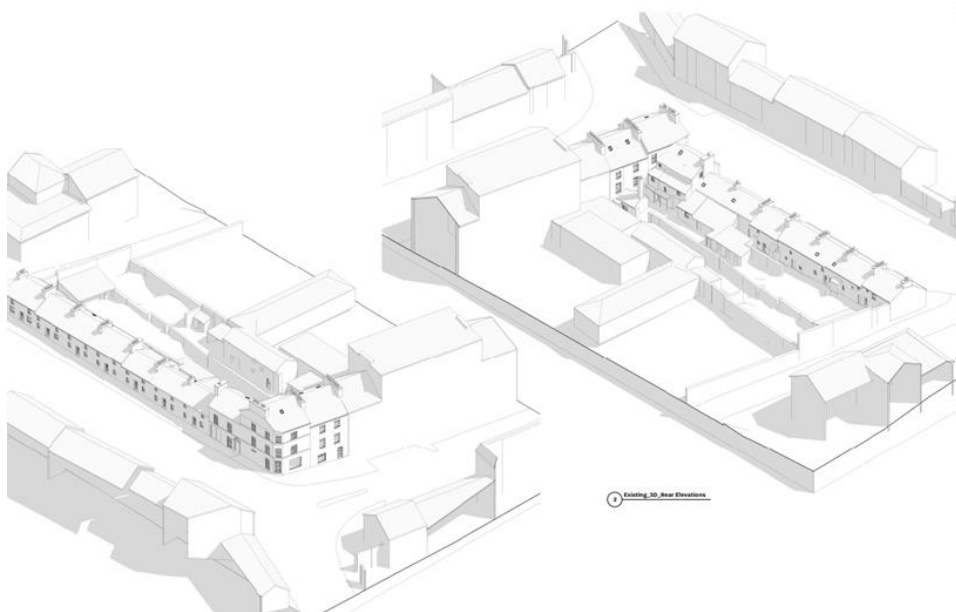


Location of infill development at St. Joseph's Ballinasloe (extract from OSi Map)

Dunlo Hill, Ballinasloe (13 units): A Conservation Architect led Design Team were appointed for a town centre regeneration housing scheme at Dunlo Hill in Ballinasloe. The existing buildings comprise a terraced row of 7 houses fronting onto Dunlo Hill, a protected 3 storey building with chamfer corner, an adjacent 3 storey house and out-buildings in a courtyard to the rear. Specialist surveys and reports were procured including surveying and modelling of the existing buildings. Design proposals have been developed in consultation with Galway County Council's Conservation Officer, Planning, and adjacent Landowner. A final design is to be completed and a planning pack developed for lodging in Q2 2023.



Existing Street view – Dunlo Street/Dunlo Hill



3-d models of front and rear elevations of existing buildings

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

As part of Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028, a Housing Demand/Needs Assessment was undertaken which identified the need to address the affordability constraint in Galway County. Subsequently, affordable housing targets under central government's programme for housing, Housing for All were assigned to Galway County Council in 2022.

A review of pilot affordable housing scheme undertaken by Fingal and Cork County Council was undertaken and as highlighted above, Galway County Council are designing both Cluain na Gaoithe, Baile Chláir and Cosmona Loughrea to be mixed tenure developments, delivering both social and affordable housing.

In September 2022, the Housing Unit advertised for expression of interest for advanced purchase agreements for both social and affordable housing. As part of this procurement process, four expressions of interests for delivery of affordable housing were received and 2 of which are currently with Department of Housing for funding approval.

HOUSE PURCHASES

Council purchased 4 properties under the Social Housing Investment Programme in 2022.

HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT (HAP)

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) is a social housing support that has been in operation in Galway County Council since November 2015. HAP is available to anyone with a confirmed social housing need. The introduction of HAP means that housing authorities can provide housing assistance to many more households with a long-term housing need, including many long-term rent supplement recipients.

HAP will provide for the transfer of responsibility for recipients of Rent Supplement with a long-term housing need from the Department of Social Protection (DSP) to housing authorities and provides a new approach in responding to households with a social need.

However, unlike Rent Supplement recipients, HAP recipients can work full-time and retain their HAP support - thus removing a barrier to employment. HAP recipients will source their own accommodation in the private rented market and will enter into a tenancy agreement with the landlord of the property.

Those households eligible for HAP are:

- Any household that qualifies for social housing support
- Any current Rent Supplement recipients who qualify for social housing support.

In order to further assist homeless households in exiting emergency accommodation, the Homeless Place Finder Service is also available in Galway County Council. It is a targeted support for homeless households who are finding it difficult to secure HAP tenancies. It provides additional financial and related supports to tenants and landlords.

The Council supported an additional 180 households to meet their housing need by means of the Housing Assistance Payment in 2022 enabling individuals to work and also have autonomy in choosing the location and type of accommodation, depending on their own particular preference. There are 1,464 HAP tenancies held by Galway County Council.

RECORD OF QUALIFIED HOUSEHOLDS (HOUSING WAITING LIST)

Galway County Council completed an assessment of housing need in 2022. The applications of 200 households, which had not been reviewed since the previous Summary of Social Housing Needs Assessment in 2020, were reviewed and assessed to

ascertain if they still qualified for social housing supports. The assessment of housing need was completed under the following headings:

1. Provision of Housing Accommodation in its functional area for persons who require accommodation from Galway County Council and who, in the opinion of the County Council are in need of such accommodation and unable to provide it from their own resources.
2. Provision of residential caravan parks for members of the Traveller Community in the functional area of the County Council for persons who are likely to require sites from the County Council are in need of such sites and unable to provide them from their own resources.

Applications from persons who are eligible for and in need of social housing support are qualified for such support under the following headings:

1. Income
2. Residency Status
3. Availability of accommodation
4. Rent Arrears.

Of the total number of housing applicants received during 2022, the following table shows their status.

| Applications 2022 | | Status <input type="button" value="v"/> | | |
|---|------------|---|---------------|------------|
| REASON FOR TERMINATING <input type="button" value="v"/> | Status | | Under | Total |
| | Closed | Open | Consideration | |
| | 10 | 457 | 162 | 629 |
| AHB Accommodated | 81 | | | 81 |
| Applicant deceased | 4 | | | 4 |
| Failure to reply to Further Information request | 48 | | | 48 |
| HAP Accommodated | 1 | | | 1 |
| Incomplete Application | 3 | | | 3 |
| Ineligible – Income | 3 | | | 3 |
| LA Accommodated | 35 | | | 35 |
| Leasing Accommodated | 2 | | | 2 |
| No contact received from Applicant | 1 | | | 1 |
| Not Qualified | 72 | | | 72 |
| Other | 16 | | | 16 |
| RAS Accommodated | 1 | | | 1 |
| Transferring Housing Authority of application | 1 | | | 1 |
| Withdrawn | 8 | | | 8 |
| Total | 286 | 457 | 162 | 905 |

| Applications 2022 | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Municipal District | Total |
| Athenry/Oranmore | 182 |
| Tuam | 116 |
| Commemara | 107 |
| Loughrea | 98 |
| Ballinasloe | 91 |
| Blank | 13 |
| | 9 |
| Total | 616 |

The total number of Housing Applicants on the Housing List on 31st December 2022 was 3,506

RENTAL ACCOMMADATION SCHEME (RAS)

The Government has allocated funding for local authorities and approved housing bodies to lease or rent private residential properties for applicants on the housing list. Traditionally RAS is aimed at persons who are in receipt of rent supplement for a period more than 18 months. Since the 1st April 2011, any housing applicants that are in RAS type accommodation are deemed to have their housing need met.

The (RAS)/Leasing is operated on a tenancy-by-tenancy basis and Galway County Council has been entering into such arrangements, with private landlords, since 2007.

In 2022, 24 additional households were supported in meeting their housing need by means of the Rental Accommodation Scheme, 10 in privately owned properties and 14 in Approved Housing Bodies properties.

The following table outlines the current RAS and Leasing agreements that Galway County Council has entered into with private Landlords.

| Description | Galway County End of Q4 2022: |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Number of Applicants accommodated in private rented accommodation through contracts agreed with private landlords | 134 |
| Number of Applicants accommodated currently through contracts agreed with voluntary organisations | 215 |

| | |
|---|----|
| | |
| Number of Applicants accommodated currently through short-term leasing contracts | 20 |

Table 1: RAS and Leasing agreements that Galway County Council has entered into with private landlords

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR RENTED ACCOMMADATION

The Inspectorate Unit of Galway County Council undertook 1879 *Minimum Standards in Rented Accommodation* Inspections in 2022. This number exceeded our Yearly Target for Rental Standards Inspections.

Breakdown of Inspections:

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| HAP Accommodation: | 1693 |
| RAS Accommodation: | 33 |
| Complaints: | 19 |
| Virtual Inspections: | 11 |
| Other: | 123 |

Inspection Outcomes:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| First Inspection – Non-Compliant: | 317 |
| First inspection Compliant: | 3 |
| Compliant: | 231 |
| Improvement Letter Issued: | 1602 |
| Improvement Notice Issued: | 25 |

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Prohibition Notice Issued: | 0 |
| Legal Proceedings Issued: | 0 |

The Inspectorate Unit of Galway County Council is tasked with Inspection of Private Rented Dwellings for compliance with the *Minimum Standards in Rented Accommodation*, as is required by Legislation, in the jurisdiction of Galway County and its Islands.

REPAIR & LEASING SCHEME

The scheme is aimed at better utilisation of existing housing stock and assist with the re-generation of Town Centres it assists owners of vacant properties who cannot afford the repairs needed to bring their property up to the standard required to rent it out. Properties in need of repair are brought back into use for social housing. The houses to be targeted under RLS are in areas of social need in town centres, urban and rural areas all around the country. Properties must be vacant for at least 1 year, and property owners and contractors engaged under the scheme must demonstrate that they are tax compliant through the provision of tax clearance certificates on request.

The ideal units targeted under the RLS will require a low level of investment to bring them to the required standard for renting. Capital repairs cost on a single unit must not exceed €60,000 (inc VAT).

All direct leases must be for duration of between 5-20 years. No shorter terms will be eligible. The cost of the repairs shall be offset against the agreed rental payment until the value of the works is repaid.

The benefits of the RLS in conjunction with the lease arrangement to the property include:

- Guaranteed rent on a property that has not been generating income
- Upgrade of property that might otherwise become derelict.
- No loss of rent during vacant periods.
- No dealing with tenants and day-to-day maintenance.
- No need to collect rent or find a new tenant.
- Avoid advertising costs
- The property will be returned to the property owner at the end of the term in good repair order and condition, save for fair wear and tear.

In 2022, Galway County Council received several expressions of interest in the scheme and negotiations are ongoing on some of these.

BUY AND RENEW

The Buy & Renew scheme complements the Repair & Leasing Scheme, in this scheme an owner of a vacant property that is in need of repair/remediation have an option of selling this property to the Local Authority. A particular focus of the scheme is on older homes to tackle the problem of dereliction and improve the appearance of the Countryside and towns.

CROÍ CÓNAITHE (TOWNS) FUND REFURBISHMENT GRANT

The aim of the Crói Cónaithe fund is to get rid of dereliction and to reuse old vacant properties thereby adding vibrancy to an Area /Community and making the Countryside a nicer place to live in. Reduce Carbon Footprint by re-using existing buildings and using SEAI grants to reduce energy use

A grant of up to a maximum of €30,000 is available for the refurbishment of a vacant property for occupation of the homeowner, including the conversion of a property which has not been used as residential heretofore (subject to appropriate planning exemptions or permission being in place), as a principal private residence. Where the refurbishment costs are expected to exceed the standard grant of up to €30,000, a maximum top-up grant amount of up to €20,000 will be available where the property is confirmed by the applicant to be derelict (i.e. structurally unsound and dangerous) or if the property is already on the Derelict Sites Register bringing the total grant available for a derelict property up to a maximum of €50,000.

Property must be built before 1993 and it must be vacant for 2 years or more.

The Fund is focused on home ownership, and you must own or be in the process of buying the property for your principal residence.

In 2022 52 applications were received.

MORTGAGE TO RENT SCHEME

The Mortgage to Rent (MTR) scheme is a government scheme which was introduced in 2012 to help homeowners who are at risk of losing their homes due to mortgage arrears. It lets homeowners in mortgage difficulty switch from owning their home to renting their home as social housing tenants.

The MTR scheme is a social housing option only available if one is eligible for social housing support and the mortgage is unsustainable. To qualify for the scheme the property owner must have participated in their lender's Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process (MARP), a process which the lender and the owner must take in order to try and resolve their financial difficulties.

Approved applicants will voluntarily surrender possession of their home to their mortgage lender who immediately sells it to a housing association who will then rent it back to the family. The proceeds from the sale of property to the housing association will go towards the mortgage debt

and the applicant makes an arrangement with their lender for any remaining payments owed, if any. There is potential to buy back the home after a period of 5 years if the household's financial situation improves.

9 applications were received in 2022 with 8 applications receiving approval.

LOCAL AUTHORITY HOME LOAN

A Local Authority Home Loan is a government backed mortgage for first time buyers and fresh start applicants is available nationwide from local authorities. It can be used to purchase a new or second-hand property or for self-build.

A Local Authority Home Loan provides up to 90% of the market value of the property. The maximum loan amount is determined by where the property is located.

- Maximum market values of the property in Galway County are €330,000
- Applicants may borrow up to 90% of market value of property (or a maximum of €297,000)

90 applications were received in 2022 with 22 loans approved. The average loan approved was €186,198.

VOLUNTARY HOUSING

The (Capital Advance Leasing Facility) CALF is a facility available to Approved Housing Bodies to assist them in accessing Private or Housing Finance Agency finance for the purchase or construction of units. The units are made available exclusively for social housing purposes under a leasing agreement for a set period of time, typically 25 years.

27 units were also delivered under the CALF scheme and 11 units were delivered under the Capital Assistance Scheme (Acquisition) in 2022.

Several potential units have been identified and agreements are under active consideration for inclusion under both schemes in the future.

There are 43 units in progress under the CAS scheme and 115 units in progress under the CALF Scheme

TENANT PURCHASE

Under this scheme, eligible local authority tenants can apply to buy their local authority home, at a discounted rate based on the applicant's income.

A new Tenant Purchase Scheme came into effect on the 1st February 2022. This new scheme, the Housing (Sale of Local Authority Houses) (Amendment) Regulations 2021, gave effect to amendments which include changes to (a) minimum income criteria for applicants and (b) the period of time applicants must have been receiving social housing support to be eligible under the scheme.

Throughout 2022, Galway County Council received 43 valid applications from local authority tenants to purchase their house and issued 27 house purchase offers, of which 13 were completed.

HOUSING AID FOR OLDER PEOPLE, MOBILITY AID GRANT & HOUSING ADAPTATION GRANT FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

The Housing Aid for Older People Grant continues to provide funding for persons aged over 66 years of age to carry out essential repairs so that they can continue to live in their own home.

In 2022 343 valid Housing Aid for Older People grants were received and 226 applications were paid to a total €1,252,248 under the scheme.

The Mobility Aid Grant continues to provide funding for older persons or with a disability to address mobility issues in their own home.

In 2022 215 valid Mobility Aid grant application were received, and 105 valid applications were paid to a total value of €439,355.

HOUSING ADAPTATION GRANTS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSES

The Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability living in Local Authority Houses is made available to assist in carrying out works which are reasonably necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person who has enduring physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual impairment. Galway County Council continues to assess applications under this scheme and prioritise those in most need.

There was expenditure totalling €527,253.93 on the Housing adaption works on 40 housing adaption grants and 2 extensions were completed in 2022, with an amount of €467,555 being recouped under the Department of Housing funding scheme.

HOUSING MAINTENANCE

The Council has a housing stock of approx. 2,900 properties at the 31st December 2022. A significant programme of planned maintenance works is ongoing in these properties.

3,611 repair requests were received in 2022, with 1,703 of these repair requests having been deemed to be valid requests by the technical team.

The Online Logging Repair Request system, in operation since December 2020, which allows tenants to log their housing repair requests online, has proved to be extremely beneficial for council tenants. These requests may be logged through the Report It of www.galway.ie or through the link at <https://www.galway.ie/RepairRequest> . There has been a very large level of take-up by our tenants who have found it to be a very easy to use system. The advantage of the new system is that tenants may log repair requests at any time and are updated as their repair request is progressed by the maintenance team.

Major refurbishment works at a cost of €1,108,076 were completed on 56 vacant properties which facilitated the enabling of new tenancies in each of these dwellings. A total of €616,000 was payable on these 56 properties.

Galway County Council renovated 96 dwellings under its void programme in 2022.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RETROFIT PROGRAMME (EERP)

In County Galway, deep energy retrofit works were completed on 122 properties during 2022 at a cost of €5,077,575. Of this, €4,066,626 was funded under the Department of Housing's Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme. These properties are located in Abbey, Ardahan, Athenry, Clifden, Eyrecourt, Loughrea, Roundstone, Tuam & Tynagh.

The programme is rolling over into 2023 with works planned for houses in Glenamaddy, Gort, Headford, Loughrea, Oranmore, Oughterard & Tuam.



HOMELESSNESS

The demand on homeless services is ever increasing with all available facilities at full capacity during the year. There are, on average, 15 families and 13 single people who are homeless accommodated weekly in Private Emergency Accommodation. The lack of supply of private rented properties has increased the demand for homeless accommodation for longer periods of time. Larger sized families face difficulties in sourcing private rented property and the availability of larger social houses is also limited.

Housing First, a housing-led approach that enables people with a history of rough sleeping or long-term use of emergency accommodation and with complex medical needs or chronic addiction, to obtain permanent secure accommodation, with the provision of intensive supports to help them to maintain their tenancies. This scheme is operational in County Galway since 2019 with 5 additional individuals successfully housed under the scheme in 2022 who would otherwise have not secured a tenancy.

The Council established two Community Based Houses, in Loughrea and Athenry to provide supported housing to 4 individuals with low to medium support needs. Due to the success of this project, it is intended to expand the service in 2023.

HOMELESS PLACE FINDER SERVICE

The appointment of the Homeless HAP Place Finder in November 2018 has played a significant role in reducing homeless numbers in County Galway. In 2022, some families with children, 8 couples and 20 single people were assisted in securing HAP properties, with most of these having been long-term homeless who had resided previously in Emergency Accommodation. Others who have been assisted under the highly successful programme include those who have been served with Notices-to-Quit from their accommodation, people leaving hospital or other institutions after long-term care and those from Direct Provision.

TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME



Major refurbishment at Energy Retrofit to Traveller Specific House



Extension & Modification to Traveller Specific House at Carnmore

TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME 2019 – 2024 TARGETS

Galway County has a population of 2,647 travellers and is the County with the highest number of travellers in Ireland. The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2024 outlines the accommodation requirements of the Traveller Community over a five-year period. 53 Traveller families were allocated social housing tenancies in 2022 of which 32 were in Local Authority owned properties with 21 nominated to tenancies with AHBs.

3 Traveller Specific houses were renovated with extensions completed on two of them to provide suitable housing to meet the needs of the families. Works were ongoing at the year-end on another property which also requires adaptation for a particular family. The major refurbishment and upgrading 3 houses, including one extension, in a Traveller Group Scheme commenced in October 2022 with temporary accommodation installed for the duration of the works. Submissions were made for funding in 2022 for the major refurbishment of 12 houses in a Traveller Specific Group Scheme in Ballygar and 2 further Traveller Specific properties in Athenry.

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME

Galway County Council is the host Local Authority for the resettlement of up to 150 refugees under the Irish Refugee Protection Programme. In 2022 15 families from Syria and Afghanistan were successfully resettled in 5 towns across County Galway.

SOCIAL WORK

The Social Work Team consists of two staff grade Social Workers and one Senior Social Worker. The SSW provides social work service geographically to South Galway and Connemara in addition to supervision of Social Workers. The two main grade Social Workers cover North Galway and East

Galway. Complex cases are also responded to under the categories of need outlined below. The SSW is the Child Protection Liaison Officer and the SOLO (Sexual Offences Liaison Officer) for Galway County Council.

In LA's the role of the Social Work has evolved over the years due to the emerging needs of clients. The role was initially established in LA's in the 1960's and has since broadened from being a Traveler specific role to include:

- Potentially all applicants & existing tenants who are identified as vulnerable
- Disability (Physical, Sensory, Intellectual) - *HSDG & Subgroups*
- Older persons
- Vulnerable Adults (safeguarding)
- Child Welfare Liaison work
- Homelessness
- Mental Health
- LGBTQI+ (Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex)
- Work with other marginalised and vulnerable individuals and groups

In addition to the above, the Social Work team respond to referrals regarding:

- Social Work Assessment
- Crisis Intervention
- Bereavement and Loss
- Advocacy
- Concerns regarding capacity of clients
(Ref: Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act 2015)

The aim of the Social Work service within Housing is to work with clients who are experiencing difficulties in the social areas of their lives. Social Work may be required either alone or as part of a multi-faceted intervention, multi-disciplinary teams etc.

Challenges in 2022:

- Crisis cases/responses required outside of allocated cases.
- Inappropriate referrals.
- Increased number of referrals.
- Challenges of supporting clients to avail specialist services.

Plan for 2023:

- Appropriate and efficient response on suitable referrals/cases.
- Manageable caseloads.
- CORU compliance.

- Compliant record keeping.
- Continue to reduce stagnancy on cases.
- Historical/long term open cases continue to be monitored.
- Further development of links with Tusla, HSE, Safeguarding, Mental Health, Disability, Aftercare, and other related stakeholders.
- Participation and lead role in the CCMA national review of social work (SSW).
- Adherence to and further development of Social Work processes.

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR HOUSING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

The purpose of the Strategic Plan for Housing People with Disability 2021-2026 is to facilitate access for people with disabilities to the appropriate range of housing supports, delivered in an integrated and sustainable manner, which promotes equality of opportunity, individual choice, and independent living. The Strategic Plan that has been developed by Galway County Council in partnership with stakeholders such as the HSE, Disability Service Providers and Housing service providers is working well. The purpose of the Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability is for Galway County Council to work towards meeting the identified housing needs of housing applicants with a disability who:

- are linked to a disability service provider / HSE and living in the community (with their families, carers)
- are not linked to a disability service provider / HSE but have a identified disability
- are transitioning from a congregated or service setting

The purpose of Galway County Council's strategic plan is to work towards a rights-based approach to housing, universal access, and community inclusion for people with disabilities living in County Galway. Galway County Council will endeavour to achieve this within the mainstream housing environment.

The four categories of disability referred to in this strategy are:

1. Sensory disability
2. Mental health disability
3. Physical disability
4. Intellectual disability

Autism is recognised by Galway County Council as a disability. Currently it is not recognised on the Disability and/or Medical Information Form (HMD - Form 1) as a category of its own – this will require addressing nationally. Galway County Council consider each application on its own merit.

The Housing Disability Steering Group (HDSG) has been set up and is jointly coordinated by the Senior Executive Officer and Senior Social Worker within Housing. A detailed Action Plan is available on Page 23 of the Galway County Council Strategic Plan for Housing People with Disability 2021-2026. Since 2021, there have been subgroups set up with stakeholders under the

above categories of disability. As a result, many individuals have been supported to progress to social housing with Galway County Council with supports from the relevant service provider.

HDSG – Mental Health Subgroup

The Mental Health Subgroup is an example of good practice in this area. The largest cohort of housing applications under disability category are categorised under 'mental health'. It is a 'second layer' under the wider HDSG. The person-centred Mental Health Subgroup allows for case discussion and progression of complex cases of vulnerable clients that would otherwise struggle to make an application for housing, obtain a property and maintain a tenancy. It is a partnership approach between Galway County Council - Housing and HSE Community Healthcare West Mental Health Services, to progress mutual clients. The group allows for discussions of cases, development of actions plans and bridging the gap between the local authority and the HSE. It offers a communication pathway and for decisions to be made. More importantly, it allows for vulnerable clients with additional needs to progress having their own homes and tenancies utilising a rights and community-based approach.

The MH Subgroup membership consists of staff from Galway County Council and HSE, namely:

- Senior Social Worker, Galway County Council
- Senior Executive Officer, Galway County Council
- Housing Coordinator, Mental Health Services, HSE
- Housing Liaison Officers (as required for specific cases in their areas), Galway County Council

Approx. 44 people have been supported to date. Of those, 12 people were supported to transition from mental health hostels to independent tenancies with support. The age range is from 28 to 74. The project has supported Individuals attending Galway mental health services who are on the Galway County Council housing waiting list who are approaching the offer zone including;

- Those attending adult mental health services who have a housing need and do not require additional supports.
- Those in insecure tenancies (who had previously been in hostels) to transition to secure tenancies.
- Adults with severe enduring mental health issues living with parents to transition to independent living.
- A small number of individuals in existing tenancies whose tenancy were at risk due to psychosocial issues impacting on their mental health and tenancy to receive support with these issues.

The MH subgroup allows for an interagency forum where 'Accommodation' and 'Supports' can be looked at collectively. The HDSG – Mental Health Subgroup sets out an agenda in advance of meetings, so all parties come to the meeting prepared and have reviewed cases/files in advance, to ensure efficiency and accountability.

HDSG – Intellectual Disability Subgroup

Another example of work ongoing is under the Intellectual Disability subgroup. One of the recommendations within Galway County Council's Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability 2021-2026 was for the intellectual disability sector to consider setting up a housing coordinator/project similar to the HSE Mental Health Housing Coordinator project/role. Senior staff from Ability West and the Brothers of Charity who are members of the Galway County Council HDSG took this on and sought funding under a joint proposal seeking funding from HSE Disability services. This was also underpinned by the dedicated work of parent advocates who have family members availing of intellectual disability services.

The approved project is a pilot project that will focus on younger / middle aged adults with mild/moderate support needs who have an intellectual disability and wish to progress living independently with supports. They would be individuals who would not have a requirement for 'high needs' residential services but do have daily support needs. The identified clients for the project have originated from a Parents Advocacy group within Galway. The purpose of the project is:

- To provide social housing for people with an intellectual disability within mainstream social housing options.
- To avoid crisis residential placements for people who have the potential to live in their own homes when parents/carers become incapacitated or unwell.
- To support people with an intellectual disability to live a fulfilling life in their communities in their own homes.
- To provide supports where required from the HSE with MDT input from the relevant intellectual disability organisations as required.

It is envisaged to provide individuals with housing via LA and AHB, depending on the needs of the client, proximity to natural supports and services. Supports for the clients regarding their individual needs, will come from natural supports, the ID sector (Ability West or the Brothers of Charity) and funded by the HSE. The posts are funded and managed by the HSE and the above-named disability service providers. The project is not a LA led project, it is led by the ID sector, the housing delivery is linked to Galway County Council under the Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability 2021-2026. Galway County Council will be liaising with the Housing Project staff and the project under the existing Housing Disability Steering Group (HDSG) structures via the G.co.co 'Intellectual Disability subgroup'.

The wider Housing Disability Steering Group meet regularly throughout the year to oversee the work of the strategy.

TENANCY & ESTATE MANAGEMENT

The Tenancy and Estate Management Unit was established in 2013 within the Housing section of Galway County Council. The creation of this unit clearly acknowledged the Council's commitment

to provide secure and lasting homes and the care and support to develop stable and sustainable communities, prevent tenancy breakdown and possible homelessness.

The Tenancy Sustainment Strategy for the County outlines the interventions and supports available to assist our tenants in sustaining their tenancy and contributes positively to their neighborhood and community.

An inter departmental and inter agency approach is adopted by the Housing unit and its partners, in an effort to improve the quality of life for residents in our Housing estates with Housing staff regularly meeting with the relevant representatives from the HSE, An Garda Síochána, GRETB, and other external agencies and stakeholders.

Galway County Council's anti-social behavior strategy recognises that anti-social behaviour can have an adverse effect on the quality of life of our tenants and the stability and sustainability of communities. The anti-social behaviour strategy acknowledges the importance of a multi-agency approach in preventing and reducing incidence of anti-social behaviour. 200 complaints were received by the Tenancy and Estate Management unit in 2022.

This strategy outlines the responsibilities and contributions of both the Council and the Tenants to the development of sustainable communities. It also lays out the process for investigating and dealing with complaints including setting out the actions that may be taken by the council in relation to same. This can include the use of CCTV systems, in accordance with Galway County Council's CCTV and Data protection policies. CCTV systems are installed in 8 locations in Cullairbaun, Athenry; Gortbride, Loughrea; Bridgecourt, Ahascragh; Crowe Street, Gort; Gilmartin Road Tuam, Tuam Halting Site; Tirboy, Tuam; and Parkmore Estate, Tuam.

UKRAINE RESPONSE

ACTIONS UNDER UKRAINE RESPONSE

Escalation of the international armed conflict in Ukraine has caused civilian casualties and destruction of civilian infrastructure forcing people to flee their homes; seeking safety protection and assistance. Millions of refugees from Ukraine have crossed borders into neighbouring countries and some have been forced to move inside the country. They are in need of protection and support. In light of the emergency and the scale of humanitarian needs; an interagency response is being carried out in support of the displaced people from Ukraine.

In March 2022 Galway County Council set about sourcing accommodation for displaced people from Ukraine, working closely with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to provide emergency accommodation for those in need in Dublin Airport.

Communication to relevant stakeholders for this response was key to its success. As the crisis evolved; GCC set-up a Standing Group under the Major Emergency Response, this was a multisectoral group involving the Housing Unit, ERCD Unit, Fire Services and Civil Defence – through this group Galway County Council provided emergency rest centre respite.

A response forum was activated; community engagement is essential to the success of the Ukraine response and encouraging public participation which is a core strategy in Galway Council's Corporate Plan. Keeping everyone updated – Councillors, staff, members of the public, various agencies (Gardai, DSP, HSE, GRD) and stakeholders.

The new 'Offer a Home' programme was launched in December 2022, local authorities are appealing for offers of houses, apartments, or holiday homes for use as temporary accommodation for those arriving from Ukraine. Ideally, properties would be available for at least six months. Property owners can offer homes at www.offerahome.ie or by contacting the local authority in which the property is located – dedicated contact details for each local authority are available at offerahome.ie. The local authority in which the property is located will be the point of contact for owners throughout the offer and assessment process. Owners can expect to be contacted by the local authority within 5 working days of making an offer and an assessment of the property is carried out shortly after.

To date there have been 57 offers on the Offer a Home website:

- 49 valid registrations (8 invalid)
- 47 have been contacted (35 have been progressed on to assessment resulting in 31 assessed as suitable)

Of the 31 viable properties:

- 4 allocated
- 12 in the process of being allocated by IOM
- 9 withdrawn
- 5 no longer available
- 1 not contactable

As part of a longer-term response to the emergency a number of refurbishment projects have been identified. These projects are being progressed with property owners and Galway County Council in conjunction with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

NOAC report pending

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

Galway County LCDC held 5 meetings throughout 2022 and the LCDC's funding schemes continued to be re-aligned to respond to emerging needs throughout the year.

Ukrainian Community Response:

At the March Meeting of the LCDC, Jim Cullen, Chief Executive, provided a briefing for LCDC Members on the emerging Ukrainian Refugee crisis, and the immediate role of the local authority in providing emergency accommodation. The national arrangements regarding the provision of accommodation by IPAS (International Protection Accommodation Services) and the DCEDIY (Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth) were outlined and the role of all agencies to date was discussed, including emerging issues regarding access to schools and transport.

The Ukraine Community Response Forum and the LCDC discussed issues throughout the year regarding the provision of accommodation and wraparound supports to the Ukrainian Nationals accommodated throughout the County. In addition, the Forum Members met Minister Joe O'Brien, Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development, to discuss emerging issues associated with the community response in County Galway.

In addition to the normal SICAP allocation, a ring-fenced fund of €165,376 was received under the SICAP programme specifically for supports associated with the community response and the integration of Ukrainian Nationals into local communities. The SICAP Team met with all accommodation providers to identify needs and target supports in partnership with other agencies. One-to-one support was also provided to individuals to enable them to learn English and gain other skills to promote employment opportunities.

An allocation of €38,100 was also received under a Ukrainian Health & Wellbeing Fund which was distributed by Galway County Council, to promote social integration into wellbeing activities at local level.

Community Activities Fund:

An allocation of €286,805 was received under the Community Activities Fund and a total of 264 applications were received and assessed by the LCDC Funding Evaluation Sub-Committee. Following assessment, 168 applications were approved for funding with a total allocation with 60% of the Fund allocated towards running costs of groups, and 40% towards small-scale capital grants for upgrade of facilities and equipment.

Empowering Communities Programme:

The Empowering Communities Programme is a new €2m pilot programme targeting 14 small areas in the country with the highest socio-economic deprivation (as measured by the Pobal HP Deprivation Index). The purpose of the programme is to tackle disadvantaged and social exclusion using a community development approach and develop tailored responses to identified challenges on a collaborative basis across agencies. The small area selected for County Galway is St. Grellan's Terrace / St. Theresa's Park which has a deprivation rating of -30.93 which is one of the highest deprivation rates in the country and the budget allocation is €140,000.

Community Centre Investment Fund:

Category 1 Awards under the Community Centre Investment Fund (less than €25,000) were announced in November 2022 and 31 Community Centres across the County to enable repairs and upgrades to community facilities. Categories 2 & 3 of the Fund, which awarded funding up to a maximum of €300,000, were announced in December 2022, and 19 community centres across the County were awarded funding, which will enable complete retrofits and energy upgrades of the successful facilities. In order to maximise future benefits to the County under this Fund, the Community Department is ring-fencing funding for Energy Audits of Community Centres under the PPN's Energy Masterplan.

SICAP (SOCIAL INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY ACTIVATION PROGRAMME)

SICAP (Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme) provides funding to tackle poverty and social exclusion and supports disadvantaged communities and individuals including unemployed people, people living in deprived areas, people with disabilities, single parent families, people on a low income, members of the Traveller and Roma community and other disadvantaged groups. The Department of Rural and Community Development advised in June 2022 that the SICAP Programme won the prestigious UN Public Services Award 2022 in the category "Institutional Resilience and Innovative Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic". This is European acknowledgement of the immense work being done at grassroots level under the programme, to respond to emerging needs at grassroots level and the impact this has for communities and individuals on the ground. Some of the specific outcomes in 2022 were:



A total of 157 Local Community Groups were registered with SICAP in 2022 and more than 20 community events received support to promote cultural integration, support post-COVID 19 reactivation of groups, or support social outings for vulnerable individuals.

A range of training was provided for Community Groups ranging from Manual Handling, Fire Safety Training, First Aid, and grants totalling €31,291.83 was awarded for a range of equipment to support groups at grassroots level, in addition to long-term loan of equipment where this was a more feasible option.

- A series of health checks were organised at Marts and Agricultural Shows and 219 individuals received a free blood pressure screening and information on health and nutrition.
- A range of supports were provided to address the LCDC's emerging needs group for SICAP which is Older People, particularly regarding social isolation and loneliness, and this ranged from supports for Meals on Wheels, Care and Repair, food and fuel packs and events in collaboration with local groups, including a Positive Ageing Week event to bring Meals on Wheels clients together for a health and wellbeing day.
- Through Outreach Clinics, a range of supports were identified for individuals which enabled them to progress to lifelong learning and educational or employment supports.

HEALTHY IRELAND

Healthy Ireland is a government-led initiative which aims to create an Irish society where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health, and where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society. In 2022 a Healthy County Galway Plan 2022-2025 was developed with a vision to make Galway County a place where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility.



Healthy County Galway delivered a number of projects in the area of Health and Wellbeing in 2022.

Community Health and Wellbeing Information Boards: this was a collaboration with Mental Health Ireland, HSE and Galway Sports Partnership. The project aims to promote and signpost people to trustworthy and reliable local and national mental health supports and services. These signs were given to sports clubs, community centres, recreation spaces free of charge to help sign post people to suitable services.



Community Health and Wellbeing Information Board Launch

Image: L-R Jason Craughwell, Galway Sports Partnership, Minister Frank Feighan, Andrew Mc Bride, Healthy Ireland Coordinator, Nicola Morley, Mental Health Ireland.

- Physical Activity Initiatives for Older People: The Covid pandemic had many negative effects and through the development of the Healthy County Plan it was evident that the Older Population were dramatically affected. Healthy Galway and Galway Sports Partnership collaborated on several initiatives to help encourage people to get back active in their communities in a social and sustainable way with some examples below!

- Health and Wellbeing Community Days: Galway County Council and Galway Rural Development collaborated to host a number of Community Health and Wellbeing Days where the community could avail of free health checks, speak with a number of organisations offering services locally and nationally, take part in physical activity taster sessions, all while having a chance to socialise! These were also used as part of networking and consulting with communities around some of the gaps in health and wellbeing activities within their locality to be incorporated as part of the development of a Programme of Work for Healthy Ireland Fund Round 4.

- Small Grants Programme to address physical barriers to People with Disabilities engaging in physical activity at community level: this grant was a pilot programme to assist clubs and

organisations to improve their capacity to cater for people with disabilities and was extremely successful.



The poster features a central photograph of a woman in a white sweater and glasses leaning over to assist a young boy in a blue hoodie who is seated in a wheelchair. They are both looking at a soccer ball. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees.

Inclusive Physical Activity Equipment Grant

HEALTHY GALWAY & GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Closing Date 18th November

To help clubs become more inclusive and create NEW opportunities to include individuals with disabilities in your club

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND THE REGISTRATION FORM PLEASE CONTACT ELLIE - ELOFTUS@GALWAYCOCO.IE

Logos for Galway Sports Partnership, Sport Éireann Sport Ireland, and Healthy Galway are included at the bottom right.

LOCAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP)

The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a 6-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development, and the local and community development, of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders. Guidelines were published by the Department of Rural and Community Development at the end of 2021 which require a high-level strategic plan with action plans breaking these down into details actions for three-year periods. The Advisory Steering Group Membership to guide the development of the new LECP was finalised in 2022, and preparatory work began on the new LECP through attendance at Departmental webinars and desktop review of the LECP 2016-2022.

COMMUNITY AWARDS

The Cathaoirleach Awards for 2022 were held in conjunction with the Cathaoirleach's Charity Ball in the Ard Rí Hotel, Tuam, on 11th June, with Awards presented as follows:

- Arts & Culture Award: Athenry Arts & Heritage Centre
- Best Contribution to Heritage Award: The Headford Lace Project
- Social Inclusion Award: Loughrea Men's Shed

- Environment & Climate Action Award: Ballymoe Development Group
- Sports Award: Bearna/Furbo Hurling Club
- Heritage Publication Award: Scoil Bhriocáin Rosmuc
- Gradam na Gailege: Féile Chois Fharraige
- Tidy Towns Recognition Award: Milltown Tidy Towns
- Pride of Place: Lawrencetown Community Development & Woodford Parish Development

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS FOR COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Volunteer Recognition Events were organised in conjunction with the Municipal District Meetings to honour the groups and individuals who volunteered to provide practical and social supports throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Each Group was presented with a Commemorative Letter and specially commissioned badges. The feedback from the event was positive and it was appreciated that the efforts of our communities was recognised at Municipal District level.

PRIDE OF PLACE

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Awards Ceremony for the Pride of Place Awards 2021 was not held until May 2022 and County Galway was proudly represented by The Headford Lace Project and Killannin Development Group. The Headford Lace Project was awarded Runner-Up in the Creative Place category and received a trophy and cash prize of €500.
- Following an open invitation process, 2 groups were selected to represent County Galway in the Pride of Place Awards 2022 and the Judging Day took place on 30th August 2022 where both communities showcased their community initiatives, activities, and facilities. At the Awards Ceremony, Lawrencetown Community Development took top spot in Ireland in the population category 0-300 people, with the judges recognising their huge efforts to development their community facilities and amenities over the last number of years, which have made a huge impact on quality of life and community spirit in their local community. Brian Kenny, Chairperson of Lawrencetown Community Development, when accepting their Award from Marty Whelan, said *“We are delighted as a community to win this award in recognition of the amazing work that the people of Lawrencetown and beyond have put into making our village a better place to live”*.



Image L-R Backrow George Jones IPB Insurance Chairman, Dr Christopher Moran Co-operation Ireland Chairman, Mary McGann Galway County Council, Jacinta Colohan Lawrencetown, Brian Kenny Lawrencetown, Tom Cahill Lawrencetown, Andrew Mc Bride Galway County Council, Marty Whelan. Front row Colette Breheny Lawrencetown, Sharon McManus Lawrencetown.

Woodford Parish Development were also honoured on the night by being announced as Runner-Up in the Creative Place Category with the judges recognising their efforts to preserve, protect and promote their cultural heritage throughout their village, and the impact this has had on the spirit of collaboration evident on the day of the Judges Visit.

TIDY TOWNS

The results of the Supervalu National Tidy Towns Competition 2022 were announced at end October and County Galway continued with its high representation in the competition with 45 groups, who again improved their performances in the competition, which is recognition of the huge ongoing efforts to promote biodiversity, environmental sustainability and improved public realm in their communities, and the cross-departmental efforts required to support this throughout the Council. While huge congratulations are due to all Tidy Towns Groups for their amazing efforts, a special mention is given to the following Award Winners:

- Milltown, who secured First Place in the County and retained their Gold Medal
- Abbey, who secured Second Place in the County and retained their Silver Medal
- An Spidéal, who improved their score dramatically and jumped to Third Place
- Na Forbacha who improved their score dramatically and won the Endeavour Award
- Gort Tidy Towns who were one of 4 National Winners of the Bat Conservation Award
- Gort River Walk Development Group who were the National Winner of the Waters and Communities Award for the work on the development of this important amenity.
- Ballinderreen National School who were the National Winner of the School Award.

Galway County Public Participation Network (PPN) is open to all community & voluntary groups based in the County and its membership continues to grow year-on-year with 1,151 member groups registered with the PPN at the end of 2022. The PPN Secretariat meet online every 6 weeks during the year, to monitor implementation of the Work



Plan and activities for the year. The following is a summary of the PPN activities for the year under its 3 main categories of activity:

INFORMATION SHARING AND COMMUNICATION

A key function of the PPN is to act as a link through which the Council connects with groups active throughout the County. In this regard, Webinars were organised throughout the year to provide information on funding schemes as they were launched, and the PPN issued comprehensive Newsletters which include a broad range of information across national and local funding programmes and initiatives which are very well received across communities. The PPN also sends a Weekly Digest containing relevant information on funding, events, and workshops to its members.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PPN MEMBER GROUPS

The PPN carries out regular consultations with its member groups to identify training courses which will build their capacity to contribute to their local areas. Examples of training undertaken in 2022 include PR & Media Training, Sustainable Living, Beekeeping Courses, Instagram for Groups, GDPR, The Charities Governance Code, and training on the Sustainable Development Goals.

FACILITATING PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING AND REPRESENTATION

PPN Representatives perform an important function on behalf of the PPNs by representing the wider membership on a range of local authority committees and other Boards such as the SPC's (Strategic Policy Committees), LCDC (Local Community Development Committee), Joint Policing Committee, Galway Sports Partnership, and a range of other boards. During the year the PPN worked closely with its 30 elected representatives to ensure a positive relationship was upheld with the various bodies they sit on. Members are regularly informed of local and national level consultations and the PPN welcomes submissions from member groups on issues that concern them. All representatives' posts remained filled throughout the year. Also, during the year, the following Linkage Groups were strengthened: The Galway County Intercultural Forum, Galway County Disability Forum, the Housing Linkage Group and the Green Recovery Working Group. These groups help the PPN address issues and concerns of member groups through a range of local campaigns and projects. For example, the PPN began the process of setting up an Energy Master Plan for Galway County through SEAI.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

The Local Authority and Public Participation Network (PPN) both have a role in ensuring representation of socially excluded or minority groups and ensuring their voices are heard in the development and implementation of policies and programmes. Some of the Committees and Fora which met for these purposes during 2022 are:

- The Age Friendly Alliance met 4 times during the year and coordinated the delivery of initiatives and activities under a Work Plan, including events to celebrate Bealtaine, Positive Ageing Week, and encourage older people to re-engage in social and leisure activities. An Older Peoples Council was established separately in Galway City & County during the year to broaden representation of older people and strengthen their input into issues and policies which affect them in both local authority areas, and training was provided for the Executive Committee by Age Friendly Ireland. The Executive Committee of the Older Peoples Council in the County met regularly during the year to discuss projects and initiatives to develop in the County and highlight issues of concern to older people, with particular reference to the issues prevalent emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Comhairle na nÓg met virtually and in person throughout the year to work on the topic identified by young people which was “LGBTI+ Awareness and Education”. Staff from the Community Department attended and inputted into the AGM in December 2022.
- The Traveller Interagency Group met quarterly to discuss implementation of the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy through a local Work Plan, with a particular focus on employment and education opportunities for Travellers, and the implementation of the Public Sector Duty.
- The Galway LGBTIQ+ Interagency Group continued to meet throughout the year and the Public Recognition Marker and associated Resource Pack for Service Providers, Community Groups, Businesses, Sports Clubs, etc., was officially launched in May 2022. This Marker and Guide provide simple and practical actions for local groups and clubs to show visible support LGBTIQ+ people in their local community.
- The Community Department progressed projects under the Disability Participation and Awareness Fund in collaboration with various Departments in the local authority, in particular Disability Awareness Training for staff, Beach Access Audits and Audits of Disability Parking Spaces in conjunction with the Roads Department, and improved access to playgrounds and parks. The purpose of this Fund is to support the participation of People with Disabilities in local activities, to remove barriers to their community involvement, and to support the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in communities. The PPN’s Disability Forum were instrumental in progressing activities under the Fund, on a partnership basis with the

local authority, and also developed and delivered radio adverts highlighting the misuse of disabled parking spaces, in conjunction with Make Way Day events.

SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Galway Sports Partnership (GSP) is a joint City and County Council Service with most staff based in the ERCD Section of Galway County Council. The GSP plays a lead role in the co-ordination, development and delivery of sport and physical activity opportunities for the communities of Galway, and key activities throughout 2022 included:

2022 was a very different year to the previous two years, in that Galway Sports Partnership (GSP) were able to partake in activities without restrictions. The after-effect of such a long hiatus from full on organised physical activity has had an impact on participation rates across a number of groups.

GSP worked hard to encourage more people back to physical activity and in person programmes from the mainly on-line programmes delivered in 2021. Covid-19 has had some benefits in that there has been a more rapid move to on-line training resulting in delivery of more training courses than ever before. In the cases of Safeguarding and other training courses this has proved to be very beneficial.

There is a balance to be struck between virtual training and in person training. In 2022 GSP are still juggling these forms of training and activities to try and get the most benefit for the people of Galway.

Programmes and activities include the following:

In 2022, 519 people attended Safeguarding 1 training over 34 courses. 158 people attended Club Children's Officer training (Safeguarding 2) training over 13 courses. 101 people attended Designated Liaison Person (Safeguarding 3) training over 9 courses. Of the 56 courses delivered 50 were on-line.

This trend to on-line training extended across some of the activity programmes including Buggy Buddies, Autism In Sport and more.

GSP delivered 15 First Aid courses covering the basics of sports first aid, basics of CPR and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) use. Participants received an Irish Heart Foundation Heartsaver AED Certificate which is valid for 2 years. The courses were delivered in 9 different parts of Galway City and County.

Operation Transformation which was run over 6 weeks there were 48 participants and Operation Transformation Beginner Home Workouts which was a beginner online exercise programme as



part of the community Operation Transformation walking/activity campaign for 6 weeks catering for 20 participants.

‘All Play Together’ children’s activity camp coincided with National Play Week, aimed at promoting play and recreation opportunities for local children from different cultural backgrounds and those newly arrived from Ukraine working with local primary schools. This programme was funded by Dept of Justice & Equality through the Community Integration Fund.

‘Sisters in Sport’, girls multi-sports initiative encouraging young girls to engage, or re-engage with sport and physical activity delivered with NGBs and local sports clubs.

For this programme girls of the local primary and secondary schools were targeted. The programme was funded under the Dept of Justice & Equality through the Community Integration Fund.

GSP worked with a number of groups to deliver 14 events across during Bike Week which took place between the 14th to 22nd May.

GSP has delivered many great programmes in 2022 catering for a wide range of activities with all age groups and abilities. The following is a sample of the good work being done.

Older Adults for PALs (Physical Activity Leader Training) Ballinfolle Castlegar Neighbourhood Centre was the location for this training held over a 9-week period and Clarinbridge Parish Hall hosted the Good2Go courses over a 3-week period.

GSP continued with the roll out of the Community Health & Wellbeing Boards CHWBs initiative with the latest boards project working with Mental Health Ireland, HSE and Healthy Galway City and County. With over 200 boards printed covering all types of sports clubs, community centres and parks. The toolkit supports organisations who have taken part in the project to deliver appropriate and timely mental health messages particularly at more stressful times of the year. In all over 100 clubs and groups were involved in the roll out of this initiative.

GSP allocated €45,000 to 34 clubs to deliver a range of programmes aimed at increasing participation under this fund. Amounts ranged from €540 to €2,400 with programmes targeting older adults, teenage girls, setting up new clubs to the purchase of equipment that would support new players.

The Covid-19 Supplementary Fund targeted at minority sports and groups not affiliated to any NGB. In total €44,833.75 was allocated to 38 clubs, with amounts ranging from €482 up to the maximum of €1500. 27 of the clubs received between €1,000 and €1,500.

Along with the programmes above the GSP’s Community Sports Development Officers have continued to do immense work in creating new opportunities for our target groups to get involved in physical activity. the range of activities and the diverse nature of the participants is truly remarkable and include Men on the Move, Programmes targeting Women and Girls, Women on the Move, Buggy Buddies, Her Outdoors Week 2022 and Women in Sport Week. Other initiatives

include Loughrea Active, Urban Outdoor Adventure Initiative, Couch 2k, Summer Paddle Series in Loughrea, Park Run, Marathon for Kids, Jumpers for Goalposts, Orienteering, Walking Football,



Image: Her Outdoors 2022 Initiative, Galway Sports Partnership

On the disability side the Sports Inclusion Disability Officer rolled out Equine programmes, Yoga in special schools, Autism and Fundamental Skills, Autism Swim Project, Fishing & Disability Programme, Boccia, and a number of initiatives for older persons.



Image: Equine initiative Source: Galway Support Partnership

“To ensure that our physical and social infrastructure is sufficiently developed to support economic development, and to enhance our quality of life.”

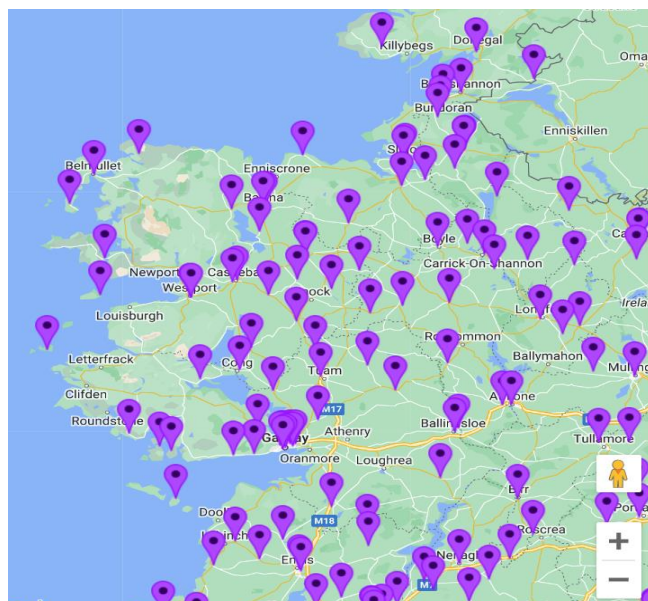
The Economic, Rural & Community Development Department (ERCD) supports the revitalisation of towns and villages to improve the living and working environment of their communities and increase their potential to support increased economic activity into the future. It also supports a number of key sectors including Tourism, Hospitality, Food, Creative and Cultural sectors.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC) and Connected Hubs:

A number of individual hubs submitted applications to the Connected Hubs initiative. Galway County Council continue to work with hubs around the county to determine collaborative options including developing some hubs through the Regeneration programme of the Local Authority. The Irish tech network convened over two half days to raise awareness. The national hubs campaign is ongoing and the timeline for registration to the Connected Hubs platform closed in the course of 2022. The unit fed into the development of a Hubs Feasibility Study report which is being put together with an accompanying toolkit. This is awaiting publication. On the Digital Growth Hubs these need to align with the digital strategy of County Galway. A number of Galway County Hubs were onboarded to the AEC booking system. Towards the end of 2022 a hubs event was being planned for early 2023 with an objective to provide information on how Hubs can future business plan as they sustain themselves going forward and develop their operations in the coming years.

<https://connectedhubs.ie/hubs/search>



Town and Village Renewal Scheme - Remote Working

Minister for Community and Rural Development Heather Humphreys T.D. announced funding support of €1.1 Million to 23 Local Authorities through the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, to support Remote Working.

Funding of €49,950 was allocated to Galway County Council in December 2022 to support marketing campaigns to attract remote workers to locations in Galway County.

Galway County Council and Galway Hubs were represented at the **A National Hub Summit took place on 24th November 2022** bringing together Hub Managers, representative bodies, State Agencies and Government Departments to map out the future of the National Hub Network with the facilitation by the Western Development Commission and DRCD.

Just Transition Funding (JTF):

Galway County Council proposed Just Transition Fund Training (JTF) and Mentoring Programme Locations for East Galway in consultation with the Eastern & Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO). The locations are based on the objectives of JTF in the overall context of how communities have been impacted by changes in how we generate power as well as the move towards climate neutrality. Galway County Council also looked at how other counties in the CARO region chose their locations and the justifications they used varied from locations close to bogs and power stations, the use of turf as a domestic fuel to the high concentration of lower BER ratings in a particular area. A funding package for the broader region that CARO serves was announced in late 2022 and Galway County Council will determine how this will be rolled out to support the East Galway region once further information is made available during 2023.

Shared Island Project

In 2022, €250,000 was secured in for a unique collaboration with a shared commitment of Galway and Leitrim County Councils partnered with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council to develop Excellence Centres in Food Innovation and Agritech. Across three key themes and eight actions of Priming Capital Plans, Climate Action, and the establishment of the first cross-border Food + Agritech Innovation Network, the project will test the feasibility of new investment projects to be delivered by our cross-border Local Authority partnerships.

TOURISM

The Tourism Office in Galway County Council continued to deliver on the strategic objectives within the Economic, Rural and Community Development (ERCD) Unit in 2022, working with partners across Galway County Council, in neighbouring Counties, in State Agencies, in strategic tourism networks, the tourism trade and festivals partners.

The programme of work was resourced by the Tourism budget; ERCD budgets, co-funded programmes, and grant schemes. The Tourism Officer implemented numerous projects in house; and supported projects implemented via the Municipal District Offices, the National Roads Project Office, the Climate Action Group, Regeneration Projects, Portumna Vision 2030, Clifden Destination Town Project as well as supporting numerous projects led by Fáilte Ireland, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Waterways Ireland, Connemara and Islands Tourism Network, Destination Lough Derg, Joyce Country Western Lakes Geopark, the Galway Convention Bureau. The Tourism Officer also supported specific tourism projects and initiatives with Mayo County Council, Roscommon County Council, Offaly County Council, Tipperary County Council, Clare County Council and Galway City Council, and the service provided Tourism inputs to the Galway County Development Plan, which was adopted in July 2022.

The Tourism industry has continued to operate in challenging circumstances. Research has indicated that following pandemic restrictions in a challenging 2021; there has been ongoing uncertainty due to global issues in 2022, but with a reasonably strong recovery. However, international visitor numbers to Ireland have been estimated at close to 7m in 2022; this figure is 27% down in comparison to 2019. (Source: *ITIC report January 2023*).

Recovery was boosted by pent up demand and deferred bookings as well as increased availability of travel services and airline capacity. Tourists were increasingly seeking value for money with challenges including airport congestion, labour shortages and car supply issues as well as bed stock availability and hotel pricing making national news. Feedback via Galway Tourism networks noted that staff shortages and energy costs have been a key issue for the sector and made operations challenging for through 2022.

COUNTY GALWAY TOURISM STRATEGY

The focus of the Tourism service throughout 2022 was to develop the *Galway County Tourism Strategy 2022-2030*. Tourism consultants CHL were engaged by ERCD to deliver an integrated and sustainable County tourism strategy to guide the future development, integration and growth of the tourism sector across County Galway, encompassing all areas of the county outside of the municipal limits of Galway City.

This tourism development and marketing strategy incorporated tourism sustainability; economic and community development; product development; and proposals to incorporate branding and marketing objectives. A clear, actionable roadmap for implementation of the Tourism Strategy has been incorporated to enable integrated and sustainable growth of sector.

The draft *Galway County Tourism Strategy 2022-2030* is following the regional tourism plans in phasing and by December 2022 had commenced its final project stage incorporating stakeholder and agency feedback on draft documents. Following internal review; the draft *Galway County Tourism Strategy 2022-2030* is due to be published as part of the public consultation stage of the Strategic Environmental Assessment statutory consultation. Throughout 2022, stakeholder engagement and consultation took place with the tourism industry, agencies and with

stakeholders from other Local Authorities and across the Executive and Reserve functions of Galway County Council.

The Tourism Strategy is now due to be launched in 2023.

FÁILTE IRELAND REGIONAL TOURISM PLANS

Fáilte Ireland have published the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands *Draft Regional Tourism Development Strategies* (RTDSs) in autumn 2022, as part of the public consultation stage of the statutory process. The Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands *Draft Regional Tourism Development Strategies* are now being amended following public consultation.

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

ANNUAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCHEME FESTIVAL AND EVENTS

The Galway County Council Tourism Office is dedicated to supporting festivals and participative events by grant funding and promoting a range of events across the County that will provide a great visitor experience and support the social and economic contribution of tourism to the County. In 2022, The Community Support Scheme facilitated festivals and community groups with an overall funding allocation of €87,250. This was co-funded by Galway County Council Community Support Scheme Grants (€69,250) and Fáilte Ireland Regional Festivals and Events grants valued at €18,000. A total of 57 communities were granted support through this scheme in 2022. The events were promoted by the service through its Discover Galway Campaigns in 2022.



Image: Extract from Galway County Council Discover Galway Festivals Leaflet 2022.

Source: Galway County Council Tourism Office.

Discover Galway Digital Marketing:

Progress continued on the Discover Galway tourism digital marketing strategy for 2022 though the main focus of investment in 2022 was in the County Tourism Strategy.

Development of the Discover Galway website and social media campaign continued throughout the year. Discover Galway is the visitor-facing page for Galway County Council's Tourism service and a strategic social media marketing campaign promoting tourism attractions and visitor experiences by highlighting all areas around the County. <https://discovergalway.ie/about/>

This website functions as a landing page until the collective destination brand is delivered in 2023. 'Discover Galway' platforms have been maintained with minimal investment in 2022. The website also promotes 'Discover Galway Food Experiences' and the newly produced first draft Galway attractions map that has been produced in the County Tourism Office. This map was also used in support of the County Council's Representation at the Milwaukee Festival in August 2022 and will be further developed in line with the Galway County Tourism Strategy 2023-2030 recommendations.



Image: Extract from Galway County Council Discover Galway Attractions Leaflet 2022. Source: Galway County Council Tourism Office.

Discover Galway Flickr account:

An online photography bank has been collated since late 2021 with additional photography commissioned across County Galway throughout 2022 being updated. The ongoing development of this platform and investment in photographic assets is shared with industry, issued to press partners and tourism partners alike as a valuable tool and publicly available online image bank to promote Tourism. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/192899941@N06/albums>

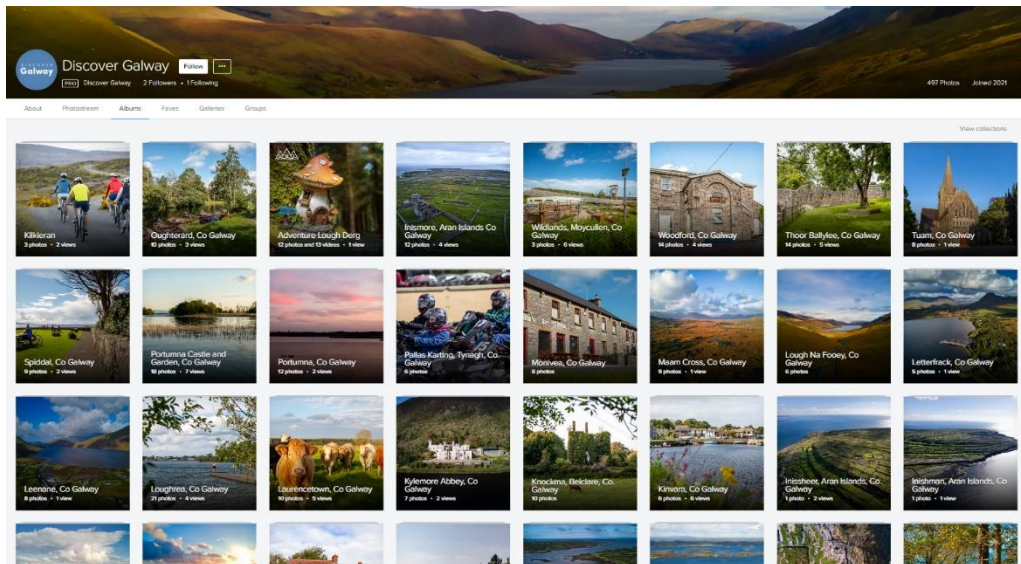


Image: Discover Galway Flickr Account. Source: Galway County Council Tourism Office.

DESTINATION GALWAY BRAND DEVELOPMENT

The development of a tourism destination brand identity for Galway is a collaborative project between Galway County Council, Galway City Council and Fáilte Ireland which has been project managed throughout 2022. The Tourism Officers procured a brand and design team led by Búa Marketing, who are based on the Wild Atlantic Way. A full Gaeilge and English language survey was circulated to industry stakeholders in mid-2022 and a ‘local experts group’ consultation workshop was held in June 2022 to help inform the brand development.



Destination brand consultation workshop summer 2022, at The Dean Hotel

The Tourism Officer has continued to steer this project with colleagues in City Council and the Tourism Destination brand project was brought to the final design phase at the end of 2022. The County attained further funding from Fáilte Ireland ‘Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands’ team to capture

additional images from East Galway in the shoulder season for brand implementation projects to be rolled out in 2023.

PRINT MARKETING

With a focus on domestic markets in 2022; Tourism Office invested in a countywide marketing profile for the Connacht Tribune supplement published in early June and a range of other media including Where in the West and Go West Magazines, referring to walks, camping and caravanning; highlighting festivals and events and visitor experience around the County.

TOURISM NETWORKS:

Throughout 2022 the Tourism Officer continued to engage with a number of tourism networks and organisations operating across the County in order to progress shared strategic actions around marketing and tourism development projects. Each established networks facilitate at least four annual network meetings per group, with the Tourism Officer attending 18 tourism network board meetings in 2022.

Networks include:

- The Connemara and Islands Tourism Network; (CAITN)
- The CAITN subcommittee for Islands,
- Galway Convention Bureau.
- Destination Lough Derg Steering group,

Ongoing training of tourism businesses across the County occurred in 2022 in an additional series of training workshops over six weeks.

GCC Tourism also supports the C osta Gaelach Chonamara &  rann and Joyce Country Western Lakes Tourism Officers with their networks where shared strategic objectives align. Additional soft supports and engagement have been offered to BACD (Ballinasloe) in 2022.

CONAMARA AND THE ISLANDS

The Connemara and Aran Islands Tourism Network (CAITN) and the C osta Gaelach Chonamara &  rann (CGCA) are two tourism development communities that are working in partnership with Galway County Council to deliver on shared objectives to improve the visitor economy in the region. Galway County Council continued to support the www.connemara.ie website and is a member of the CAITN group and implementing partner for the Conamara and Island Visitor Development Plan.

LAUNCH OF THE CONAMARA COAST AND ISLANDS VEDP PROGRESS REPORT:

The launch of the VEDP progress report in March 2022 was organised by the Wild Atlantic Way team for spring following a desktop review of the 'The Connemara Coast and Islands visitor experience development plan' (2018). The Connemara Coast and Islands VEDP desktop review took place late 2021 and early 2022. Wild Atlantic Way in partnership with strategic partners; the team included Ruth Mulhern, Galway County Tourism Officer, Meadhbh Seoige, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Co-Chairs Terence O'Toole and Dominic O'Morain and Daithí Gallagher, Letitia Wade and Agnes O'Donnell from Fáilte Ireland. The review found that 80% of the actions were in progress or have been progressed. Galway County Council have played a key role in many of the catalyst projects including the Tourism recovery marketing strategy and brand development project (2021), and key infrastructure projects including supporting development of the signature Discovery Point at Derrygimlagh bog; ongoing development of the Connemara Greenway project and progression of the Clifden Destination Town award of 500k; coupled with the Category 2 RRDF award for town centre enhancement of Clifden. In addition to this, there was strong support from the committee for the Connemara Wild at Heart signage strategy and for the approval for Galway County Council's business case for the development of Inis Oírr pier by the Minister.



Members of CAITN at the launch of The Connemara Coast and Islands VEDP Progress Report, March 2022

CONNEMARA GREENWAY PROMOTION

Funding was approved through the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme valued at €30,000 which was granted in September 2022 to promote the Connemara Greenway.

The funding has been awarded for a promotional film piece, and photography bank as well as map/brochure production.



Image: The Connemara Greenway

Connemara Greenway TV production:

In September 2022 Galway County Council supported delivery of a package for a November edition of Neven Maguire **Irish Food Trails** (Bord Bia/ InProduction).

As part of the programme, Neven Maguire cycled the ‘currently open’ section of the Greenway from the bridge at the back of Ballynahinch out into the countryside. Food businesses that were highlighted along or near the route included The Connemara Hamper; Connemara Smokehouse; Greenway Cafe, Oughterard; Highlighting local produce like Mc Geoghs dried lamb; Ultan Cooke from Glenlo Abbey will also appear in the programme.

Connemara.ie Tourism Networking Event:

The Tourism team participated in a tourism networking event in the Connemara Coast Hotel in October 2022. The event was organised by CAITN (Connemara and Aran Islands Tourism Network) and supported by key partners, Galway County Council, Fáilte Ireland and Údarás na Gaeltachta. It provided a networking session for tourism businesses to encourage cross selling within the area.



Connemara.ie Tourism event, Connemara Coast Hotel

Destination Lough Derg

Destination Lough Derg continued in its delivery of the Lough Derg Visitor Experience Development 2020-2024

The Lough Derg Visitor Experience Development Plan is aligned with the Tourism Masterplan for the Shannon, Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and Tipperary Transforming Tourism Product Development Plan. The Plan sets out the overall approach to Destination Planning in the area for the next five years, illustrating the unique attractions of Lough Derg and how best to develop visitor experiences across the region to place Lough Derg as a holiday destination of choice both nationally and when appropriate internationally.

Destination Lough Derg Brand Refresh

In late 2022, Destination Lough Derg reviewed its brand identity and commissioned a brand refresh. This refresh allowed Destination Lough Derg to encapsulate new tourism trends emerging from the pandemic into the brand. The refreshed brand is more contemporary, and the colour scheme references the magnificent water, land and skies, along with the three counties. The design mark animates effortlessly and is representative of the great outdoors; a fresh contemporary colour palette and modern design accessories give the brand a fresh edge moving into 2023.



Image: new brand with image taken at Portumna, winter 2022

Lough Derg Blueway Accreditation

The Lough Derg Blueway was one of three Blueway's in the world to receive accreditation on the 6th of April. Destination Lough Derg created a suite of 21 trail videos 3D-tracked videos to help visitors visualise the trail. A mini digital advertising campaign promoted the product, producing 1.6 million impressions. The videos are available on www.discoverloughderg.ie. (Further detail on this project outlined in 'Blueways' section hereunder.)

Adventure Lough Derg App: An up-grade to Adventure Lough Derg App was completed with the inclusion of additional activities and the suite of on water Blueway trails.

Discovery Points: Lough Derg Discovery Points plan was screened and an architectural and conservation report completed for each of the locations.

Destination Lough Derg Marketing Highlights: Destination Lough Derg executed a 52-week marketing campaign in 2022. Significant efforts by the group ensured that substantial awareness was created of the destination during the first year of the sector's recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic. A marketing mix of digital, print, PR, radio and TV resulted in a reach of 7 million positive impressions of Lough Derg as a destination.

Quest Lough Derg 2022 took place on 10th September; 1,037 individuals participated in the sold-out event. The event aligns perfectly with the Ireland's Hidden Heartland brand highlighting Lough Derg as one of Ireland's premier places to get-active-in-nature, with 15 published articles and thousands of images circulated online. The next event is on 9th September 2023.

South and East Galway

Galway County Council led out on an initiative supported by Ireland's Hidden Heartlands team to develop Tourism in the South and East Galway region. The Tourism Office engaged 'The Tourism Space' to collate a business database for this region and deliver three training sessions over a six week period that would enhance business's digital platforms as well as training Galway businesses to upload profiles on the Discover Ireland page. Open to all tourism partners in this region, up to 25 businesses engaged with the online training and networking programme. The Tourism Office in Galway County Council prepared and distributed a tourism newsletter to the database in 2022.

Ireland's Hidden Heartlands Flipbook

Failte Ireland have just launched this digital flip book; [Shannon Gems](#) that was produced by 'Ireland's Hidden Heartlands' team, in collaboration with local authority Tourism Officers in *Ireland's Hidden Heartlands (IHH)* throughout 2021.

As part of a collaborative effort Failte Ireland each worked with representatives from the local authorities and IHH regions to highlight the tourism riches in our respective localities.



Image: Excerpt from 'Discover the Real Hidden Gems'

Just Transition Funding (Tourism)

In December 2022, Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media Catherine Martin welcomed the European Commission’s adoption of Ireland’s Territorial Just Transition Plan and associated Programme for 2021–2027.

The adoption of the Just Transition Plan confirms significant Ireland/EU funding to support the Midlands region, as Ireland moves away from fossil fuels. The tourism element of the Just Transition Plan includes allocations of €38 million under Regenerative Tourism business supports and €30 million for a Tourism Trails Network.

Tourism Creative Ireland projects:

Tourism collaborated with Community and Arts to deliver The Wandering Kite Festival on Omev Strand in October 2022

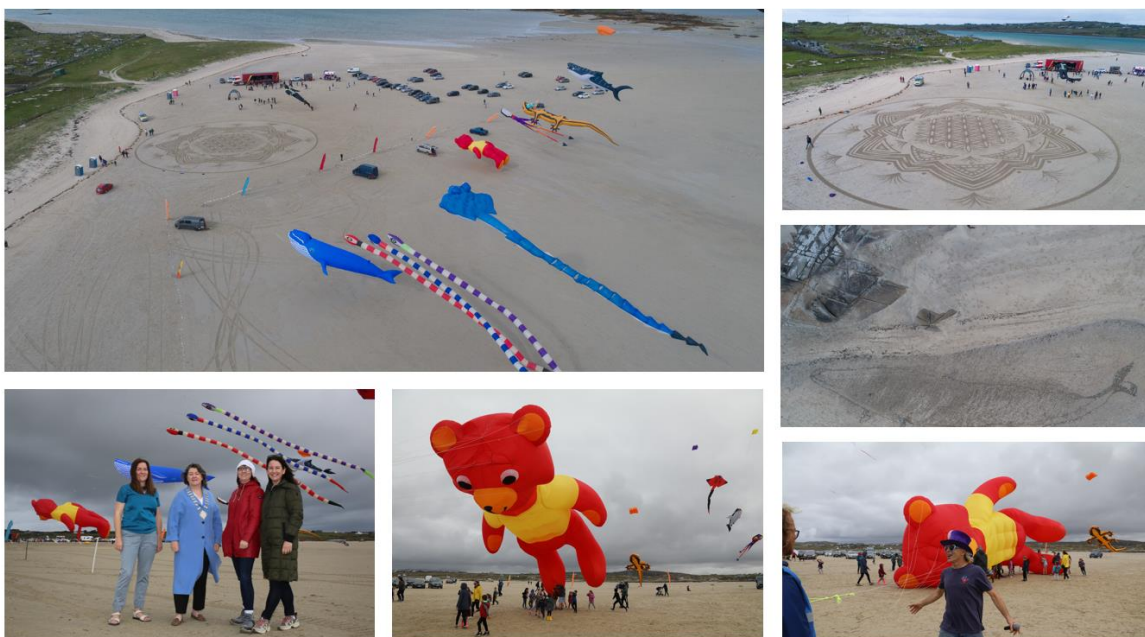


Image: Members of the Culture Team pictured with Cllr Eileen Mannion, October 2022

An Áit Seo / This Place book

The book was with support from the Creative Ireland fund in 2022. *An Áit Seo / This Place* is featured in the top 100 Archive which Irish design.

<https://www.100archive.com/projects/this-place>

The book has been distributed to the Presidents Office in University of Galway as a gift book and will be distributed across University libraries by Kenny's bookstore as well as Library of Congress, USA.



Eurovelo 1 Cycle Route

An ongoing project with Sport Ireland supports the development of the EuroVelo 1 Ireland website. The cycle route is broken up into sections. There are four sections inclusive of the route through Galway inclusive of Galway City.

Clifden Destination Town funded projects

The Destination Town project for Clifden was set to develop in line with the Rural Regeneration Development Fund programme. Clifden Destination Town funding was allocated through the 'Destination Towns Capital Infrastructure Programme'. Galway was granted €500,000 by Fáilte Ireland with Galway County Council match funding €166,000 to boost the attractiveness and tourism appeal of the town. A proposal was presented to the Connemara MD and approved in June 2022. Delivery of the project requires alignment with the Clifden Regeneration Town Centre Enhancement Scheme.

Blueway projects

Blueways are a new outdoor recreation offering currently unique to Ireland. They encourage active engagement and participation in water.



Launch of the Lough Derg Accredited Blueway, Portumna 2022

The Lough Derg Blueway was recently accredited with the Chief Executives of Galway, Clare and Tipperary launching the project in late April; this project was supported by Fáilte Ireland and Sport Ireland and led by Waterways Ireland who worked through the accreditation process with Tourism Officers from the three counties around Lough Derg.

The Great Western Blueway

Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland was appointed in 2022 to deliver a feasibility study for the 'Great Western Blueway' between Galway City, County and Mayo local authorities to identify opportunities for the development of Blueways around Galway City, Lough Corrib, and Lough Mask. A survey was published and shared in December 2022 to gain input from stakeholders on the vision and roll out of the Blueway.

Galway City and County Tourism Officers are currently managing the research phase of the Great Western Blueway project and supporting community and local consultation with key individuals and groups. A 'Blueway feasibility' report has been prepared for review by project partners.

Discover Galway Food Experiences:

Ongoing mentoring supports are being offered to food producers to support development of visitor experiences. 12 offered targeted supports with 6 providers up taking mentoring appointments. All suppliers are based in the eastern part of the County.

Life on Machair – EU Life Project:

Tourism in Galway County Council is supporting agency stakeholders from Fáilte Ireland, Clean Coasts, Leave no Trace and community representatives in this EU Life project which commenced in November '22.

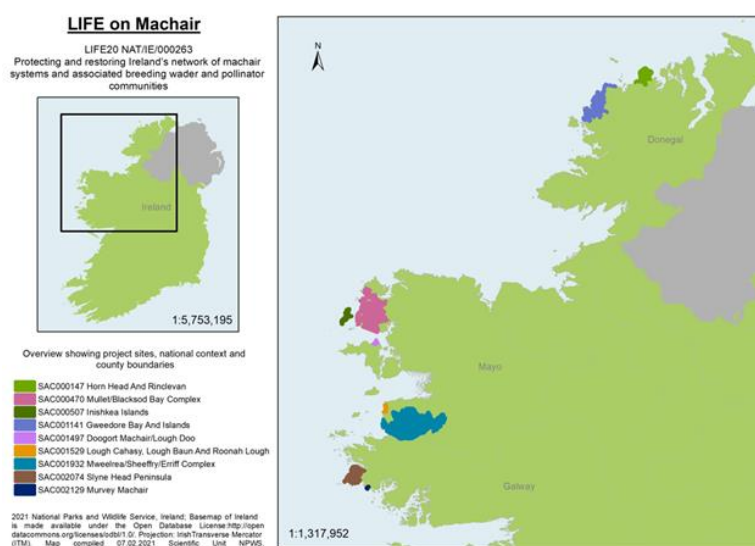
This project aims to address the primary pressures negatively impacting machair systems: unsustainable agricultural and recreational/tourism activities.

LIFE on Machair is an EU LIFE funded project is set to run until 2028.

The LIFE on Machair project is being coordinated by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage through collaboration with project partners the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (DAFM), Teagasc and Fáilte Ireland.

Machair is a rare and valuable coastal habitat characterised by a species-rich grassland plain, developed on wind-blown sand. Focusing on nine Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and 4 Special Protection Areas in counties Donegal, Mayo and Galway, a voluntary Results Based Payment Scheme (RBPS) will be linked to the quality of the habitat, putting the landowner, their skills, expertise, and knowledge of their land central to the development of this project.

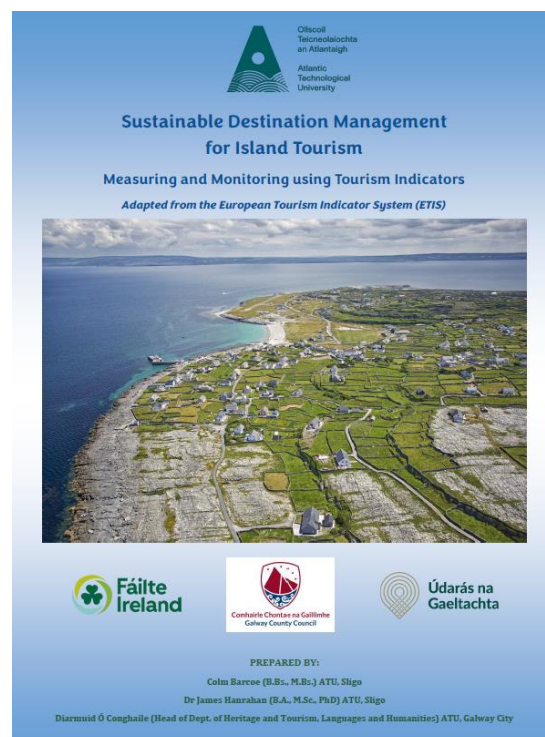
The two sites selected in County Galway are Murvey Machair and Slyne Head Peninsula.



Atlantic Technical University (ATU) Islands European Tourism Indicators System research project:

The European Commission first developed the 'European Tourism Indicators System' (ETIS) to help destinations measure their performance in relation to sustainability. This is due to the increase in demand of destinations to tackle social, cultural, economic, and environmental challenges that they face.

A revised, improved version of the ETIS was published in 2016, after conducting two pilots and with the help of a pool of experts. The system was assessed and improved through feedback collected from the destinations. ATU is now piloting an islands study and has been supported by Galway County Council, Fáilte Ireland and Údarás na Gaeltachta. Cllr. Tomás O' Curraion, Director Liam Hanrahan, and Ruth Mulhern attended the launch of the report in Letterfrack in April 2022 and the Tourism Office has invested in ongoing research in the project.



Shannon Erne Tourism Masterplan

The Shannon Erne Interpretation or Discovery Points is identified within the *Shannon Tourism Masterplan*, Waterways Ireland engaged Tandem to deliver on a project of wayfinding and interpretation to communicate a clear and consistent message. Waterways Ireland are leading the project in partnership with Fáilte Ireland. Tourism Officers and Directors of Service from relevant local authorities will support the programme through the pre development phase.

RURAL REGENERATION PROGRAMME

The ERCD Section is co-ordinating and delivering on funding approvals under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) for the following locations: Athenry, Tuam, Kinvara, Portumna, Loughrea, Gort and Clifden. Over 6m euro in funding has been secured by the Rural Regeneration Team.

| Live Programme – RRDF Team 2021 | Amount of RRDF Grant Funding Secured. |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Athenry | €2,927,310 |
| Tuam | €175,000 |
| Kinvara | €122,790 |
| Loughrea | €1,678,879 |
| Clifden | €792,029 |
| Portumna Vision | €1,192,855 |
| Gort | €798,584 |
| Portumna Courthouse | €2,552,309 |

Athenry: An allocation of €3,554,000 has been made to Athenry Town and the BIA Innovator Campus. This project supports regeneration in Athenry Town with a number of improvements to be made in the Town Centre and provides a significant level of funding to enable the delivery of the BIA Innovator Campus which is co-located at the Teagasc Campus on the outskirts of Athenry.



The BIA Innovator Campus is driven by the BIA Innovator Campus CLG which includes representatives from Teagasc, Western Development Commission, GRET B, Athenry Community Council, Private Industry and Directors appointed from the Local Enterprise Office and Galway County Council Executive as founding members of the initiative. The Campus will deliver three

buildings spanning 2301 square metres (23, 767 sq. ft.) of food specific resources to support over 40 plus food related business driving innovation and sustainability of the food sector in the West region.

In 2022, construction has been ongoing on production units, co-working kitchens and the innovation centre which will include food technology support services. Additional Funding has been secured along with RRDF from Enterprise Ireland and Shared Island Funding in 2022 to drive its campus. The BIA Campus Team continued to develop its food enterprise network in 2022 called Bread and Jam, implementing a range of on-line and in person events and supports to support product acceleration, and brand-building.

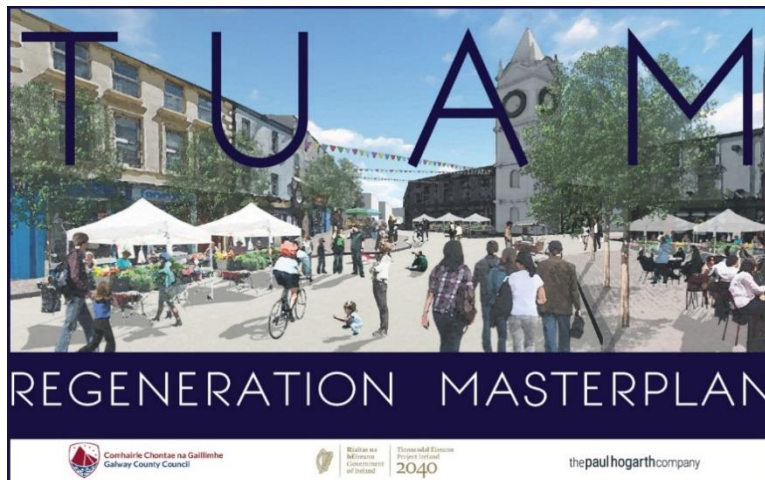
The Tánaiste, Leo Varadkar TD visited the BIA Innovator Campus on Friday 9th December 2022 to see the ongoing work being carried out. The collaborative approach which is central to the development of the campus was highlighted to the Tánaiste and recognised as a key strength of the project.



Mr Jim Cullen CE, Ms Elaine Donohue GM BIA, Cllr Michael Maher Cathaoirleach, An Tánaiste Leo Varadkar TD, Mr Peter Feeney Chair BIA, Mr Alan Farrell A/DOS & Director BIA Source: BIA Innovator Campus CLG, December 2022

The works in Athenry Town Centre under RRDF will see physical improvements and enhanced public realm, improvement to shop fronts and development of the Athenry Town Park. The works are being delivered collaboratively by a range of partners including the local area office, Athenry Community Council, Athenry Tidy Towns, Athenry Heritage Centre, the business community, and a local social enterprise group.

TUAM MASTERPLAN



Source Image: RRDF Team, Galway County Council, Design Consultants

The Tuam Regeneration Masterplan was Environmentally assessed in Q1 2021 before being presented and formally endorsed by the elected members of the Municipal District of Tuam on 12th April 2021. The Plan emerged from extensive consultation and provided a launch pad for future funding applications for the town and routes to delivery outlined.

KINVARA BAY BOARDWALK

The aim of the project is to improve connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists between Dunguaire Castle and Kinvara village to include a dedicated cycleway, separate from the road carriageway. Several design proposals were investigated in conjunction with the relevant stakeholders. A draft construction management plan was prepared for the preferred option including Environmental assessments.

This project development plans are now being incorporated into a larger scale project being undertaken by the National Roads Project Officer of Galway County Council under the stewardship of Transport Infrastructure Ireland.



Source Image: RRDF Team, Galway County Council, Design Consultants

PORTUMNA – COURTHOUSE REFURBISHMENT

The intention of the project is to bring this prominent historic local building back into community use. Having successfully secured Cat 2 funding for Portumna Courthouse in early 2020, The Regeneration Team progressed plans for a change of use to include event space, Flexible Office Space, and café. A part 8 planning permission was secured for the proposal in 2021. Galway County Council have subsequently engaged with OC&C and Mesh Architects to develop the design towards statutory consensus and main contract tender. It is anticipated contractors will be appointment in Q4 of 2023.





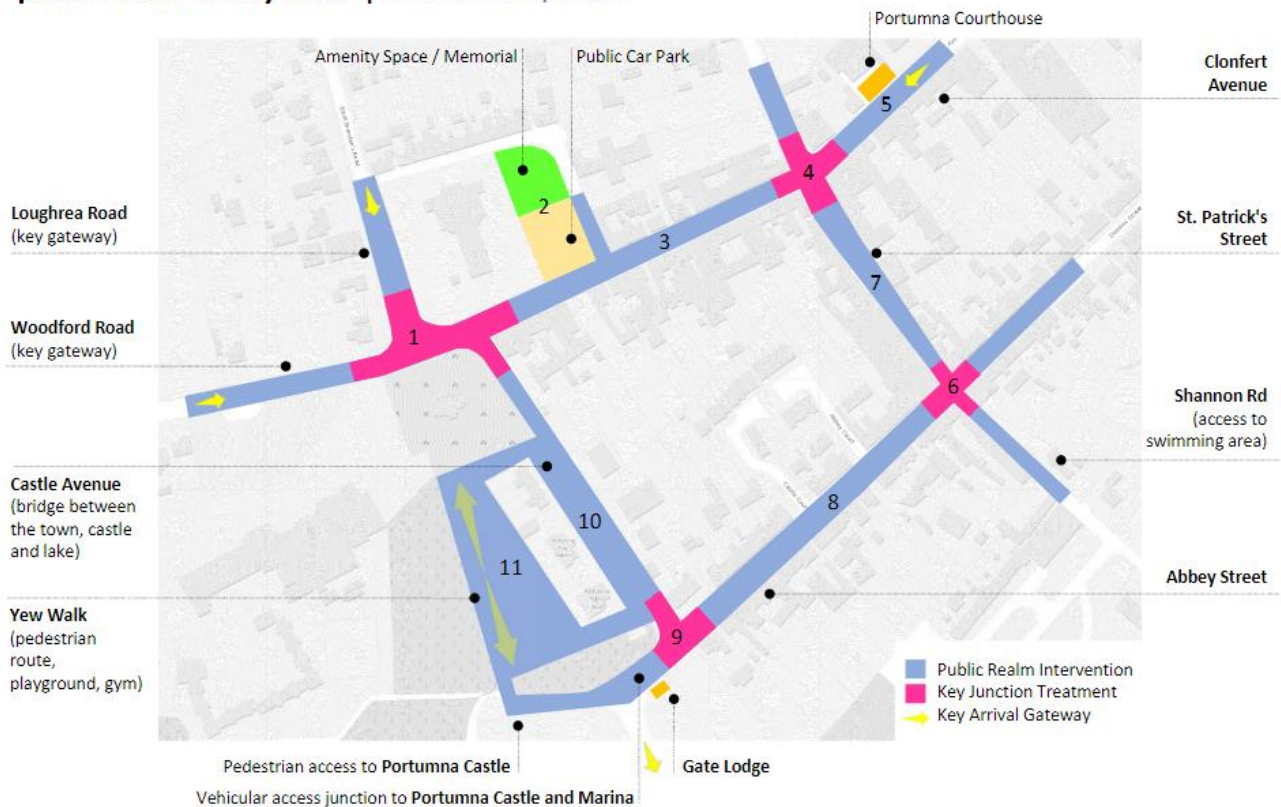
Source Image: RRDF Team, Galway County Council, Design Consultants

PORTUMNA – PUBLIC REALM ENHANCEMENT

The master-planning process for a public realm enhancement scheme that will play a key role in the wider transformation of Portumna has commenced as the first stage of public consultation took place in January 2023. This project has been commissioned by Galway County Council, led by the Regeneration Team and is being prepared by a consultancy team led by the RPS Group. It is funded through the Rural Regeneration and development fund, a key element of Project Ireland 2040. It forms one part of the wider Portumna Vision 2030 regeneration programme being delivered for Portumna through rural regeneration funding, including the redevelopment of the iconic Courthouse on Clonfert venue.

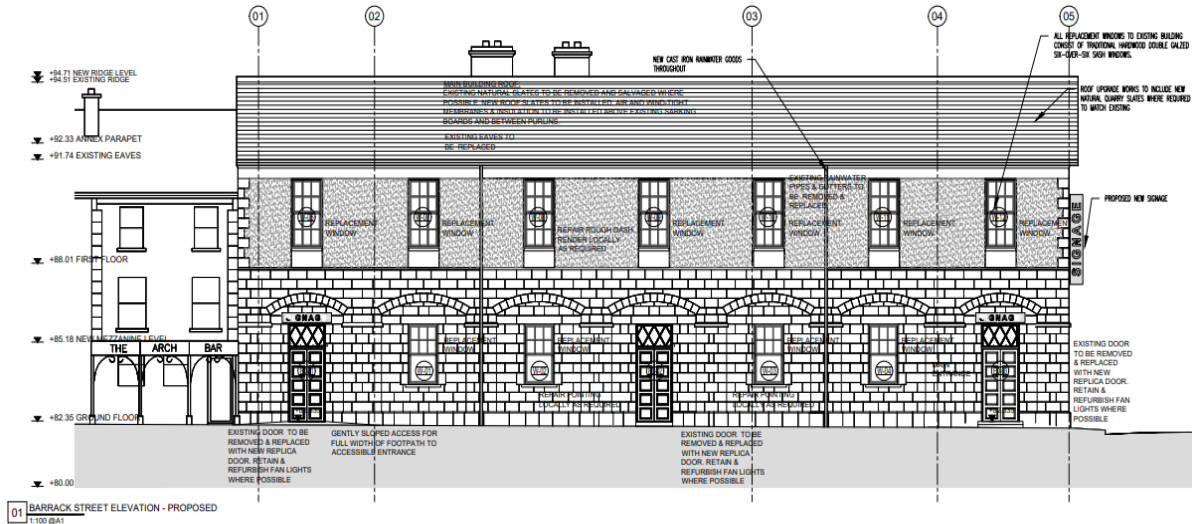
SOURCE IMAGE: RRDF TEAM, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, DESIGN CONSULTANTS

public realm study area | boundaries and key features



LOUGHREA TOWN HALL

This project will involve the renovation of the main building and the demolition of the existing rear annex building to make way for the construction of a new, universally accessible, and code compliant building.



The design was developed through to Tender Stage to include a detailed cost analysis with a view to securing additional funding. The Department was furnished with a business case in late 2022.

LOUGHREA LONG POINT

A Design Team led by Helena McElmeel Architects, in partnership with Galway County Council, is preparing a masterplan for the enhancement of the public spaces and facilities at the Long Point, Loughrea. Once delivered, the Long Point Enhancement project will provide world class facilities for in-land water-based activities. The project will serve to boost the local economy by promoting Loughrea as an outdoor activity destination while promoting a positive, healthy lifestyle for locals and visitors alike.



Source Image: RRDF Team, Galway County Council

GORT – PUBLIC REALM

Galway County Council has appointed BDP to prepare the Town Centre First and Public Realm Improvement Plan for Gort Town Centre. The decision-making process will be informed by the Town Centre First Plan. This plan will be issued as part of the collaborative, information/data gathering process for the drafting of the Gort Local Area Plan, the Gort Traffic Management Plan, the Local Transport Plan, and the Walking and Cycling Strategy. The first phase of public consultation took place in the first quarter of 2023. It is anticipated that by September 2023 the town centre first plan and will be published.



Source Image: RRDF Team, Galway County Council

CLIFDEN – TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENT

The aim of the project is to deliver a cohesive design approach for Clifden focusing on three main areas:

- Town Centre Public Realm Enhancement
- Harbour Park
- Beach Road Quay

Galway County Council have appointment Land Use Consultants (LUC) along with their sub consultants, Tobin and MKO. They have produced conceptual design which fed into their public consultation strategy in 2022. These designs have now been further developed and it is anticipated that the final design will inform a planning application to An Bord Pleanála in Q3 of 2023.



Source Image: RRDF Team, Galway County Council, Design Consultants

TUAM – TOWNHALL REFURBISHMENT

The project aim is to redevelop the former Town Hall in Tuam for use as a multi-functional space to include a creative and enterprise hub and co-working space, offices, meeting rooms and supporting spaces. Site investigation works were undertaken in Q4 2021 to inform any subsequent planning and funding applications. Part 8 planning application was secured in 2022 for the purposed works, and it is anticipated that this project will be included in a future RRDF CAT 1 capital funding applications.



Image Source: RRDF Team, Masterplan commissioned for Tuam.

TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEMES & STREETScape ENHANCEMENT MEASURES



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

Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe
Our Rural
Future



The Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS) supports small to medium capital projects which enhance the environment of town or village centres. Local Authorities are asked to identify

Expression of Interests and shortlist applications, which are then reviewed and approved by the Department of Community and Rural Development (DRCD). Since 2016 and including the 2022 allocation 5.85m has been approved for County Galway under Town and Village Renewal Schemes.

The 2022 Scheme placed particular emphasis on projects that could bring vacant and derelict buildings and sites back into use as multi-purpose spaces in line with the objectives of “**Our Rural Future – Ireland’s Rural Development Policy 2021-2025**” . Grants are offered at 90% with matching funding provided either by a Community & Voluntary Group as a Lead Partner or the Council as a Lead Partner. Fifteen Expression of Interest were received following a public call for EOI in June 2022 and nine projects were shortlisted for final submission to the Department. DRCD announced a total of € 649,999.50 for seven projects on December 14th, 2022. Formal Grant offers will issue in the first quarter of 2023 and projects will have a 12–18-month period from then for implementation and recoupment of grant funding.

| GALWAY | Project / Location | Description | Allocation |
|--------|--------------------|---|-------------|
| Galway | An Spideal | The proposed project is a street enhancement scheme to upgrade and enhance shopfronts and street facades in the village of An Spideal and the installation of outdoor picnic benches, benches at key locations across village, to build on the development of public outdoor dining and recreation spaces. | €100,000 |
| Galway | Ballinasloe | The project proposed is the refurbishment of a town centre long term vacant building and repurposing it to create a remote/co-working hub. | €250,000 |
| Galway | Portumna | The upgrade and enhance of shop fronts/street facades in Portumna Co Galway. Vision is to bring about high quality attractive environment by delivering improving frontages and attend to any dereliction by painting and attending any works needed to improve the visuals of the town centre creating a sense of arrival in a major tourism centre. | €100,000 |
| Galway | SEM - Tuam | Funding under the Streetscape Enhancement Measure in Tuam. | €100,000 |
| Galway | PDM - Casla | Feasibility study for the development of Low Carbon Sustainable Centre of Excellence based in Casla. Include site selection survey, planning, EIA reports, Road traffic audit, TIA, NIA, procurement and development costs, admin costs. | €50,000 |
| Galway | PDM - Athenry | Pre-planning assessment, and detailed design package for the proposed Athenry Community Hub (building to be purchased under BAM). | €49,999.50 |
| TOTAL | | GALWAY | €649,999.50 |

Source Table: Department of Community & Rural Development

The approval from the Department for the **Tuam Streetscape Enhancement Scheme** in December 2022, was on foot of a detailed programme submission in November 2022 while followed the launch of the Scheme in September 2022 in Tuam. A series of public information and advisory sessions were held in the Tuam Municipal District Offices. Over 40 applications from property owners and tenants were received for co-funding grants of up to 80% for painting and upgrade to street facing façade of shopfronts, retail, and residential properties in the immediate vicinity of The Square. This programme will continue to be implemented in 2023 with formal offer of grants and colour consultation. The purpose of the scheme which first commenced in six locations in 2021 is to improve the visual appearance of the approved Town Centres. The programme in Tuam was launched with the assistance of Elected Members, Tuam Tidy Town and Business Owners and Groups.

Projects funded by the TVRS Scheme are implemented directly by Municipal District Offices Operations and Infrastructure Staff, ERCD Section or by Community and Voluntary Organisations via

grant offer contracts. The services provided by the section include project advisory, technical support, administration, monitoring and recoupment. In 2022 the implementation of projects approved under previous Town and Village Renewal Schemes continued and it is noted that impact of COVID-19 continued to impact on delivery in 2022, with completion of projects under the 2019, 2020 and 2021 ongoing as well as development of new projects to put forward under the 2022 Scheme.

Town and Village Renewal Projects Completed During 2022

The following Town and Village Renewal Projects funding by Department of Community and Rural Development and co-funded by Galway County Council Operations and Infrastructure were completed and recouped in 2022.

| Reference | Town/Village | Implementing Lead | Amount Recouped by Galway Council DRCD | by County from | Project Status |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------|--|----------------|--|
| TVRS2020 | Portumna | Galway County Council | € 97,455.00 | | Works Completed and Final Claim - St. Josephs Road section of Pedestrian Path to Forest Park as part to support sites in Portumna 2030 Vision. |
| TVRS2020 | Belclare | Galway County Council | € 100,000.00 | | Works Completed – Village Enhancements Safety and Accessibility |
| TVRS 2019 | An Cheathrú Rua | Galway County Council | € 80,000.00 | | Works and Final Claims Completed – Public Lighting Village Footpaths |
| TVRS 2019 | Killimor | Galway County Council | € 76,015.00 | | Works Completed – Final Claim Lighting and Village Paths |
| TVRS 2019 | Oranmore | Galway County Council | € 149,287.00 | | Works Completed & Claim Submitted |
| TV20GY06 | Castleblakney | Ballinasloe | € 100,000.00 | | Castleblakney Community Playground |

€
602,757.00

The following Town and Village Renewal Projects are Live and Ongoing During 2022:

| Project No. | Project Name | Implementing Partner with Galway County Council | Grant Approved | Project elements completed in 2022 |
|-------------|--------------------------|---|----------------|--|
| TV19GY12 | Ballygluinin | Ballygluinin Railway Co. | €100,000.00 | Conservation and Engineering Advice; Website/Virtual Tour; Groundworks for Toilet Block; Energy Conservation. |
| TV20GY01 | Báile Chláir/Claregalway | Claregalway Leisure Centre | €200,000.00 | Tender Completed. Increasing Costs. Assessing Options for Funding Shortfall Pre-Construction. |
| TV20GY07 | Creggs | Creggs Rural Development Committee | €90,000.00 | Outdoor Seating and agreements on Public Realm Improvements with MD Office. |
| TV20GY09 | Leitir Móir | Comhairle Ceantar na nOileán | €100,000.00 | Internal Halla Upgrades for Youth and Community Spaces |
| TV21GY06 | Barnaderg | Galway County Council - MD (Tuam) Killelian Community Council | €100,000.00 | Village Enhancements: Pedestrian Crossing; Paths; Street Lighting. Works to value of 36k completed and verified. |
| TV21GY07 | Galway Villages | Galway County Council ERCD Unit | €58,500.00 | Village Checklist Scope to be finalised. |
| TV21GY02 | Leenane | Leenane Development Association | €250,000.00 | Treatment Invasive Species: Land Drainage Completed; Internal Base; Car Park Base at site for Community Park. |
| PDM21GY08 | Woodford | Woodford Parish Development | €50,000.00 | Scope in Development for Design. Further consultation due in 2023 with community for use and adjacent sites. |

€948,500.00



Image: Leenane Community Park – Town and Village Renewal Programme 2021. Sod Turning August 2022. Photo: Leenane Development Association.

BUILDING ACQUISITION MEASURE – TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL

In November 2022, Galway County Council ERCD Unit completed the purchase of a two-storey vacant building at the junction of Northgate Street & Burkes Lane, Athenry, Co. Galway. The vacant property is referred to locally as Somers House and is located within the Athenry Architectural Conservation Area (ACA). The property was purchased by Galway County Council because of a new funding scheme introduced in 2022 by the Department of Community and Rural Development under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS) Building Acquisition Measure. The purpose of the measure was to support the goals of the TVRS scheme and placed particular emphasis on providing support for bringing vacant and derelict buildings and sites back into use as multi-purpose spaces.



Image: Somers House, purchased by Galway Co. Council 2022. Source: GCC Regeneration Team

CLÁR PROGRAMME FOR SMALL- SCALE INFRASTRUCTURE

The CLÁR programme (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) provides funding for small scale infrastructural projects in designated rural areas that have suffered significant levels of population decline. The maximum grant available is 50,000 euro per project. The CLÁR 2022 Scheme was first announced at the end of February 2022 by the Department of Community & Rural Development (DRCD) who prioritised funding for outdoor community amenities under the 2022 programme, thereby reducing the focus on schools and safety measures which was a key measure in all previous CLÁR programmes.

By the closing date in April 2022, Galway County Council received 29 applications, 10 projects were subsequently shortlisted and submitted for approval. The Department then extended the number of applications allowed from each Authority and a further 5 from the shortlist was considered by DRCD.

In September 2023, Galway County Council received an allocation of **€612,863.07** from the DRCD for 15 projects under CLÁR 2022, Measure 1 - Developing Community Facilities and Amenities. Of the 15 projects awarded, 14 were allocated to community and voluntary groups with one project being implemented directly by the Loughrea MD and Corporate Services for the upgrade of Portumna Playground. The following CLÁR Projects were approved in September 2022:

| County | Project Number | Project | Project Description | Amount Allocated |
|--------|----------------|--|--|------------------|
| Galway | C122G01 | Comhairle Ceantar na nOileán Teo | Development of a community cinema and drop in youth hub facility at the Hall Pobail Tír an Fhia to include library, coffee dock & game area. | €41,827.23 |
| Galway | C122G02 | Mountbellew Moylough GAA Club | Construction of 1.1km walking/running track around site perimeter. Enhancements also to parking and lighting on site. | €50,000.00 |
| Galway | C122G03 | Cleggan - Claddaghduff Community Council | Enhancement to surface and surrounds of ballcourt at Cleggan Community Centre | € 36,491.88 |
| Galway | C122G04 | Kilchreest National School BOM | Development of a car parking facility to allow access to community walking track and pitch area. | € 50,000.00 |

| | | | | |
|--------|---------|---|--|-------------|
| Galway | C122G05 | Clonberne Community Centre Co Ltd | Enhancement to access roadway allowing for increased & accessible use of existing community facilities. Associated landscaping works & development of a pollinator area. | € 50,000.00 |
| Galway | C122G06 | Gort GAA Club | Development of an 850m accessible perimeter walkway around the 20acre site for community use. | € 45,000.00 |
| Galway | C122G07 | Ahascragh Fohenagh GAA Club | Level existing car park, improvements to site accessibility, drainage, surfacing and lined finish. | € 49,500.00 |
| Galway | C122G08 | Ballinasloe Rugby Club | Develop a walking track around the perimeter of their site encompassing two pitches. | € 32,400.00 |
| Galway | C122G09 | Clontuskert Community Development Group | Resurfacing and lining of parking area, upgrade to lighting, painting of building facade, heating system upgrade, seating & garden area | € 30,267.00 |
| Galway | C122G10 | Ionad Oideachas Pobail Glinnsce & Caiseal | Development of safe accessible parking facilities at the education centre. | €27,000.00 |
| Galway | C122G11 | Galway County Council | Enhancements to the community playground in Portumna | €36,472.50 |
| Galway | C122G12 | Skehana Community Development (SCD) | Upgrade of the current car parking at the Skehana Community Facility which is home to 5 rural sports clubs. Significant biodiversity element to project. | €50,000.00 |
| Galway | C122G13 | Killyan Community Field | Upgrades to include works on walkway and lighting around perimeter of pitches. Plans also include improvements to site drainage and installation of seating area | €45,000.00 |
| Galway | C122G14 | Collins Park Playground Committee | To enhance facilities at the community playground. Fit accessible play equipment to enhance inclusivity. Provision for playground maintenance also included in plans. | €18,904.34 |

| | | | | |
|--------|---------|-------------------------------|--|------------|
| Galway | C122G15 | Donaghpatrick National School | Development of a community walkway and small playground on the school grounds which will be accessible to the wider community. | €50,000.00 |
|--------|---------|-------------------------------|--|------------|

The following CLÁR Projects approved in 2021 were completed and recouped in 2022:

| CLÁR 2021 Measure | Applicants | Project Outline | Funding Awarded |
|-------------------|---|---|-----------------|
| 1 | Clonberne NS | Pedestrian Crossing & School parking upgrades | €50,000 |
| 2 | Lurga NS | Development of a Community MUGA | €50,000 |
| 2 | Skehana Community Development Committee (SCD) | Development of a community accessible playground. | €49,513.13 |
| 1 | Galway County Council & Woodford Parish Development | Extension of footpaths from Woodford to Derrycrag Nature Reserve | €50,000 |
| 2 | Abbey Community Development Association | Final phase of Community MUGA, Lighting, Access to adjacent sensory play area, gym. | €27,000 |

The following CLÁR Projects approved in 2021 were ongoing in 2022 and were approved for extensions into Quarter 1 2023:

| | | | |
|------------|--|---|----------|
| 2 | Glinsk Community Development Association | Development of a community Playground | €50,000 |
| 3(a) | Comharcumann Forbartha Arann | Development of a community garden at Garrai na gCrann. | €8,100 |
| Innovation | Galway County Council | Community Playground Project – Enhancement, Promotion, Inspection Training targeting 59 Community Playgrounds in CLÁR Areas in Galway County. | € 30,825 |



Image Skehana Community Development CLÁR Investment 2021-2022. C221G02 - Playground.



Image: Lurga National School - Supply & installation of 45m x 30m Astro pitch for community use adjacent to Lurga NS.

RURAL SCHEMES - OUTDOOR RECREATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme provides funding for the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure. (Adventure Tourism type projects, Blueways, Walking Trails, Boardwalks, etc).

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2022



ORIS Funding 2017- 2022 - €4,648,541.00
43 Projects todate



The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme provides funding for the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure. It also provides support for the necessary repair, maintenance, enhancement or promotion of existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in rural areas across Ireland.

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

It provides funding for:

- Development, extensions and repair of trails, walkways, cycleways and blueways
- improved access to outdoor leisure or recreational facilities
- development of outdoor recreational infrastructure
- **Measure 1** for small scale projects requiring funding of up to €30,000,
- **Measure 2** for medium scale projects with funding of up to €200,000,
- **Measure 3** for large scale projects seeking funding of up to €500,000, and
- **Project Development Measure** funding of up to €50,000 for development costs for strategic large-scale projects.

OUTDOOR RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME (ORIS) 2022

The Following Measure 2 Projects were approved by the Department of Rural & Community Development, under the 2022 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.

| Scheme Measure | Project Name: | Project Description (less than 30 words): | Amount Granted |
|----------------|------------------------|--|----------------|
| M2 | Creggs Mountain Walk | Develop Creggs Mountain Walk – an element of Beara-Breifne Way & Suck Valley Way | €200,000 |
| M2 | The Walks Loughrea | Upgrade of further Section of Walks Project | €200,000 |
| M2 | Killarainy Woods Trail | Upgrade of Killarainy Woods Trail | €103,950 |
| M3 | Western Way Trail | Upgrade of Sections of Western Way Trail | €425,250 |

The Following Measure 1 Projects were approved by the Department of Rural & Community Development, under the 2022 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.

| Scheme Measure | Project Name: | Project Description (less than 30 words): | Amount of ORIS funding requested |
|----------------|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| M1 | Connemara Greenway Maintenance | General maintenance of the completed 15kms of the Connemara Greenway along section between the town of Clifden and the village of Recess. Works to include grass cutting to verges and pruning of overhanging trees | 28,350 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--|---|
| M1 | Connemara Greenway Marketing | Marketing materials and promotion of the Connemara Greenway section from Clifden to Recess | 27,000 |
| M1 | Monivea Woods Trail | Enhancement to Monivea Woods walking, running and cycling trails to include the upgrading of signage and pathways and the development of marketing infrastructure for the trail. | 27,000 |
| M1 | Carrabane Forest Muddy Walks | The "Mucky Boots Trail" - "Feel the Forest" will be a multi-use family trail at Carrabane Forest Walk to add to the enjoyment of a visit to our forest. | 29,250 |
| M1 | Gort Riverwalk | Upgrade of an old village road to a class 2 trail and the completion and registration of a 3.5km looped trail from Gort Town Centre | 27,424 |
| M1 | Glenamaddy Walking Trails-Frass Looped Walks Phase 2 | Second of two environmental walking trail loops around the Frass Clooncon Bog Inner at Glenamaddy. Establishing a link return to the start point which restores the trail as a loop rather than its current 'out and back' design. | 21,071.70 |
| Scheme Measure | Project Name: | Project Description (less than 30 words): | Amount of ORIS funding requested |
| Project Dev | East Galway Eco Park | The development of a trailed eco park on a former landfill site offering experiences in Amenity & Recreation, Biodiversity and Heritage, Health & Wellbeing, Educational and Sustainable Practices. | 50,000 |
| Project Dev | Portumna Outdoor Recreation Park | The development of an overall masterplan for the future development of Portumna Forest Park and Bathing Areas incorporating new activity and recreation zones, visitor hub, performance areas and enhanced public realm | 49,950 |

OUTDOOR RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME



GORT RIVER SCHEME

Gort River Walk – Opening Ceremony



Gort River Walk – ORIS 2019 & ORIS 2022

Funded through ORIS Project 2019 & 2022
 The ceremony started with the opening of the initial phase of the Gort River Walk Project and then the participants walked 1.3km to the footbridge where it was officially opened by landowners Francis Cahill and Vivian Diviney with Ciaran Cannon TD.

The Gort River Walk - The 3km project received funding through the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme as follows:

- **2019 – €19,760.00** – To Restore and repair damaged boundaries on the Pound Road. Upgrade existing path from rough trail to gravel path.
- Install fencing to protect trail users and riparian zone along the upper riverbank. Minor repairs to trail. (Works were undertaken by the Loughrea Municipal District Office).



Trail opening

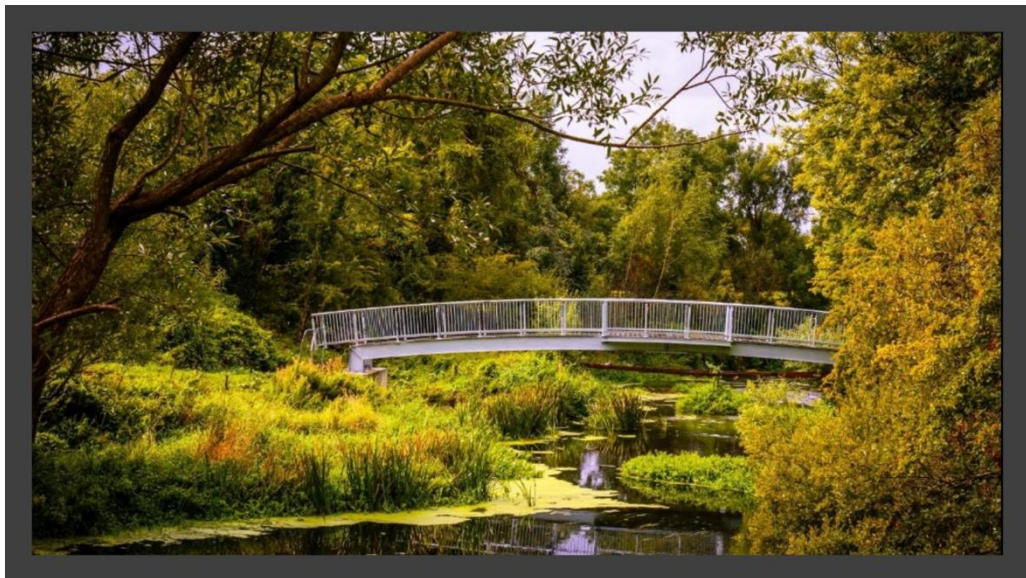
The first part of the trail was opened by Deputy Sean Canney and the new footbridge was opened by Deputy Ciaran Cannon. Also attending were local councillors Joe Byrne, PJ Murphy, Geraldine Donohue and Gerry Finnerty, and Bernie Donnellan, Brent Mostert, Galway County Council.

Day 2 Cllr Michael Maher, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway lead the inaugural Walk with large members of the Community and visitors.



2022 – Grant of €27,424.00

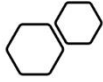
This project includes an upgrade of an old village road to a class 2 trail and the completion and registration of a 3.5 km looped trail from Gort Town Centre. This project was progressed by The Gort River Walk Development Group.



The trail starts in the town centre and follows the river north out of the town and alongside an old farm road. After 1.3km the trail crosses the river over a new curved footbridge, “funded through the Active Travel Scheme”.

The trail then continues along an old Kinincha trail to where it meets the public Kinincha road that leads back to the town centre. (ORIS 2022). This trail is very popular with the communities around South Galway and North Clare and is proving to be an attractive tourist amenity also.

The before and after shows the transition at the trail start from an illegal dump to an attractive walk

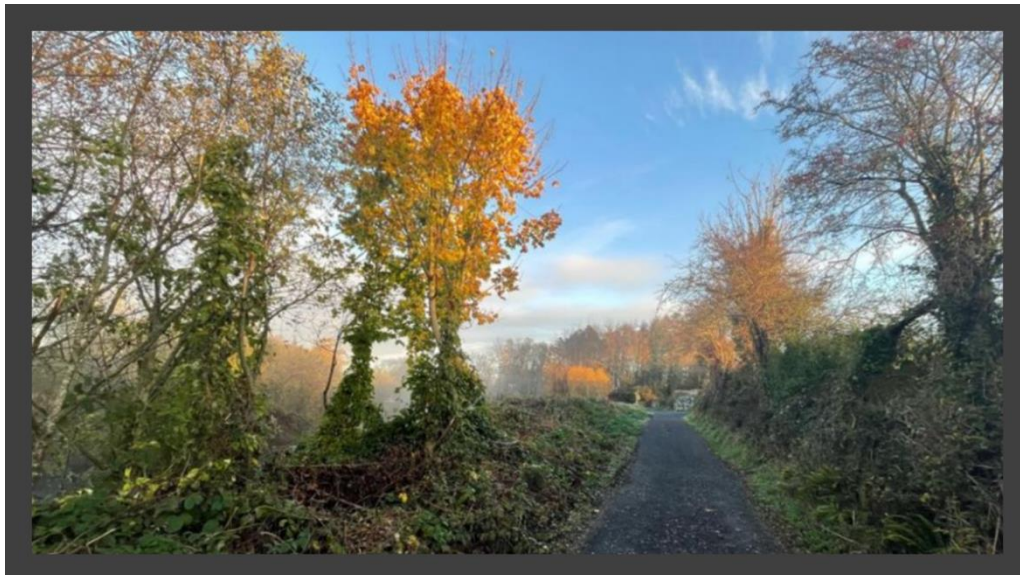
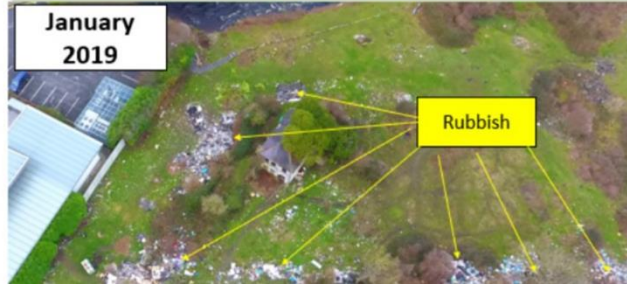


Before and After

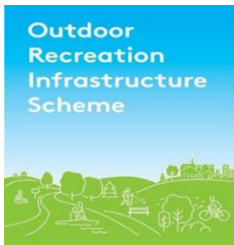
The initial section of trail was challenging to open as it went through an illegal dumping site and there was no defined path.

• **Trail Development**

- The development is the result of 4 years of work driven by the Gort River Walk development group, supported strongly by the local community, and Galway County Council. The group received funding from the local community, the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) and Active Travel.



Our Rural Future 2021 - 2025



THE WALKS PROJECT LOUGHREA

The Walks is a much loved and used local amenity and walkway by people of all ages.



The Walks is a broad tree-lined T-shaped walkway located parallel to and north of Loughrea town centre. The walkway is approximately 350m in length with an arm of the Walks extending a further 250m. It is a popular promenade within an amenity area that is of significant historic importance. A high stone wall encloses the Walks to the south. A river flows at the base of this wall, along the length of The Walks.

Heather Humphreys T.D., Minister for Rural & Community Development Visits the Walks Project in Loughrea 18th July 2022



 **Heather Humphreys** ✓
@HHumphreysFG

Great to officially open the upgraded 'The Walks' in Loughrea. Fantastic recreation amenity for everybody to enjoy. Over €400,000 provided as part of [#OurRuralFuture](#)

5:57 PM · Jul 18, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

Prior to The Walks Project commencing, the area was much neglected and in a poor state of repair, which deterred people, especially older people from using The Walks. However, the positive visual impact of the work carried out and enhanced sense of place, has raised the profile of The Walks as a recreation area for use by people of all ages and visitors alike. The Walks is particularly suited to older people, people with disabilities and families with younger children. The area is pedestrianised with no traffic and is easily accessed from the Main Street and has an adjacent Carpark, suiting people who may only be able to take a short walk.

In 2017, Galway County Council commissioned a Conservation Plan for The Walks. This plan would specifically inform the repair of the wall, bridges, and stone lining. Following completion of the plan, a group of local people came together and set up The Walks Project. The goal was to raise

funding to carry out the repair work to the masonry elements at The Walks and to ensure that this work was carried out in an appropriate manner.



Funding through the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme since 2018 coupled with match funding which was raised locally and support from Galway County Council has led to significant wall and bridge repairs of this important recreation, heritage, and tourism resource.



The Walks Project Loughrea was granted the following funding under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.

| Year | Project Name | Description | Grant Allocated |
|------|--------------------|---|-----------------|
| 2018 | The Walks Loughrea | Restoration of walls and bridges of walkway Project completed. | €100,000 |
| 2019 | The Walks Loughrea | Development and enhancement of walkway Project completed. | €100,000 |
| 2020 | The Walks Loughrea | Continued regeneration of The Walks, specifically 3 sections from the river bend to the bank will be repaired/restored. Completed | €200,000 |
| 2022 | The Walks Loughrea | Upgrade of further Section of Walks Project | €200,025 |

The strong support from the local community for the project can also be seen on The Walks, Loughrea Facebook page

[The Walks, Loughrea - Home | Facebook](#)

[The Walks, Loughrea - YouTube](#)

[Galway County Heritage Office - The Walks, Loughrea | Facebook | By Galway County Heritage Office](#)

[Research-Report-Reimagine-The-Walks-Loughrea-1.pdf \(architecturefoundation.ie\)](#)

[Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture Reimagine Loughrea - Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture](#)

[09. 'THE WALKS' AND THE MEDIEVAL MOAT - Galway County Heritage Office \(galwaycommunityheritage.org\)](#)

[Loughrea Medieval Festival - Home | Facebook](#)

The Walks Project Group won a Cathaoirleach's Award in 2020

[Community Heroes honoured at Cathaoirleach's Community Awards for 2020 | Galway County PPN](#)

For their continued cross-community efforts to conserve and protect the medieval walls and 13 bridges of "The Walks" to improve this historic walkway as a key amenity and tourism asset for the town of Loughrea.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCHEMES



Image: Community Support Scheme project at Annaghkeen Pier, Headford - Cycle Racks and Accessible Picnic Table

The Galway County Council Community Support Schemes encourage community and voluntary groups to take an active part in the development of their communities by providing small-scale funding for projects which are of benefit to their local community and improve the economic, community and cultural aspects of their surrounding areas. In 2022 a total of €276,250, including €18,000 for Regional Festivals & Participative Events from Fáilte Ireland, was awarded towards 192 projects throughout the County. The grants were diverse and ranged from supporting improvements to local amenities, facilities, and services, to promoting and increasing the knowledge and awareness of the arts, heritage, and Irish Language, to collaborative business promotional initiatives, festivals and participative events.

The allocations are listed under the individual categories of funding which are as follows, and in accordance with the adjustments made to the relevant Support Schemes at the Annual Budget Meeting:

| Category of Funding | Budget | Allocation |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Support Scheme for Economic Development: | 69,250 | 69,250 |
| Support Scheme for Community Development: | 101,000 | 101,000 |
| Support Scheme for Cultural Development Arts Act Grants; €48,000 Heritage Grants; €35,000 Activities to promote the Irish Language €5,000 | 88,000 | 83,000 |
| TOTAL BUDGET | €258,250 | €253,250 |

Economic Development Support Scheme:

Due to the difficulties and restrictions imposed under COVID-19 regulations, many festivals and events were unable to proceed over the last number of years, however, the Arts Officer, Tourism Officer, and other staff of the Economic Rural and Community Development Unit worked with groups to divert the funding to other uses to build the capacity of groups where this was possible. With the easing of restrictions, we are pleased to offer support to over 40 festivals and events across the County to assist with marketing, programming and promotional costs of their events. In addition, the Scheme supports a range of economic development initiatives which will promote economic activity by increasing footfall through promotional materials or improving the visual appearance of town and village centres.

Community Development Support Scheme:

Despite the difficulties posed by the National Tidy Towns Competition judging going online in 2021, 42 Groups from across the County entered the competition, including 3 first-time entrants – Ballinderreen, Ballyconneely and Bearnna. Huge congratulations are due to Milltown who secured the County's first Gold Medal and were only 4 marks below the overall national winner. The County continued its steady progress with Abbey retaining their Silver Medal and the County securing a further 5 Awards across various categories. The work of Tidy Towns Groups contributes greatly to quality of life by improving amenities, green spaces and biodiversity, housing estates, streetscapes and approach roads, through an environmentally sustainable approach and local collaborations. In addition, support has been awarded to other groups who are involving in improving the natural and built environment in our towns and villages. The Community Development Support Scheme was heavily over-subscribed; therefore, cognizance was given to alternative funding sources and applications from Community Centres will be supported to apply to the Community Centres Investment Fund and/or Community Enhancement Programme, and social inclusion activities will be addressed through small-scale stand-alone grants for a Social Inclusion Events such as Bealtaine, National Play Day and Positive Ageing Week.

Cultural Development Support Scheme:

Due to the reduced budget for Arts Act Grants, applications for arts festivals were assessed and approved under the Economic Development Support Scheme. A large number of initiatives and activities to promote cultural development have been approved under this Support Scheme, and this will continue to be supplemented through targeted capacity-building programmes such as "Agents of Change" for Arts Groups. The Heritage Officer continues to deliver targeted training to implement the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan at local level and build capacity of groups to not alone deliver on their grant awards but to manage and protect our valuable natural, built and cultural heritage.

The Arts Office continued to promote all elements of the arts, supporting an ethos of participation, access, and inclusion throughout 2022. It was an extremely busy year with several high-profile events being directly produced by the Arts Office. County based artists were eager to create and present work in 2022 and the interest in the arts amongst communities was very strong. We note that the demand for cultural services and supports is growing with many artists living and working in the county and many more relocating to rural areas. In March 2022 we appointed an Assistant Arts Officer to support the work of the Arts Office. This post is supported by the Arts Council through the Specialist Staffing Scheme and funding was awarded on a competitive basis.



For 2022 our key supports, and programmes included:

Artists Supports - The Arts Office hosted an Artist Funding Workshop for Galway County based artists which took place on the 1st of February with 42 artists in attendance online. The workshop was led by artist and facilitator Róisín Stack.

Artist Support Scheme Bursary 2022 supported 15 artists to create develop their practice and create new work in 2022. Successful applicants included: Máire Robinson, Jessie Keenan, Veronika Staberger, Andrea Banciu, Magdalena Hylak, Jennifer Cunningham, Tadhg Ó Cuirínn, Tom Portman, Ronan Connor, Yvonne Kane, Peadar-Tom Mercier, Stephanie Dufresne, Tracy Gaughan, Noreen Burke, and Joanna McGlynn. The applications were assessed by a peer panel.

Artist Residencies - 5 residencies for artists based in Galway County were funded through the Arts Office in 2022. Dance artist Magdalena Hylak and musician Lionel Kasparian at Galway Dance Project (Galway), Selma Makela at Centre Culturel Irlandais (Paris), street art and spectacle artist Mark Carry at Interface (Inagh Valley) and one residency at Áras Éanna (Inis Oírr).

Platform 31 - A national initiative led by Local Authority Arts Officers and the Arts Council was produced for a 2nd year. County Galway dance artist Stephanie Dufresne was chosen as our Platform 31 artist for 2022. Platform 31 is designed to support 31 artists one from each Local Authority area to reflect on and develop their practise in a new way while being connected and supported by peer practitioners, advisors, and mentors. The artist also received a bursary of €8,000.

Film - Galway County Arts Office in partnership with Ardán and Galway City of Film offered a Misleór Bursary and two Short Documentary Bursaries to film makers based in Galway County. The 2022 Misleór Bursary was awarded to PJ Mongan and their documentary will be screened at the Misleór festival 29 September – 01 October. Emma O’Grady and duo Anna Konieczna and Deja Ibrahim were awarded Short Documentary Bursaries.

Theatre - Galway County Arts Office contributed to Meitheal an initiative to support theatre artists creating work for young audiences developed and delivered by Branar. Brú Theatre’s Remote Control emerging artist programme was supported, and one Galway County took part in a four-day residency on Inis Oírr from 4-8 September.

Visual Arts - Galway County Council Arts Office, Galway City Council Arts Office, and Galway Culture Company in partnership with Visual Artists Ireland devised a programme of professional development events through consultation with artists. Through consultation we had 79 survey responses and over 50 joined us for a lively discussion about how this programme can serve Galway artists.

Local Live Performance Programming Scheme Round 3 - Ceol an tSamhraidh



Little John Nee – Headfest. Photo: Aengus McMahon

Arts Office was awarded €143,000 to manage a Local Live Performance Local Programme of live Music from February to end of June 2022. The funding was used to support employment and wellbeing in the commercial arts and culture sectors through the provision of live performances by engaging the services of locally based professional artists, musicians, crew and other staff members involved in live performances. A programme of events took place in May & June 2022 in collaboration with existing partners.

Under the banner ***Ceol an tSamhraidh*** - 16 live events music performances took place over five weekends in May/ June. Venues include Ballinasloe Town Hall, Athenry Heritage Centre, Ballyglunin Railway Station, The Mall Theatre Tuam, The Station House Clifden Theatre, The Gallery Gort, Headfest, Oranmore Castle and Arás Éanna.

Musicians include Julie Feeney, The Raines, Ye Vagabonds, Fuse Music Collective, Little John Nee, Pdraig Stevens, Leo Moran, and Máirtín O'Connor. The Arts Office is working in partnership with local venues and community groups to deliver this county wide programme.



Local Live Performance Programming Scheme Round 4 - Ceol an Fhómhair



Paddy Casey & Mundy, Athenry Castle. Photo: Emilija Jefremova

The fourth phase of the LLPPS scheme continued to support employment opportunities for artists, performers and crew across every town, city and county and will help underpin the recovery of the live performance sector from the 1st of July 2022 to 31st October 2022.

Galway County Council Arts Office presented ***Ceol an Fhómhair*** - a programme of dynamic music events which took place during September and October 2022 as part of the Local Live

Performance Programming Scheme. Ceol an Fhómhair began on the 15th and 16th of September, bringing the much-loved Festival in a Van to the Shorelines Arts Festival for three stellar shows per day from Pen Pushers, Eclectic & Hot Fuss (15th) and Rhythm Africana (16th). On the 16th of September, country singer Mike Denver performed in Clifden Town Hall as part of the Clifden Arts Festival.

On Sunday the 18th of September, Ceol an Fhómhair presented Paddy Casey and Mundy with support from Saoirse Casey as part of Athenry MAD Festival to a crowd of over 1500.

Galway County Council Arts Office also presented Ceol an Fhómhair at the Palace Grounds in Tuam. Featuring a showcase of young Bands and musicians took place in the Palace Grounds in Tuam on the 1st of Oct 2022 and headlined Tracey Bruen. Young bands and singer/songwriters have been mentored through the LiveFeed programme in Galway City & County.



Ceol an Fhómhair, Tuam. Photos: Emilia Jefremova

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

Ceol an Fhómhair also supported a full **Culture Night Programme** of musical events across Galway County including: Sing Along Social brought their ABBA vs Fleetwood Mac musical showdown in Mullarkey's Bar, Clifden; FUSE Trad Night featured local musicians, singers and storytellers in The Abbey Tavern, Tuam; Molly O'Mahony played an intimate set with support from Matthew Noone in Brazco Oranmore; Choro Sounds Aria Latina collaborated with Treo Ensemble, a collective of young musicians associated with Music Matters; Roughish, Galway's newest folk trio composed of Mark Costello, Caoimhe Newell and Davin Costello performed in Ballygar Courthouse; Cúirt Cheoil na mBan a night of trad music on Inis Óirr and the High Tide String Band and Paddy McKeown play at St Mary's Church, Roundstone.



Sing Along Social, Clifden. Photo: Aoife Herriott

Culture Night 2022 - Took place on Friday 23rd September with 37 Culture Night events were funded through the Arts Office this year. Highlights included: Shadow Navigation an evening of music with Jo Beth Young at Thoor Ballylee Yeats Tower; An Artful Brew tea ceremony and workshop by Pavithra Kannan produced by Three Rings in Tuam at Ballyglunin Station; Origins by Órla Mc Govern, a site-specific performance with musicians Liz & Yvonne Kane and a music event with artist in residence Anna Jurkiewicz in Inagh Valley at Interface and Wild Women Poets readings and conversation with Rita Ann Higgins, Sarah Clancy & Elaine Feeney in Clarinbridge at SCCUL Sanctuary.

Community Support Scheme, Cultural Development (Arts Act Grants)

The aim of this category is to provide financial assistance to voluntary arts groups/organisations to carry out an arts activity or project within the community. In 2022 the CSS Cultural Fund supported 43 arts projects led by professional and voluntary groups in the County. Supported voluntary groups in the county which included: KAVA, 9 Arch Musical, Kinvara Community Orchestra, Solstice Arts Group, Milltown Drama Society, Glenamaddy Players, Brothers of Charity (That's Life), Oughterard Courthouse Arts Programme, Coole Music, and Arts. It also supported arts programmes run by professional organisations in the county including: Cúirt International Festival, Branar, Music for Galway, Galway Music Residency, Blue Teapot Theatre Company, Theatre 57, Galway Dance Project, and Three Rings Tuam.

Agents of Change - Small grant of €700 was made available to all Galway County Festival and cultural partners who participated in this programme. This grant was available for support in the following areas: training, mentoring, producer support, marketing/social media, financial planning, programming support or collaborative projects within the group. This project was funded by the Arts Council and Galway County Council Arts Office through the Invitation to Collaboration Funding.

Public Art - The Galway County Public Art Management Group was set up to support the Public Art Policy 2020-2024 and oversee the public art programme. Managed by the Arts Office the Public Art Management Group includes members of the executive, nominated elected members and

three external Art Experts. This group met on two occasions in 2022 with a plan to begin programming in early 2023.

House - The Arts Office presented **House**, a large-scale outdoor circus and spectacle performance by leading Irish Company, Fidget Feet in Athenry on the 14/15 May. The show featured professional aerial performances and participation from local music, dance, and performance groups. It was funded by the Arts Council through the Invitation to Collaboration Scheme and supported by Limerick, Clare, and Galway County Arts Offices.



House, Athenry. Photos: Aengus Mc Mahon

Strawboys, Galway County Tour

The Arts Office presented and co-produced Rob Heaslip's Strawboys which toured to 10 locations across Galway County: Gort, Ballinderreen, Ballinasloe, Lawrencetown, Letterfrack, Ballyconneely, Roundstone, Maam Cross (Ukrainian accommodation centre) and Oughterard. This pop-up performance blurring lines between traditional and contemporary dance was seen by over 600 people between 25-30 July. A vibrant and energetic outdoor pop-up performance in unexpected places. Featuring luminous straw dancers whirling to Balkan inspired beats, Strawboys uniquely reignites the cultural tradition of Wren Boys.



Strawboys, Roundstone. Photo: Aengus McMahan

Culture Up Galway Visit

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



Culture Up partners with Cathaoirleach Michael Maher, County Buildings. Photo: Aengus McMahon

Culture Up Galway Visit

A full programme of working sessions was designed and produced by the Arts Office, showcasing and supporting existing and potential partnerships between our European Partners and Galway County. Visits to Galway partner organisations including Áras Éanna on Inis Oírr, took place over five days. The Arts Office also took part in visits to Tampere/Sastamala (Finland), Novi Sad (Serbia) and Leeuwarden (The Netherlands) in 2022.

Strategic Partners Meeting

The Arts Office held a meeting in June 2022 of professional arts organisation partners in the region to discuss potential collaborations in the county with the Galway County Arts Office.

Music Generation Galway County

3,500 students are now engaging with Music Generation’s programmes on an ongoing basis across a variety of contexts in Galway County. These areas of provision include educational settings (primary schools, post-primary schools, Youthreach centres (pre-schools from Sept. ’22)) and community settings (after-school/evening music hubs and camps across the County). In addition,

in partnership with youth services, Music Generation Galway County targets areas where vulnerable communities exist, where remote geographical location leads to access issues, while it engages with children and young people with disabilities and those that are marginalised or disenfranchised in any way.

In 2022 Music Generation Galway County will commence work on developing a new 5-year strategic plan to assess and address current and future needs where the provision of performance music education is concerned across Galway County. It is hoped that the implementation of this plan will for many of Galway's children and young people continue to make what seems impossible, possible.

Artists in Schools 2022

The following schools were awarded the Artists in Schools programme from Sep 22- Dec 22; Scoil Éanna – Roundstone, Scoil Mhuire Doireglinne – Oughterard, Scoil Ui Cheithearnaigh - Ballinasloe and Community School Portumna.

Macnas at School

The Wilderness Within The Wilderness Without workshops delivered by artist Lisa Sweeney with a group of 5th class students in Scoil Croí Naofa, Athenry. They create nests and feathers that featured in the large-scale spectacle Con Mór at Fisheries, Field Galway 28 & 29 October.

Writers in Schools

Supported GRETB's programme which featured writers Darach Mac Con Iomaire, Trish Forde, Luke Morgan and Órla McGovern working with 7 schools across Galway County.

Book It – Children's Book Festival 2022

The annual children's book festival took place across libraries and schools in the county in collaboration with the library service and funded by the Arts Office Programme.



Book It Festival, Oranmore Library with Helen Hancock

Galway Community Circus

The Arts Office supported a group of young people from Clann Resource Centre in Oughterard to take part in funambulism workshops and perform as part of Lifeline at Galway International Arts Festival in July. A pilot offering free term of circus for children aged 5-11yrs in Tuam was supported from Sept-Nov. This pilot has led to regular circus offerings in Tuam.

Connemara Sea Week

The Arts Office supported the creative and cultural aspects that artist Alannah Robins produced as part of Climate Change Gathering in Letterfrack for Connemara Sea Week 18-28 Oct 2022.

Western Traveller & Intercultural Development's STAR project

A group of traveller teenagers in Tuam worked with theatre maker Sharon Carney on a series of theatre workshops.

Northeast Galway Fit Up Festival 2022

The festival returned to County Galway for a second year in 2022. Rural villages in Northeast Galway enjoyed three weeks of fantastic theatre in late September/Early October. Three Rings in association with Galway County Council Arts Office with support from the Arts Council presented three award winning plays to Galway communities. This year's festival included: Leitrim's award-winning writer, director & actor Seamus O'Rourke in his play 'The Handyman', followed by The Humours of Bandon by Margaret McAuliffe and closing the festival with Pat Kinevane, 'Silent'. This tour took in venues, Skehana Community Hall, Dunmore Town Hall, Fohenagh Hall, Kilcoona Social Centre, The Mall Theatre, Tuam and The Storehouse, Ballyglunin Station.

No Magic Pill

No Magic Pill had its Galway premiere at The Black Box with performances 27th-30th September. The Galway County Arts Office has directly supported this ground-breaking performance written by Christian O'Reilly and directed by Raymond Keane. No Magic Pill is based on the real life of county Galway disability activist Martin Naughton and his campaign for independence for disabled people in Ireland. The production, which is ground-breaking for Ireland in its casting of disabled actors on stage for the first time ever in Irish theatre.

Creative Places Tuam

Arts Office took part in the Creative Places National Networking Event in Tuam on the 10/11 November, led by Creative Places Tuam. A host of panellists, guest speakers visited Tuam alongside other Creative Places in Ireland. During this two-day event, our invited speakers will propose a series of methodologies that can be used in order to build networks of support and solidarity for and between collaborative, socially engaged practitioners and communities.

Other supports offered by the Arts Office

- Supported Screen Commission West, UNESCO City of Film and Wrap Fund.

- Supported Áras Éanna Arts Centre on Inis Oírr.

CREATIVE IRELAND PROGRAMME

Creative Ireland 2022

County Galway has long been associated with the arts and culture, with our unique quality of life and natural landscape offering artists the type of environment for creativity to thrive.

Underpinning the support of our creative community is a responsibility to ensure we preserve our landscape, our built and natural heritage to attract further development and ensure that the factors which are so conducive to creativity are preserved.

The Creative Ireland Programme is led by the Arts Office in collaboration with the Galway County Culture team which includes the following services: Archives, Arts, Conservation, Community, Enterprise, Heritage, Libraries and Tourism. The Galway County Creative Ireland programme is funded by Creative Ireland under the Creative Communities strand which aims to:

1. Broaden access to, and participation in, cultural and creative activities locally.
2. Use culture and creativity as a catalyst for collaboration and innovation in achieving greater wellbeing, social cohesion, and economic development.
3. Strengthen the capacity of local authorities to integrate culture and creativity across place-making, regeneration, renewal, and the development of more vibrant, creative, and sustainable places.
4. Investing in culture and creativity to support delivery of wider local authority agendas.
5. Build on the agility and integrated approach of Culture and Creativity Teams to deliver targeted collaborative programmes.

In 2022 our Creative Ireland budget for 2022 was **€175,161** (€145,161 Core funding + €30,000 Cruinniú na nÓg funding). This budget is to allow Galway County Council to deliver collaborative projects of scale, innovation, and ambition in 2022. In 2022 the Culture Team supported 43 projects with an audience reach of over 17,000.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Total Projects in 2022: 43

- Creative Ireland Bursaries: 8
- Culture Team Projects: 6
- One-off/Other projects: 3
- Cruinniú na nÓg: 22
- Legacy Projects: 1
- Creativity in Older Age: 2
- Rollover Projects:



Cruinniú na nÓg : Waking The Fairies, Knockma Forest Park Trail

Cruinniú na nÓg 2022

Cruinniú na nÓg was a massive success on Saturday 11th June. Twenty-one projects directly received support from the programme with events happening with groups of young people throughout the county. We have also partnered with Dance Ireland and Galway Community Circus to deliver larger scale events for children. See projects in Tuam and Ballinasloe below



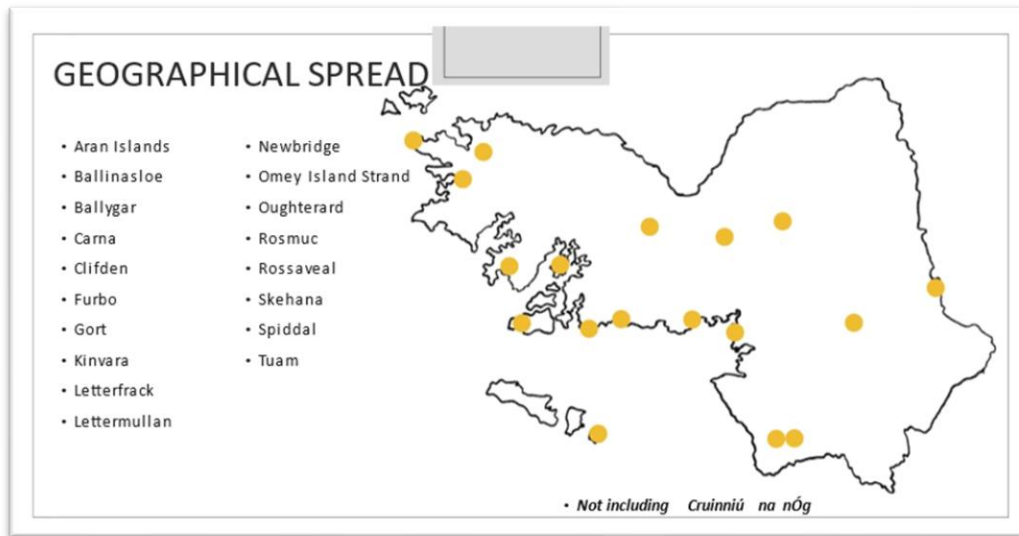


We also partnered with Dance Ireland and Galway Community Circus to deliver larger scale events for children. This year the Cruinniú na nÓg national ambassadors include two local brothers, The Barceló Brothers from Headford and they will take part in the national campaign to promote the event.



Culture Team Projects

The Galway County Creative Ireland Culture Team delivered a wide range of exciting projects across the county in 2022, the following are a selection of projects completed by the team showing a wide geographical spread.



Galway Wandering Kite Festival.

The second year of this unique festival took place on the Sunday 25th September on Omey Island Strand. This festival is funded and managed by members of the Galway County Creative Ireland Team as part of the Tourism/Community Development brief alongside the Creative Ireland Project Manager.



Wandering Kite Festival, Omey Strand c. Aengus McMahon

Scéal Teach Ceann Tuí, Inis Oirr

The last thatched house on Inis Oirr is a research project. Material is being collected on the people who lived in the house, how they lived and how the roof was maintained in the past. This project also involves looking into changing farming practices, the material used, and the skills involved as well as the stories and vocabulary used.

The Great Read: Westward Ho! Wandering West with Words

Following on from last year's Westward Ho! ramble, join Galway Library Service on a coastal journey as they wander further in the footsteps of our travel writers and discover the spoken word, poetry, prose and song which is embodied in some of our western writers, such as Seosamh Ó hÉanaí, Tim Robinson, Joe Steve Ó Neachtain, Caitlin Maude and others.



Westward Ho! Wandering West with Words

Ballinasloe 300th Anniversary

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

Island Images: From the Chambers Archive

This project is the production of a dual language publication featuring wonderful evocative photographs from the Chambers Albums, which capture the rugged landscape and simplicity of island life in 1930s Ireland. The similarity of life on different islands along the west coast, from the Great Blasket in Co. Kerry to the Aran Islands in Co. Galway and Árainn Mhór in County Donegal, is captured by George Chambers, a visiting Englishman, with sensitivity, grace, and humour.



Galway Forged Gates Project 2022

The vernacular forged wrought iron field gate is a very valuable, but often neglected, aspect of the cultural heritage of our rural landscape in county Galway. These field gates were for the most part forged in the local blacksmith's forge. They are practical and functional while at the same time are an artistic expression of the blacksmith who made them.

Heart of Gort

Heart of Gort looks at energy efficiency in traditionally built town centre houses. Focusing on one 19th century traditionally built former barracks in the town of Gort the energy efficiency project will build on previous interim reports, thermal imaging surveys and provisional BERS for five buildings in the town to design proposals that will ensure integration of all elements into the upgrading works necessary.

Creativity in Older Age Funding Projects

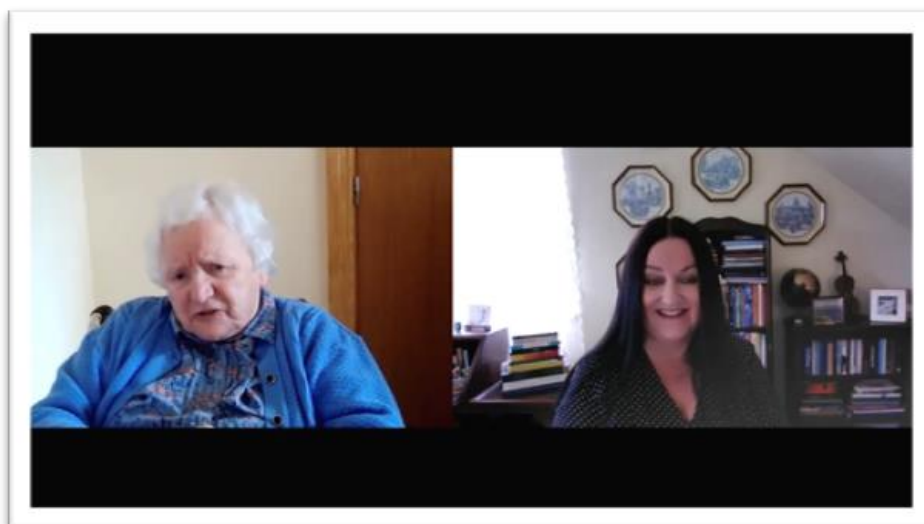
The Culture Team applied for funding (€27,000) under the Creativity in Older Years in collaboration with the Healthy Ireland & Age Friendly Coordinator and were successful in being awarded support.



Creative Carers

There were 2 projects in this strand. **Creative Carers** is a mixed Arts & Crafts programme that aims to enhance positivity and wellbeing for Connemara carers. In the Creative Carers Project local Connemara based artists facilitated Carers to communicate their caregiving experience in words or nonverbally through their art or focus on other topics during the sessions. Following sessions, groups celebrated by displaying their work, and family members and professionals were invited. The project was delivered by Forum Connemara CLG working in partnership with the HSE Carers Department, Galway.

The Nursing Homes Project was an archival project where folklorist Rachel Uí Fhaoláin engaged with nursing homes to keep residents through stories and song, culminating in a participatory event for their families and communities, and a DVD to support the process of transmission of folklore, stories, songs, and social history from older people to children in the community.



The Nursing Home Project

Creative Ireland Bursaries:

Eight bursary Projects were awarded to community groups and artists in 2022 to include projects such as:

Bloomsday in Skehana, Skehana and District Heritage Group celebrated Bloomsday through music, song, and narration in their local area.

Harness Your Hopes Podcast by Alan Meaney was a series of 6 podcast episodes showcasing fiction. Six of the West of Ireland's upcoming authors will write a short new story inspired by the theme of 'harness your hopes' and read it on the podcast.

Western Traveller Visual Art Workshops, a series of visual arts projects which will bring creative workshops to the Traveller Community and give equal access to creativity to all Travellers through Brú Bhríde, Western Traveller Centre in Tuam.

Herself by Twopair Film, was a large-scale public projection project that takes place in the centre of Gort on Saturday 4th February 2023. In collaboration with local community groups, artists Shona MacGillivray and Jill Beardsworth identify women whose lives and work embody the qualities that Brigid is known for.



Herself – Gort c. Aengus McMahon

New Home by Blaq Apollo gives an in-depth look into their everyday lives, the struggles they face when moving from Direct Provision to a small Irish town. The documentary also looks at the community around them as the project seeks to help the new residents to integrate into the Ballygar community through art and to provide a creative outlet to the new residents.

The Clearing by Galway Dance Project is a new dance film from Clifden-based dance artist Magdalena Hylak which focuses on rediscovering the narrative inside contemporary dance work. Filmed on location at various venues in Clifden, Co Galway, this film reflects on the breakdown of a long-term relationship, while also telling a story about emergence into a new life and way of being.



Landscape of Longhand by Artfarm Collective with the support of Newbridge Tidy Towns is a collaborative place-based community art project situated in Newbridge Village, East Galway. Embracing visual art, text/script, heritage, archive and photography, this project is based on the age-old art form of handwriting. Handwriting is a means of expression, a physical act of communicating thoughts and ideas and a means of sharing.

ENVIRONMENT &
CLIMATE CHANGE, FIRE
& MAJOR EMERGENCY
SERVICES, HUMAN
RESOURCES &
INFORMATION
SYSTEMS

ENVIRONMENT

The role of the Environment Section is to protect and enhance the Environment in the County of Galway in the interests of quality of life, economic development, and regulatory compliance. This is to be achieved through the implementation of numerous plans, measures, and programmes to be delivered throughout the Unit.

Strategic Goals

To maximise the continued and sustainable economic and enterprise development of our county

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

- The awareness team continued to engage with the domestic and commercial sectors in promoting environmental awareness.
- Information was provided on awareness and environmental activities through local media, social media, cinema, schools, voluntary groups etc.
- There was ongoing involvement with Tidy Towns groups.
- The Green Schools programme continues with over 90% of the schools in the County involved.
- There were a numerous Anti-Litter initiatives rolled out and funded by Galway County Council. The dog fouling campaign, "If They Poop, You Scoop" continued with the addition of "Green Dog Walkers", The Picker Pals Anti-Litter programme was delivered in 56 classes, an Anti-Litter Poster Competition was organised for National Schools, and a bilingual cinema advert was run in cinemas.
- Anti-Litter audio programme was continued at four bring bank centres, in Rinville Park and Portumna Bathing area. Anti-Litter radio adverts were aired on local radio stations.
- Grants were given to communities to maintain bring banks and burial grounds.
- Delivery of National Spring Clean, National Tree Week, Reuse Month, National Spring Clean, Community Clean Up Initiatives, and Christmas Tree Collections.
- Development of Green GAA club's toolkit was supported with launch in November 2022.
- Mobile WEEE collections were delivered in 22 communities.
- Gum Litter Taskforce and Irish Business against Litter campaigns were supported.



PICKER PALS





PLANNING

189 planning applications and planning compliance referrals with a significant environmental risk were reviewed by the Environment Section. Staff attend pre-planning meetings, review planning applications and plans and make recommendations in relation to conditions/further information/grant/refusal. The available staff resource is assigned to the highest risk activities.

WASTE SERVICES

WASTE SERVICES

Three Civic Amenity Sites are provided in the county at Tuam, Ballinasloe and Clifden which are operated on behalf of the Council by Barna Recycling. Following a tendering process, a new operations contract was awarded to the incumbent for three years until 2024. In conjunction with the contract the facilities at the sites were upgraded and the range of acceptable waste types extended. A design consultant has been appointed to prepare construction drawings and tender documentation in respect to a proposed Civic Amenity Site for Gort for which planning permission was granted in 2022.

HISTORIC LANDFILLS

Environments risk assessments, monitoring and responses to further information requests by the EPA were undertaken throughout the year to progress Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) applications for historic landfills in the County. At present GCC have been issued one draft license by the EPA, completed further information responses for two CoA applications, awaiting feedback on one CoA application submission, finalising submission for a fifth application and preparing tender documents for a detailed risk assessment on a sixth site.

With funding support from Department of Environment, Climate and Communications the aftercare at Kilconnell landfill is being operated and maintained per the conditions of its waste license. In 2022 the final sections of the 4,000m of steel perimeter fencing were erected. Upgrade works to the leachate management and gas collection system were substantially completed at the

Pollboy landfill in 2022. The procurement process to engage landscape architect led design teams for preliminary amenity design works commenced for both sites.

Strategic Priority

To improve, protect and promote our environment, culture, heritage, and language in the interests of present and future generations

The Environment Section manages 615 permits, certificates, and registrations in relation to waste and water activities.

WASTE ENFORCEMENT

Investigations were carried out in response to complaints received from the National Illegal Dumping line, general public, council staff and EPA referral in line with national priorities and within the timelines set out in the Enforcement Policy where possible.

Waste enforcement inspections were carried out in relation to permitted and certified waste facilities, commercial premises, permitted and bogus waste collectors, illegal dumping and construction and development sites. 1142 investigations were carried out in relation to waste and litter complaints. During 2022, 673 inspections were carried out under the Waste Presentation Byelaws. The areas were chosen as they had been the subject of numerous complaints. All non-compliant households were given verbal Section 14 Directions in relation to waste segregation and where required they were directed to obtain a brown bin. Non-compliant households will be reinspected.

In 2022 the Environment Section carried out 13 projects under the ADI scheme, including a number in conjunction with Galway City Council. We ran a few short-term schemes to provide an outlet for items that are commonly found to be dumped illegally. Bulky goods collections were carried out at our 3 civic amenity sites and on Inis boffin. A total of 76 tonnes of bulky goods was collected. Galway County Council also ran a waste paint collection.

Two major clean-ups were carried out at historic dump sites, with approximately 36 tonnes of waste removed. Galway County Council also carried out an anti-dumping awareness campaign. This included the hire of electronic billboards for a few weeks displaying an Anti-Dumping message. These were installed at known dumping blackspots and on the approach roads to the major towns in the county. Advertising billboards were also used to highlight the consequences of using unauthorised waste collectors.

190 groups registered with the National Spring Clean were assisted through the provision of pickers, bags, gloves, and collection services.

Significant work was carried out on sites of interest in 2022. A major site of interest was one at which approx. 8,000 tonnes of tyres was identified. This was a former authorised facility. The council revoked the permit and initiated legal proceedings in 2021. Galway County Council, with the assistance of WERLA, have secured funding from the relevant Department to facilitate the

clean-up of the site. The management of this project will require significant staff resources in 2023. The tendering process of this project was completed at the end of 2022 and the council is now in the process of appointing the successful contractor. It is hoped to complete this project by the end of 2023.

Full details in relation to inspections and enforcement activities in the areas of waste, water, air and noise are set out in the RMCEI returns for 2022.

BEACHES

The following 6 beaches achieved Blue Flag status in 2022:

- Trá an Dóilín, An Cheathrú Rua
- Loughrea Lake
- An Trá Mhór, Indreabhán
- Cill Mhuirbhígh, Inis Mór
- Bathing Place at Portumna
- Trá Inis Oirr (Main Beach)

The following 6 beaches achieved Green Coast Award status in 2022:

- Trá Inis Oirr (Main Beach)
- Aillebrack, Ballyconneely
- East End, Inishbofin
- Duahach, Inishbofin
- Renvyle Beach (Whitestrans Beach)
- Poll na gCaorach, Formna, Inis Oirr

Actions were taken to protect public health by continuing to monitor bathing water quality and implement non-compliance protocols at 28 bathing areas during the bathing water season.

There were algal blooms in several locations on Lough Corrib at which people bathe but which are not included in our bathing water monitoring programme. Signs were put in place warning people of the risk to human and animal health.

Strategic Priority

To maximise organisational capacity through the continuous review of operational efficiency, financial and risk management and the development of our Staff and Elected Members

BURIAL GROUNDS

A new burial ground in Brooklodge, Ballyglunin was completed in 2022 which will provide approx. 300 double plots. Planning applications were approved for development of burial ground

extensions in Creagh (Ballinalsoe) and Ballyconnelly and planning submissions were made for developments in Claregalway and Duniry.

With support from local burial ground committees, several minor works / projects were also undertaken to improve and maintain our existing burial grounds throughout the County.

An annual grant of between €300 - €600 was provided to committees who maintain burial grounds in their area and 147 committees were awarded a grant.

Strategic Priority

To facilitate the broadest possible participation by citizens in local decision making and the sustainable development of their communities and their county

VETERINARY SERVICES

- The Council provides a Veterinary Public Health Inspection Service in both Galway City and County. This service fulfils the terms of its service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland. There is currently one fulltime veterinarian in the service, following the retirement of the County Veterinary Officer in September 2022.
- Discussions are still ongoing between the CCMA and the DAFM in respect of the transfer of veterinary officers from all local authorities to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. The contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland contract has been rolled over until end of December 2023.
- There are 11 low throughput abattoirs in the county which slaughter cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry, and process wild game. The Council also supervises 14 approved and three registered meat processing premises in both the city and county. While the Covid situation impacted on-site visits, 115 inspections and audits were carried out in 2022. 73 samples were taken for microbiological and chemical safety of food and for the presence of antibiotic, heavy metal, and anthelmintic residues, as part of an EC monitoring program. Galway County Council's Veterinary Service has an advisory role for existing and prospective meat food business operators at start-up phase and is involved at steering level in the development of the BIA Innovator campus Athenry.

DOG CONTROL

- Dog control and the promotion of responsible dog ownership in the County continues to be monitored by our dog warden service. It was another very challenging year for the service which saw a significant increase in the number of stray and abandoned dogs entering the system. A new dog warden was appointed to cover the east of the County in April 2022. All complaints received by the warden service continued to be logged and responded to during 2022. 36 fines for breaches of the Control of Dogs Act were issued during 2022. Approx. 90% of dogs which came through the LA pound system were rehomed in 2022.
- In September 2021, Galway County Council closed its dog shelter facility in Loughrea, Co. Galway. Expressions of interest were subsequently sought for the provision of a dog shelter facility with or without the additional service of shelter keeper service covering

primarily the east of the county. Following evaluations of the expressions of interest received, The Council entered into an agreement with a contractor for the provision of the service until end of quarter one 2023. It is planned to run a tender for the provision of a dog shelter and associated services from quarter two 2023.

- The Council also provides a large Animal Pound facility at Ballinasloe. The Council veterinary service provides advice and assistance to the Housing Section in the implementation of the Control of Horses Act.
- Eight Dog Breeding Establishments are registered with Galway County Council, and these are inspected, and risk assessed as per the Dog Breeding Establishment legislation.
- Galway County Council's Veterinary Service continues to participate in the cross agency Western Zoonosis Committee with the HSE and Department Agriculture, Food, and the Marine. Animal Welfare/Marine Mammal cases were logged and where relevant, investigated in conjunction with the competent authorities, providing advice and assistance where necessary.

CLIMATE CHANGE

GOVERNANCE AND STAFF RESOURCES

A Climate Change Coordinator was appointed in February 2022 and an Energy Officer role was established in November 2022. The governance structure was reviewed, and a new structure was approved by the Management Team. As part of the implementation of this structure, a new Climate Action Steering Group was established, and the existing Energy Team and Climate Action Team were restructured. A new Regional Energy Bureau was established in May 2022 and an Energy Bureau Officer was appointed to assist Galway County Council in September 2022.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Funding was provided to communities under the Climate Action Opportunity Fund.

Under SEAI's Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) Program, the Environment Section engaged with several SECs to support them develop their own Energy Master Plans (EMPs). Galway County Council appointed consultants to deliver EMPs for Headford SEC, Milltown SEC, Dunmore SEC, Athenry and Ballinasloe SECs. The Headford, Milltown and Dunmore Energy Masterplans were finalised and launched in 2022.

The Environment Section supported actions by the public under the Climate Action Opportunity Fund 2021. Results were communicated to applicants in late 2021 and projects were delivered in 2022.

We joined the steering group of the Local Energy Agencies in Peripheral Regions LIFE funded project and the Islands and the Gaeltacht Local Energy Agency which is being established under this project. We will continue to liaise closely on this project.

We also joined the steering group for the PPN Green Recovery Group Energy Masterplan. As part of the development of the plan, the Green Recovery Group invited the public to nominate Community Buildings to put forward for funded Energy Assessments. 40 applications were submitted. A limited number can be funded by SEAI through the Energy Masterplan and the C&E and Environment Section are following up to see if additional energy audits can be funded through other schemes.

A Decarbonisation Zone Protect project submitted by NUIG and supported by GCC and many other partners was awarded funding under the Community Climate Action Programme administered by Pobal. In summary, the aims of the project are to develop an engagement, dialogue, and participation tool, a local DZ plan procedure guide to ensure input from marginalised communities, exemplar case studies, and provide training. We will be supporting this project going forward.

INTERNAL ENERGY USE

The Energy Team put forward 3 buildings for funding for initial upgrade works under SEAI pathfinder funding – Ballinasloe Area Office, Tuam Area Office, and Mountbellew Fire Station. A response is expected in Q1 2023. Detailed assessments of the Tuam and Ballinasloe Leisure Centres were carried out under Phase 1 of the SEAI EXEED program, and they will progress to upgrade works under Phase 2 of the programme in 2023. We rolled out the national Reduce Your Use Campaign in Q4 2022 to encourage staff to promote energy efficiency behaviour at work, at home and as we travel.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Background work was carried out on the development of the GCC Climate Action Plan. Supported by workshops with staff throughout the organisation, a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Assessment and Risk Assessment were carried out and draft documents were submitted for review in Q4 2022.

ADAPTATION

In Q2 2022 we were involved in developing and supporting the national Protect Our Dunes awareness campaign. Damage to sand dunes is evident all around the coast and the campaign aims to highlight the importance and fragility of these natural coastal protections and important habitats.

EDUCATION

A Climate Awareness Day was held on the 22nd of June. The event was open to the public and provided information on how staff and the public can reduce their energy consumption, reduce household waste, prevent illegal dumping, and support biodiversity. Information was highlighted on our social media and via national media.



Awareness-raising activities were also carried out as part of “Your Council Day” on the 1st of July. As well as highlighting the work of Galway County Council in relation to Climate Action on our social media channels we also received national media coverage; we highlighted the role of LAs in delivering climate action on the Pat Kenny Show on Newstalk [Your Council Day - Pat Kenny Show - CARO](#).

Education activities were supported in the Tuam and Oranmore libraries in August.



We participated in an online Climate Youth Dialogues event organised by SAUTI Youth, the aim of which was to connect youth groups with staff and elected representatives from Local Authorities in Galway.

A presentation was given to Minister Eamonn Ryan in relation to climate actions ongoing throughout the organisation and the proposed structure to drive climate action going forward.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

An interesting workshop on the incorporation of the Sustainable Development Goals into the work of GCC was held in December 202. It was open to staff and local representatives.



EMERGENCY SERVICES

Introduction

Galway Fire & Rescue service (GFRS) has the following responsibilities in that it:

- Responds to emergencies other than just fires, such as road traffic collisions, hazardous materials incidents, water rescues, flooding and major accidental hazards;
- Aspires to prevent emergencies happening in the first place through a range of fire prevention and technical fire safety work carried out within the County and City and various community fire safety initiatives.
- Is the Local Authority Principal Emergency Service (PES) in Galway City and County Councils, who as Local Authorities are Principal Response Agencies (PRA) in accordance with the National Framework for Major Emergency Management 2006.

There are currently 11 stations serving Galway County with a population of 179,048 people and Galway city with a population of 79,504 (CSO statistics 2016) as shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1: GFRS Fire Station Locations

Fire Stations are located at:

- Athenry
- Ballinasloe
- Clifden
- Galway City (Headquarters)
- Gort
- Inis Mór
- Loughrea
- Mountbellew
- Portumna
- Tuam
- An Cheathrú Rua

The Council now employs 167 fire-fighting personnel in Galway Fire and Rescue Service including full time and retained fire-fighters in the City and County, senior fire officers, a brigade mechanic and a Civil Defence Officer. In addition, Galway FRS has 5 civilian administrative support staff as Headquarters staff who are based in Galway City Fire station.

COVID 19

As with all Irish society, COVID-19 has had a dramatic impact of the service provision of the Fire Service in 2020 and 2021. The fire services are considered an essential service and are obliged to maintain its services throughout the pandemic. Galway Fire and Rescue Service developed a comprehensive and robust Business Continuity Plan specific to the pandemic to ensure business continuity. Throughout this portion of the annual report, COVID-19 will be referred to where it had an impact on the provision of service by Galway Fire and Rescue Services. While many, if not all the COVID-19 control measure and precautions were relaxed in general society some, such as reduced

personnel in vehicles and the wearing of facemasks were maintained in the Fire service to ensure our continued ability to respond to emergencies.

Strategic Goal

“To improve, protect and promote our environment, culture, heritage and language in the interests of present and future generations.”

KEEPING COMMUNITIES SAFE – A FRAMEWORK FOR FIRE SAFETY IN IRELAND

“Keeping Communities Safe”, which is the outcome of a review of Fire Services and Fire Safety in Ireland was published in February 2013 by the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management (NDFEM). “Keeping Communities Safe” (KCS) is an integrated blueprint for the development of the critical public safety roles performed by Fire Services, to be implemented in the period of 2013-2015, that manages risk, by addressing public safety improvement, incident reduction, response standards and service delivery structures for the decade ahead.

The draft area risk categorisation (ARC) for all Fire Station grounds in Galway had been completed and was submitted to NDFEM in summer of 2015 to form part of the 1st National External Validation Group (EVG) report, as requested by NDFEM Circular 05/2015. A national EVG 1 Report was issued by NDFEM in 2016. A second round of EVG visits was due to take place in 2020 which because of the pandemic, did not occur.

Because of the pandemic, it was not possible for the NDFEM to conduct the planned EVG II visit in 2020. In its stead the NDFEM conducted a “Capacity Review” of all fire services to ascertain how those services planned and conducted its business during the pandemic. The “capacity review board” issued its report in October 2020. Galway Fire and Rescue Service fared very well in the report and was held up as an example of the use of ArcGIS for operational intelligence and management in the area of Community Fire Safety and Severe Weather Emergency Management. As a result of the Capacity Review, a senior fire officer from GFRS assisted, and is continuing to assist the NDFEM to develop our ArcGIS based operational intelligence platform to roll it out nationally to all fire authorities.

CAMP WEST (WEST REGION FIRE CONTROL)

Galway FRS continued to run and pilot the CAMP Next Generation mobilisation trial at Galway City fire station as part of roll-out of new out-station equipment in Fire Stations in West region as part of Camp C_{Trí} project. Technical preparatory work has been carried out in 2018 and 2019 in all Fire stations to enable the transfer over to the National digital radio system (TETRA) in all vehicles and HQ Fire Station which has now been completed. This system replaced the existing VHF network. In 2021 the command-and-control system and computer aided dispatch system common to all regional fire communication centres was upgraded and was due go live in Q3 2022. That go live did not occur, however the C_{Trí} Project Board are hopeful that the system will go live in 2023. The C_{Trí} project board have gone to tender for the procurement of digital radios to replace all UHF (incident

ground) radios in service nationally thereby improving incident ground communications and creating resilience in the service.

HEALTH & SAFETY MANAGEMENT

Galway FRS Health and Safety policy is contained in Galway County Council's Local Authority Safety Management System Manual / Safety Statement. The Council Safety manual as customised for Galway FRS addresses the working environments encountered by the Fire Service, where combining need, risk, and resources in a wide range of situations has long been a feature of service management. Galway County Council's Local Authority Safety Management System Manual / Safety Statement sets out the approach, which this Fire Authority adopts in relation to managing safety and in particular meeting its statutory obligations under Section 20 of the Safety, Health, and Welfare at Work Act 2005.

ISO 45001: Occupational Health & Safety Management System

Having achieved accreditation to the OHSAS 18001 safety management system in December 2016 the retention of this accreditation and the H&S management programme have been major drivers of much of the fire service's H&S related activities in 2022 and are briefly summarised as follows: -

ISO 45001

In October 2018 Galway FRS successfully achieved accreditation to the new Internationally Recognised Standard ISO 45001. Surveillance audits conducted by the accreditation body (NSAI in this case) play a key role of the ISO 45001 system to ensure that safety management systems are constantly maintained and consistently improved as per the requirements of the code of practice. In this regard Galway FRS successfully passed two surveillance audits that were conducted in June and December of 2022 and the next audits are scheduled for June 2022. In the period between NSAI surveillance audits, Galway FRS underwent 2 internal audits to ensure the maintenance of, and compliance with NSAI standards



Figure 3: OHSAS 18001 Presentation 2018

- **Fire Station Safety Checks**

A new initiative of carrying out regular safety checks in fire stations was commenced in 2017. The purpose of these checks, which are conducted on a six-monthly basis for county retained fire stations and on a quarterly basis for Galway City fire station, is to augment the existing suite of static risk assessments of our fire stations (which are reviewed on a three yearly basis). They also allow for the early identification of potential hazards in the fire stations thus expediting the implementation of appropriate control measures and corrective actions.

- **Meetings / Consultations**

Galway FRS H&S Steering Group continued to meet on a regular basis in 2022. All such meeting were held either in person or via the MS Teams platform, a capability embraced as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The conduction of H&S Operational Group meetings for the City & City Retained personnel and separately for County Retained personnel was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic as the feasibility to hold on site meetings was very much restricted. Nonetheless a reduced amount of such meetings took place in 2020 and 2021. These meetings were as per the required schedule, either in person or via MS Teams

- **Audits**

As mentioned above the last ISO 45001 surveillance audit was conducted in June and November 2022 by the NSAI. In 2022, the first audit was conducted virtually with our systems and administration within the fire service being examined. As a result of the relaxation of COVID-19 control measures nationally, the second audit (December) was conducted in person with the Tuam fire station being selected as the location of the audits. Fire service personnel made significant efforts to ensure that their fire stations were well presented. The NSAI found that there was no area of concern to warrant the withdrawal of certification and the ISO 45001 certification was successfully retained. The next audits are scheduled for June 2023.

- **Legionella Control**

Following the legionella risk assessments of the fire stations that took place in 2016 a Legionella Control programme was developed and instigated in 2017. The programme involves the monthly monitoring of water services infrastructure in all fire stations by a specialist contractor. In parallel to this particular programme a separate programme of carrying out remedial works to water services infrastructure in all fire stations was initiated to address issues identified in the legionella risk assessments. These works were predominantly concluded in December 2017. Legionella monitoring continued in 2022 in order to continue to lower the legionella risk rating in fire stations.

- **Hygiene Subgroup**

Following international research into the potential health consequences of exposure to the products of combustion to fire fighters, and in response to discussions held during the Health and Safety Operational Group meetings, a Hygiene Subgroup was established consisting of representatives of

fire service management and retained and full-time fire fighters. This group is looking at national and international research and has produced a draft report containing possible control measures to be considered to reduce any potential risks.

- **H&S Documentation**

A number of documents relating to the safety management system were reviewed & updated in 2022 and copies of same issued to fire stations. We have continued to upload documentation relating to the safety management system onto the library function of the Incident Control Room software system and appliance tablets. It is planned to keep all such H&S documentation in this manner thus ensuring that the most up to date documentation will always be available to all fire crews. All operational guidance is circulated in the same manner.

- **Covid-19**

The onset of the Covid-19 brought about the introduction of additional H&S related oversight / roles, new procedures, practices and administrative functions across all areas of the fire service. It is envisaged that same will continue throughout 2023.

FIRE OPERATIONS (RESPONSE)

The total number of emergency responses by Galway Fire Rescue Service (GFRS) in Galway City and County respectively in 2022 was 1830 (1699 incidents) with 699 in Galway City Fire Ground and 1131 emergency responses in remainder of Galway County. The overall call rate increases from 2021 with an increase of 132 calls in the City and an increase of 266 calls in the County. Figure 4 shows the trend of incidents /responses from 2012 – 2022 for Galway City and County. Following a decrease in the trend of the number of incidents / responses attended in 2019, 2020 and 2021 there has been a significant increase in 2022. Much of this increase is attributable to the marked increase in the number of gorse and wildland fires attended in the spring/summer of 2022. Figure 5 shows trends of incidents / responses in the City and County Fire ground areas respectively from 2012 -2022.

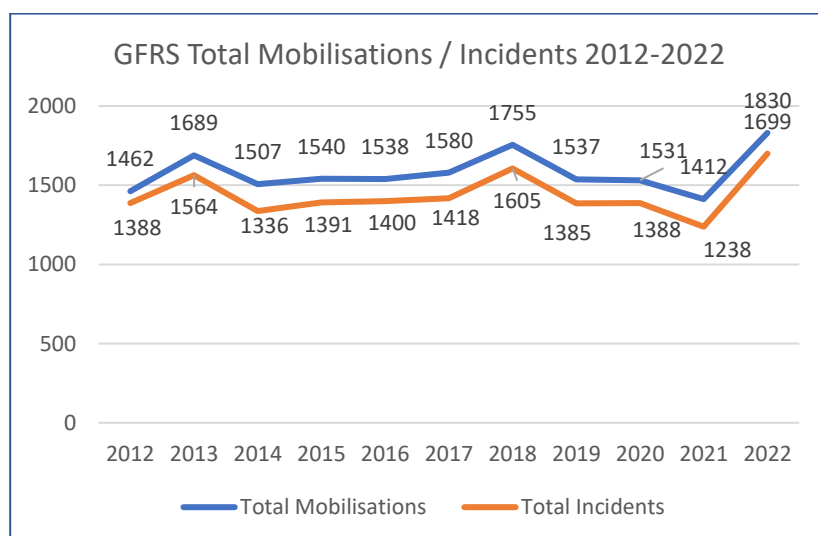


Figure 4: Incident Trends for Galway City and County 2012 – 2022

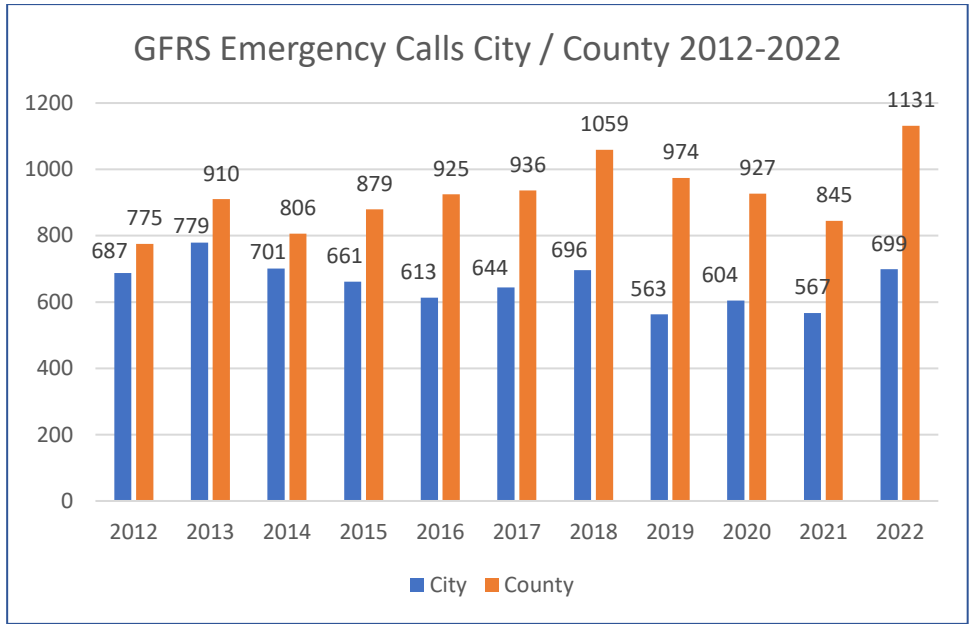


Figure 5: Incident Trends for City & County Fire Ground Areas 2012-2022

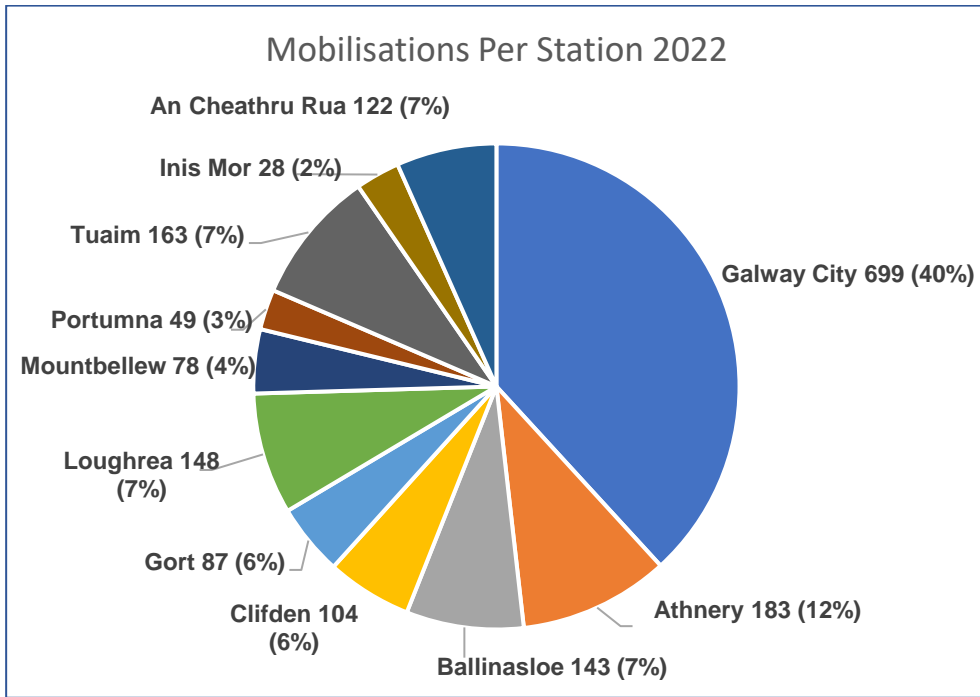


Figure 6: Breakdown of Mobilisations per Station in 2022

Figure 6 gives a breakdown of mobilisations per station 2022. Overall activity levels have increased from 2021 levels for the reasons outlined above with the percentage activity per station remaining relatively steady.

Fire Fatalities

Thankfully there were no fatalities due to accidental fires in 2022 in Galway city and county.

MAJOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (MEM)

The Major Emergency Development Committee (MEDC) which was established by the Council as part of New National Framework for Major Emergency Management (MEM) continued its work. The GCC Major Emergency Plan was submitted and signed off in 2021, therefore only updates to Appendix B1 and B2 “Key Role Holders” took place in 2022. This was managed by the Human Resources Department.

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic a Mortality Management Plan was prepared by Galway Fire & Rescue Service (GFRS) and the plan was exercised during an inter-agency exercise conducted in July 2020. A software system GEMMS (Galway Emergency Mortality Management System) (*Figure 8*) was created by the GCC GIS Officer and GFRS to manage excess mortality. The system was adapted from the SWEMS (Severe Weather Event Management System) within a very short time period. The system was also tested during the exercise and can be used as an inter-agency tool to track all fatalities. The system remains live and updates to the system were carried out throughout 2022. To add resilience and to increase GCCs body holding capacity, 2 No. rigid refrigerated vehicles (*Figures 9 & 10*) were purchased by GFRS. Each vehicle was shelved and has a capacity of 24 No. bodies. These vehicles along with the GFRS MOSCU (Mobile On-site Co-ordination Unit) were displayed during exercises throughout 2022 to ensure all Principal Response Agencies (PRAs) and Principal Emergency Services (PES) were familiar and aware of the capabilities of same.

As part of Severe Weather planning, Galway County Council continued the development of a Severe Weather Incident Mapping System (SWEMS) as shown in Figure 11. The system can be used for reporting and recording on an ARC GIS live map, the locations, and incidences of all flooding events in the Galway County Council functional area. The system is linked automatically to the GCC Weather Related Road Closure Map on the GCC Website, to MapAlerter and to the GCC Twitter page, which all allow for automatic updates to be provided to the public during a weather event. Refresher training with all Municipal Districts took place during 2022 and will continue throughout 2023.

Locally, the MEM committee continued their work on the revision of External Emergency Plans (EEP) for Upper Tier Seveso Site (under the Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances Regulations 2015). Under these regulations the relevant Principal Response Agencies (PRA’s), termed Local Competent Authorities (LCA’s), must review EEPs every three years including the running of exercises. The agencies (LCA’s) involved include Galway County Council (including Galway Fire and Rescue Service as it’s PES), Galway City Council, Galway Garda Division, HSE West (including the National Ambulance Service (NAS)) and the site operator and other agencies including the Port Authority, if applicable. Work commenced on the Circle K (Upper Tier COMAH Site) EEP in February 2022. The Plan was reviewed, went to public consultation and a test mobilisation of Principle Response Agencies (PRA’s) was completed and signed off in 2022.

The following major emergency exercises and training were held in 2022:

- Circle K Oil Terminal EEP Tabletop Exercise on 31st March 2022.

- Major Emergency Management, Information Manager Training on the 6th and 7th October 2022.
- Island Response Exercise on 15th November 2022.
- Circle K Oil Terminal Blind Mobilisation Live (Test) Exercise (OSCC) on 7th December 2022.
- As part of these exercises, GFRS continued to embed the Mobile On-Site Co-Ordination Unit (based in Gort fire station) as shown in Figure 14 and the Local Co-Ordination Centre. Both use the new electronic information management system (eIMS).

Galway County Council personnel also continued their participation in both the MEM West Regional Steering and the MEM West Regional Working Groups involving members of the Principal Emergency Services (PES) in the West Region (Local Authority Fire Services, Local Garda Divisions and HSE West Ambulance Service).

Galway County Council Headquarters continues as the main location of the Local Co-Ordination Centre (LCC) for the three Principal Response Agencies (PRA's), Galway County Council, HSE West and Galway Garda Division, for Major Emergencies in the Galway City and County area. In mid-2018 a case was submitted to the NDFEM for funding to provide a back-up generator for the LCC as part of GCC's business continuity plan. The generator has been procured and was delivered in early 2020. GFRS submitted a claim and recouped the cost of the generator from the NDFEM in mid-2020.

Galway County Council also managed the annual regional claim on behalf of the 8 PRA's in the West Region in 2022 as in previous years.

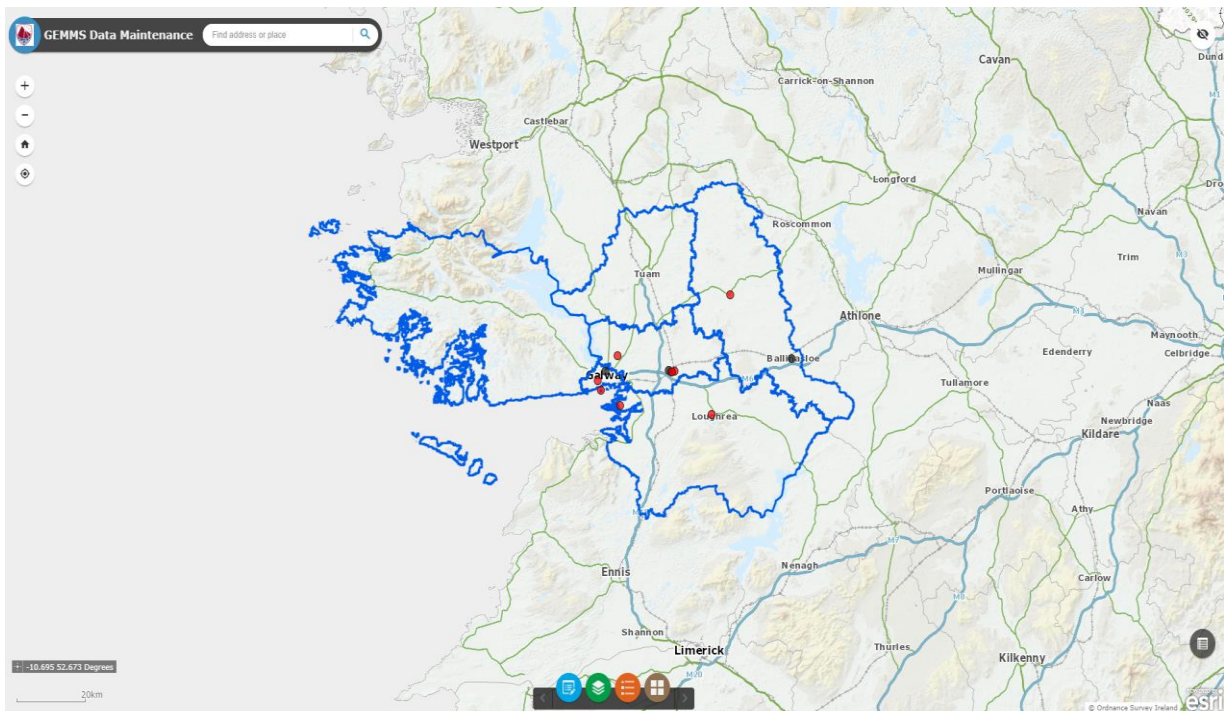


Figure 8: GEMMS Mapping System



Figure 9: Covid 19 Mortality Management Exercise 2020



Figure 10: GFRS MFU-01 Refrigerated Body Holding Truck

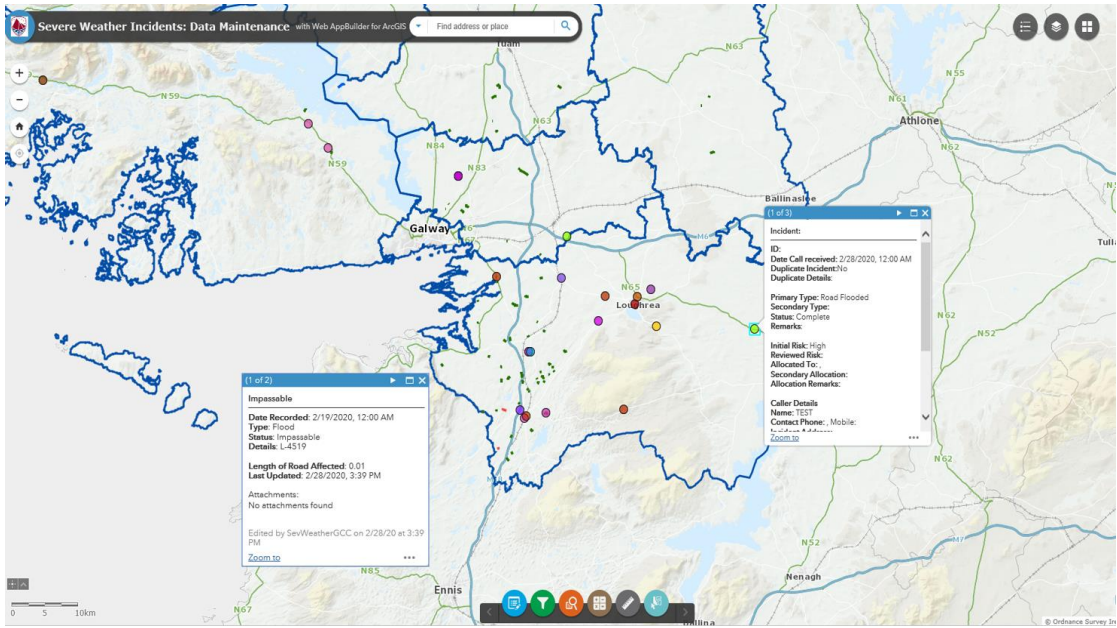


Figure 11: Severe Weather Event Management System



Figure 12: Fleximort Refrigerated Multiple Fatality Storage Unit



Figure 13: Refrigerated Multiple Fatality Storage Container Unit



Figure 14: Galway Regional MEM On-Site Co-Ordination Centre (OSCC) Unit

CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT

Galway County Council as contracting authority for the local authority Fire Services in the CAMP West region continues to manage a contract by Inspire Ltd for the provision of CISM services to Fire Services in the West region from October 2021 to September 2024.

Strategic Goal

“To facilitate the broadest possible participation by citizens in local decision making and the sustainable development of their communities and their county.”

COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY & PREVENTION

Work was ongoing in the Fire Prevention & Fire Safety Section throughout 2022 despite COVID 19 restrictions. While the schools programme was suspended during the pandemic, it will be resumed in 2023.

Inspections

The Fire Prevention Section carried out 237 inspections of premises in 2022 as part of its Fire Prevention Function, under the Fire Services Act 1981, Building Control Act 1990 and 2014, Licensing Acts, Planning Acts, and the Dangerous Substances Act. This figure represents an increase in inspections 41 more than 2021.

Public License Applications

The Fire Prevention Section received 155 public licence applications in 2022. Public licence activity from 2011 to 2022 is shown in Figure 15.

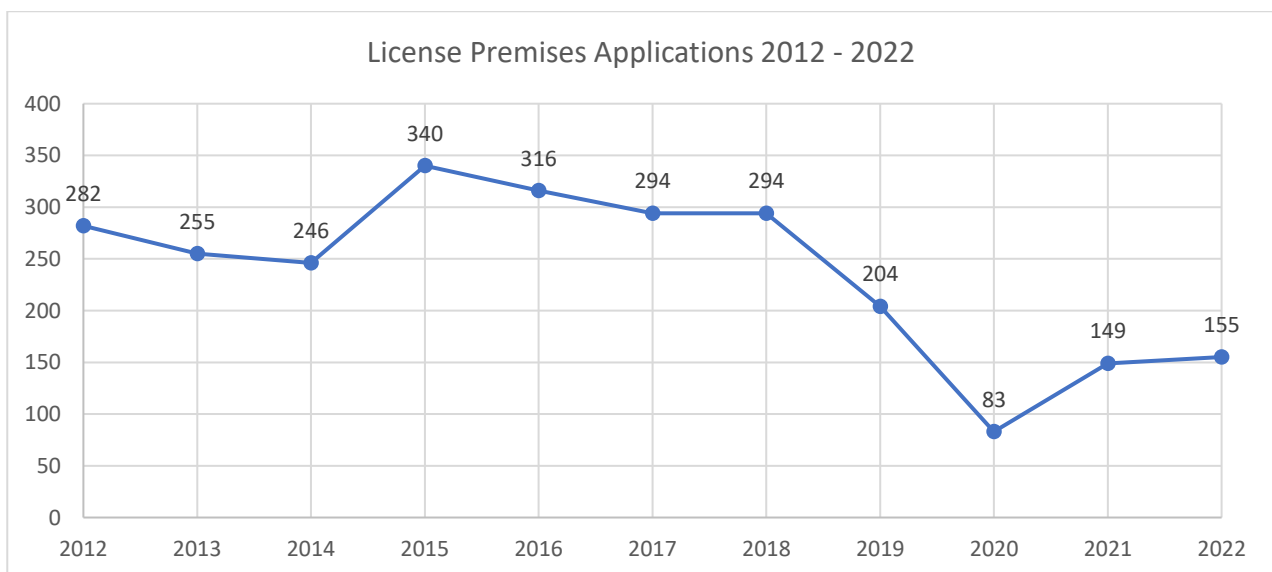


Figure 15: Public License Applications 2012- 2022

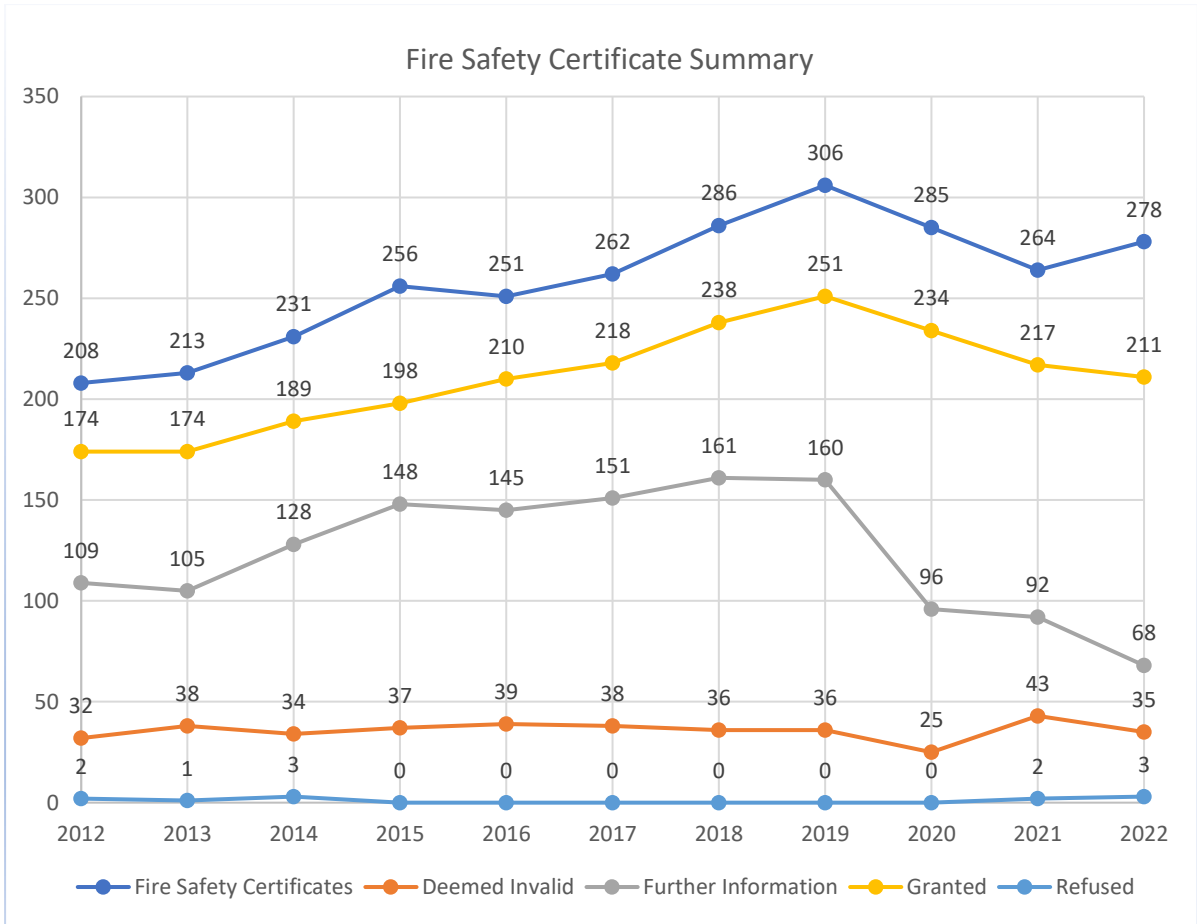


Figure 16: Fire Safety Certificate (FSC) Activity 2012- 2022

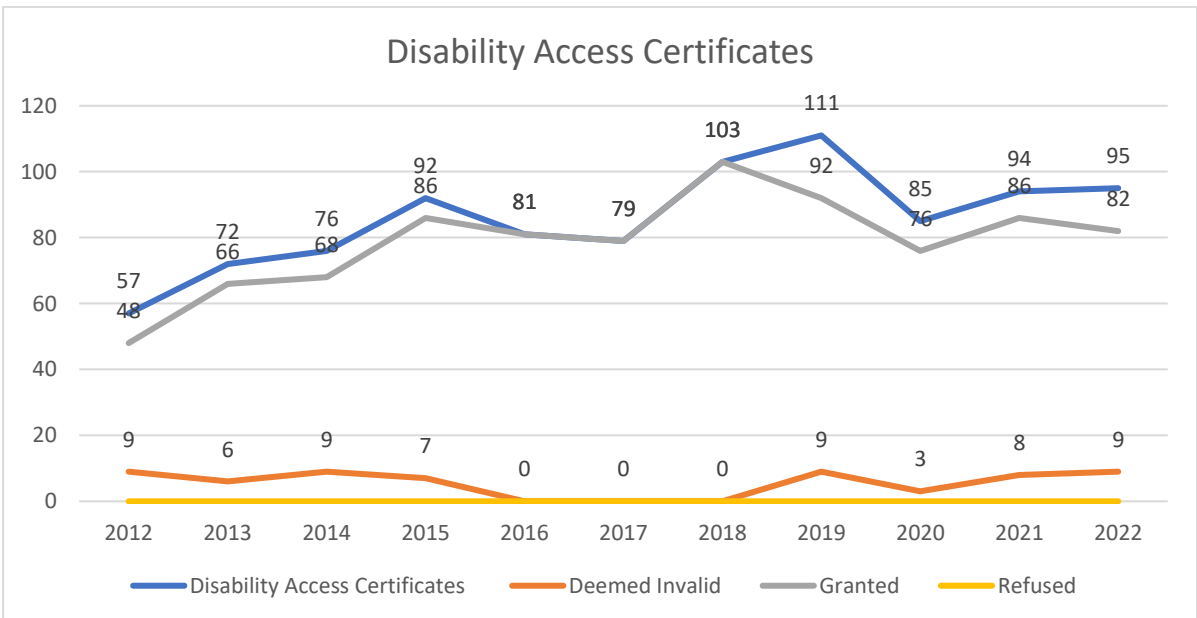


Figure 17: Disability Access Certificate Activity 2012-2022

Fire Safety Certificate Applications

The Fire Prevention Section dealt with 278 Fire Safety Certificate Applications of all types under the Building Control Regulations, 167 in the County Council area and 111 in the City Council area. The overall number of Fire Safety Certificate applications represents a increase of 5.3% from 2021. Fire Safety Certificate activity from 2012 to 2022 is shown in Figure 16.

Disability Access Certificates

The total number of Disability Access Certificates dealt with in 2022 was 95, an increase of 1 from 2021. Disability Access Certificate activity from 2012 to 2022 is shown in Figure 17.

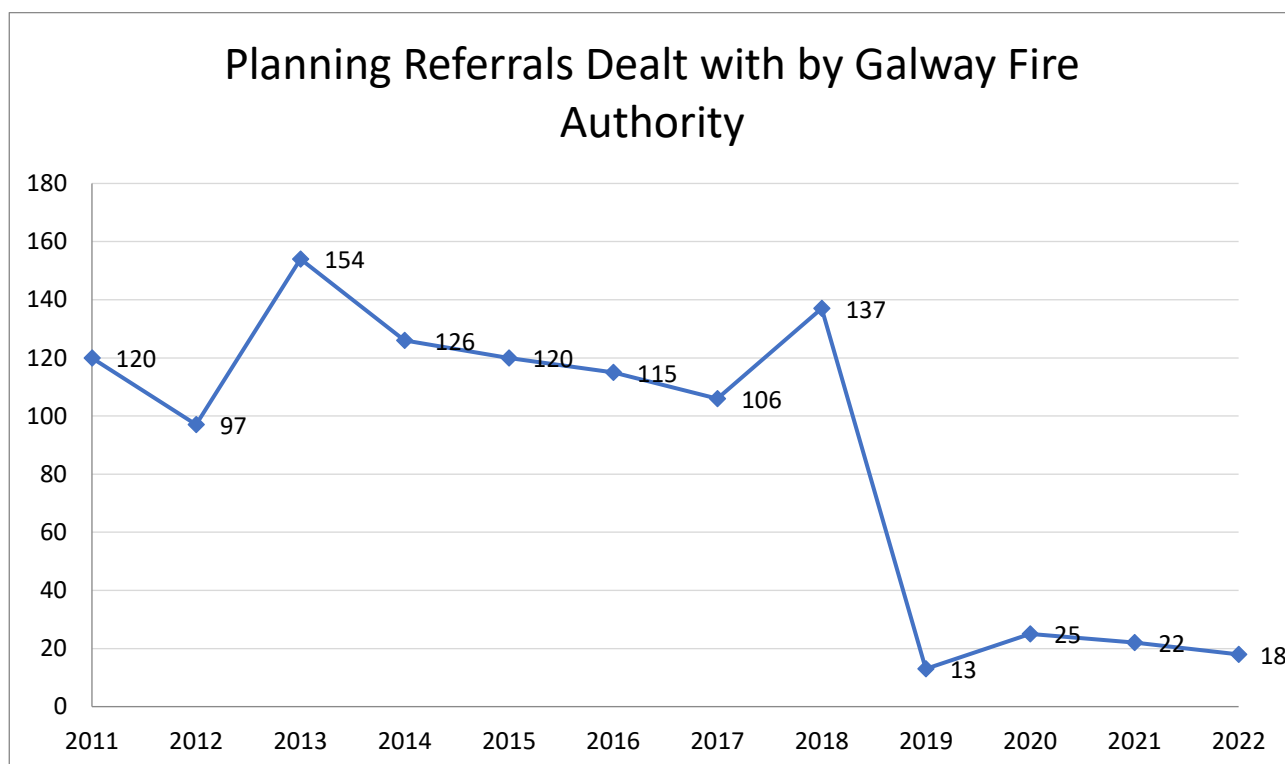


Figure 18: Planning Referrals 2011-2022

Planning Referrals

There was a slight decrease in planning referrals in 2022 with the total number of planning referrals in 2021 for the City and County being 18. The planning referral activity from 2011 to 2022 are shown in Figure 18.

Community and Island Fire Safety

During 2022 Galway Fire & Rescue Service (GFRS) procured 700 No. self-contained smoke alarms with long life batteries. Along with existing stock, these smoke alarms were installed in households throughout Galway. A Home Fire Safety Check was also carried out for each dwelling at the time of the smoke alarm installation and throughout 2022 GFRS completed 141 No. Home Fire Safety Checks.

The project was assisted by Forum Connemara who provided 150No. smoke alarms that were installed by GFRS in the Clifden area.

| Home Fire Safety Checks 2022 | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Area | Completed by | No. Completed |
| Galway City | GFRS Galway City | 10 |
| Ballinasloe | GFRS Ballinasloe | 17 |
| Clifden | GFRS Clifden | 89 |
| Loughrea | GFRS Loughrea | 6 |
| Tuam | GFRS Tuam | 3 |
| Inis Mor | GFRS Inis Mor | 13 |
| Carraroe | GFRS Carraroe | 3 |
| | Total | 141 |

Table 1: 2022 Home Fire Safety Checks

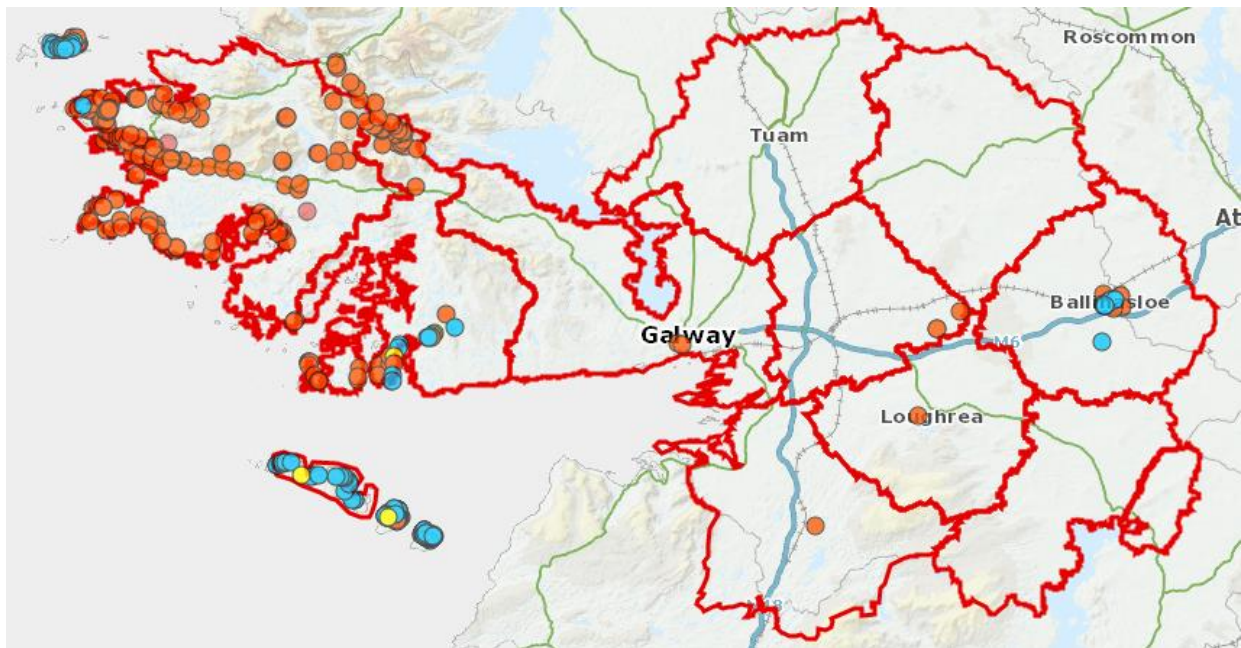


Figure 19: CRISP-P extract of Home Fire Safety Checks



Figure 20: GFRS Clifden receiving smoke alarms from Forum Connemara

| | | |
|--|---|---|
|  | <p>Galway Fire & Rescue Service Seirbhís Dóiteáin & Tarrthála na Gaillimhe</p> |  <p>An Garda Síochána</p> |
| <p><u>Wildfire Information for Farmers & Landowners</u></p> | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is illegal to burn on open ground for the control of growing vegetation between February 28th and September 1st Farmers and landowners in breach risk prosecution and or penalties under the Dept. of Agriculture's support payments for farmers (Single Farm Payment, AEOS, REPS, Disadvantaged Area Scheme) Galway County Council will impose a charge on the owners or the beneficial occupiers of the land or property in relation to the attendance of the Fire Service | | |
|  |  | |
| <p><u>Wildfire Information for the Public</u></p> | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid lighting fires outdoors when there are high winds or high temperatures Do not discard cigarette ends – make sure they are extinguished completely Report anyone acting irresponsibly or carelessly with fire in the countryside | | |
| <p>PLEASE REMEMBER!</p> | | |
| <p>Wildfires are a serious drain on Fire Service resources. Fire crews may be delayed in attending life threatening house fires or road traffic collisions when fighting wildfires.</p> | | |

Figure 21: Wildfire Prevention Campaign Poster



Figure 22: Appliance Community Fire Safety Message

Unfortunately, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, GFRS had to put on hold all non-emergency public contact such as fire safety talks, fire appliance visits to schools and the opening of fire stations to members of the public. The Primary Schools Programme to 3rd class pupils was also paused during 2021. These will all be resumed in 2023.

GFRS ran a wildfire advertisement campaign (see Figure 21) in local newspapers and on social media to try to reduce the number of wildfires particularly in Connemara and the South of the County. The posters were also displayed in prominent business in the areas. GFRS continued community safety message on fire appliances reflecting the National STOP Fire campaign.

Stategic Goal

To maximise organisational capacity through the continuous review of operational efficiency, financial and risk management and the development of our Staff and Elected Members

CAPITAL

In 2022, Galway Fire and Rescue Service progressed the projects approved under the Fire Service Capital Programme 2020 – 2025 with the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management of the Department of Housing, Planning, and Community & Local Government. This relates to the following.

- Procurement of a new Class B Fire Appliance for Galway City. The tender has been signed with the Supplier (Emergency One) in Scotland and delivery of the new appliance is expected in Q2 2023
- New Fire Station Athenry – The final design was completed, and Part 8 Planning approval received. The request for permission to go to tender for construction of the station was sent

to the NDFEM in Sept 2021. The final tenders were received, and it is expected construction will commence in Q1 2023.

- New Fire Station Loughrea – A site was secured for the new station in Loughrea and approval in principle was received for the project. The final design was completed, and Part 8 Planning approval received.
- New Brigade Mechanic Workshop – Following the submission of a case and Capital Appraisal to the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM), approval in principle was received from the NDFEM to construct a brigade mechanics workshop co-located with the new fire station in Athenry. Documents are being drawn to appoint a design team for the project.

Galway Fire and Rescue Service acknowledges the receipt of this vital support to the Council, in supporting the provision of fire and emergency services by the Council in the city and county area.

TRAINING

By comparison to previous years the amount of training that was conducted by Galway FRS in 2021 diminished significantly as a result of the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. By in large block training was suspended in the first half of the year with the bulk of training resumed in the latter part of the year.

- Drill night training at retained stations in the City and County
- Daily watch training in Galway City full-time station
- Centralised training courses both initial and refresher

Drill Night Training Programme

On-station training concentrates on core skills and is delivered by officers at each station.

Daily Watch Training Programme

On-station training concentrates on core skills and is delivered by officers at each station.

This training concentrates on core skills and is delivered by officers at each station. Skills maintenance for specialist roles was also carried out based on special appliances located at the station including the:

- Hazmat unit
- Foam unit
- Emergency tender
- Aerial ladder platform (ALP)

Centralised Training Programme

Initial training courses and refresher courses were organised centrally, as in previous years. Courses conducted included:

- Breathing Apparatus
- Compartment Fire Behaviour
- Rope rescue
- Water Rescue
- Manual Handling Refresher
- Fire Fighting Skills
- Pump Operators.
- Road Traffic Collision
- Abrasive Wheels
- ALP Instructors
- CISM
- Driving Training
- Effective Decision-Making Training
- Officer Consolidation Training
- Response to Lift incident training
- Vapour emissions Training.
- Radiological Safety Training
- Radio Communications
- Working at Heights
- Wildland Fire

Centralised National Training

The centralised national training programme was severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic in the initial part of the year. However, Galway FRS did send students on centralised training courses conducted by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) and LASNTG at various training centres around the country. These included:

- Breathing apparatus Initial Wearers
- Module 1 for Junior Officers
- Module 2 for Junior Officers
- Effective Decision-Making Courses
- RTC Instructors courses
- Fire Engineering and Operational Command Seminars for Senior Officers
- Agri Rescue training
- Fire Service Management 1
- Hazardous Materials Course
- Heavy Vehicle Rescue

FIRE STATION RE-DEVELOPMENT

A new 4 bay retained fire station became operational in Tuam in late October 2018 following a 10-month contract and was officially opened on the 15th April 2019. Additional capital appraisals were submitted to the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management for Athenry which received approval for funding in October 2019 and Loughrea Fire Station, both of which are outlined in more detail above. Work was also progressed in relation to site procurement for Galway City.

NEW CLASS B FIRE APPLIANCE

Tenders for the delivery of a new class B Fire Appliance were completed on a regional basis as part of the National Procurement Process from 2018-2020 and the new appliance was delivered to Galway City fire station in 2019. Galway Fire Service is also on the list for a new Class B appliance in the 2021 – 2025 Capital Programme. There is a delay in the delivery of Chassis worldwide, however it is hoped that the new appliance will be received in Q2 2023.

PERSONNEL

Maintaining crew numbers is a constant challenge in the retained service and difficulties in recruiting make it difficult to maintain required availability arrangements. Ongoing recruitment continues on an annual basis. The LGMA and NDFEM recently approved a Review of the Retained Fire Service in Ireland Report with a view, in conjunction with employee representatives, to implementing measures to improve recruitment and retention in the retained fire service.

CIVIL DEFENCE

Galway Civil Defence, through their 5 training centres, Galway City, Oranmore, Loughrea, Ballinasloe and Clonberne. As restrictions from the Covid-19 pandemic relaxed, meetings and training have recommenced across all 5 units. Recertification locally has commenced along with Central training at the Civil Defence College in Roscrea.

Galway Civil Defence were tasked to assist Galway County Council Housing Section with the arrival of displaced persons from the war in Ukraine. Centres were set-up at the Community Centre in Oranmore and the Calasactius College, Oranmore. Tasking was commenced in late March and continued through to the end of April 2022.

Members assisted the Irish Blood Transfusion Service at their clinics held in the Galway city and county throughout 2022.

The new e-learning site was developed and updated for volunteers. All modules and training materials can be accessed on this site during the year 2022.

Galway Civil Defence assisted the AGS with Missing Person Search's in 2022. Search drone and boat crews were tasked to 4 different searches throughout 2022. Assistance was also provided to Mayo Civil Defence for missing person searches. Searches involved land based and water-based searches. All searches were of long duration periods to the volunteers, who were extremely professional and dedicated to the requests!

A programme of training in Cardiac First Response, First Aid Responder, Emergency First Response was held via our new e-learning site through 2022 to keep our members up to date on these Responder levels. Manual Handling and People Moving recertification also took place for members due.

One new Floodwater Responder Instructor was certified by Rescue-3 UK in 2022 to supplement the existing instructors to roll out training going forward.

18,000 was allocated to Galway by the Dept. of Defence, Civil Defence Branch with funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund. This funding was used to fit out a Communications/Control Unit for Galway Civil Defence.

All units will again be responding to their community's requests for assistance at local community events, providing first aid cover and other assistance that may be requested where possible.

The Civil Defence Officer participated in Galway County Council and Galway City Council Community Forum and Civil Defence members carried out tasks for vulnerable persons identified in the forum groups, which included transportation of vulnerable persons for vital medical appointments

Each of the Civil Defence Units were actively recruiting new members throughout 2022.

All new members completed their Garda Vetting and attended training. Recruiting is ongoing at this time.

Civil Defence continued their use of the e-vetting system for new and current members in 2022. This system continues to prove more efficient and vetting status returns are received in a much shorter timeframe.



Figure 23: Civil Defence SUA Team conducting a missing person search near Galway Harbour.



Figure 24: Cardiac First Responder Advanced Training Course in Clonberne.

Strategic Goal

To ensure that quality customer service is at the centre of everything we do.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Galway Fire and Rescue Service processed and addressed fire prevention complaints as received on a prioritised basis. A new Customer Service section has been included in the Draft Section 26 Fire and Emergency Operations Plan.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Having the right culture in our organisation is critical to realising our vision and all our staff play their part in creating a desirable culture for the Council. It is built by people who demonstrate behaviours and attitudes that are aligned with our values of integrity, accountability, respect, and excellence.

The Human Resources Department engages with line managers and staff in promoting their personal and career development thus enabling them to reach their potential and contribute fully to the achievement of the Council's strategic and business objectives.

The Human Resources Department through the implementation of Council policies and procedures support good governance and provide transparency and clarity to all employees about the principles, rules and guidelines that apply to their work and conditions of employment; promote a positive working environment for our dedicated and highly skilled workforce; work to attract and retain the workforce we need to deliver on our commitments; provide training and development opportunities for staff within financial constraints; make provision for flexible work arrangements and deliver statutory and non-statutory leave variations and staff welfare policies which create a positive work environment to improve work life balance and maintain stable industrial relations.

WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT/RECRUITMENT

Workforce Management is a critical function carried out by the Human Resources Department as it facilitates the assignment of staff throughout the organisation to achieve balance between service areas in accordance with organisational priorities and recent national agreements. This balance, while maintaining service delivery and planning for further local government reform, is a significant challenge for the Council. The objective of the Workforce Plan is to enable effective and efficient service delivery with the staff level available within financial resources.

Galway County Council's Staff Headcount at the end of Quarter 4, 2022 is as follows:

| Category | Headcount |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| <i>Core Staff</i> | <i>857</i> |
| <i>Retained Fire Fighters</i> | <i>105</i> |
| <i>Non DHLGH</i> | <i>81</i> |

The Human Resources Department ran 58 recruitment competitions up to the end of Quarter 4, 2022.

Joiners 2022

| Job Title Description | Total |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Administrative Officer | 1 |
| Architectural Technician 1 | 2 |
| Assistant Arts Officer | 1 |
| Assistant Planner | 3 |
| Assistant Staff Officer | 6 |
| Assistant/Tour Guide | 1 |
| Beach Lifeguard | 45 |
| Branch Librarian | 5 |

| | |
|--|----|
| Caretaker - Rinvile Park | 1 |
| CES Employee | 21 |
| Civil Technician 11 | 1 |
| Clerical Officer (CD) | 10 |
| Clerical Officer (WP) | 8 |
| Clerk of Works/Building Inspector | 2 |
| Community Employment Scheme Supervisor | 1 |
| Community Warden | 3 |
| Coroner | 1 |
| Craftworker | 1 |
| Exec. Health & Safety Officer/Advisor | 1 |
| Executive Engineer | 10 |
| Executive Librarian | 1 |
| Executive Planner | 1 |
| Executive Quantity Surveyor | 1 |
| Executive Solicitor | 1 |
| Fire Fighter (2) - Retained | 13 |
| General Operative | 9 |
| Graduate Placement | 1 |
| Graduate Planner | 4 |
| Housing Liaison Officer | 1 |
| Interpreter/Translator/Cross Cultural Worker | 1 |

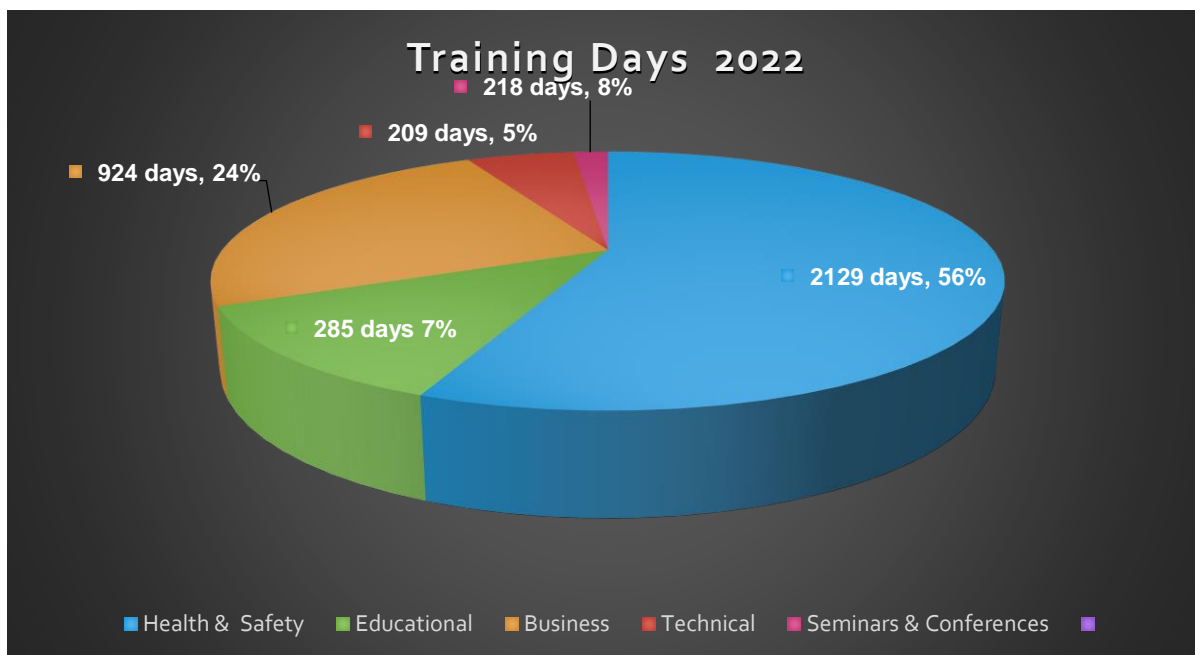
| | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| IS Analyst Developer | 1 |
| Library Assistant | 1 |
| Oifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge | 1 |
| Resettlement Support Worker | 1 |
| School Warden | 1 |
| Senior Engineer | 1 |
| Senior Executive Engineer | 1 |
| Senior Executive Officer | 1 |
| Senior Library Assistant | 2 |
| Staff Officer | 3 |
| Technician Grade I | 2 |
| Waterworks Caretaker (Grade 111) | 2 |
| Grand Total | 174 |

Galway County Council continues to facilitate Community Employment Scheme Placements and work experience placements from Third Level Institutions.

STAFF TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Comprehensive training for staff was carried out in 2022 with the main focus on Statutory and Health & Safety Training. National Training Grants in the areas of Water Services, Environmental and Non-National Roads supported the Council in the provision of this training. Other essential training was determined in conjunction with the utilisation of the Performance Management Development System. The Council continued to support further education, IPA Local Government Programmes, and the attendance of staff at Seminars and Conferences in 2022.

The total number of Training Days in 2022 was 3765 as set out hereunder:



STAFF WELFARE

Galway County Council in recognising that work is just one part of employees’ lives, the Human Resources Department makes available a range of work/life balance schemes to assist staff in achieving a work-life balance.

In 2022 eight hundred and fifty-one staff availed of family friendly schemes, which were managed by the Human Resources Department and includes: The Shorter Working Year Scheme, Maternity Leave Scheme, Parental Leave Scheme, Paternity Leave, New Parent Leave, Work Sharing, Career Breaks, Carer’s Leave, Exam leave and Travel Pass Schemes together with Force Majeure leave, Bereavement Leave and the Cycle to Work Scheme. As part of the Government’s Jobs Stimulus Plan, in August 2020, there was an increased allowable expenditure under the Cycle to Work Scheme where the tax-exempt benefit-in-kind may be provided to an individual employee once in a 4-year period. Prior to 1st August 2020 employees could avail of the scheme once in a 5 year period.

The Human Resources Department continues to implement the standardised provisions of the Public Service Management (Sick Leave) Regulations 2014 and facilitates the provision of an independent Employee Assistance Service (EAS). This EAS Programme is a free, confidential and independent counselling service and provides support in relation to, e.g., family issues, work issues, addiction, bereavement and financial matters.

PENSIONS

In 2022, thirty-five fulltime employees retired from the service of Galway County Council. Three employees of the Retained Fire Service also retired from their posts with Galway County Council.

The Management and staff of the Council would like to take this opportunity to record its thanks to all the retirees for their years of dedicated service and commitment to Galway County Council.

2022 saw the return of more normalised working patterns though the facility and capacity for remote working remained a strong driver for resources to provide and support it. Information Systems Security has remained a top priority for the Council with a continuing focus on additional protective measures and surveillance on operations. Global Supply chain improved in the latter part of the year which improved procurement and supply of equipment.

Highlight Projects and Initiatives

- Full year running of Cloud Information Systems Service Management system with 4040 tickets logged for incidents and requests for service.
- Council Chamber Video Conferencing System in place, providing up to 45 attendees in chamber location facility to interact with all major video conferencing standards.
- Westside, City, Ballybane and Oranmore Libraries internet service provision upgraded to full fibre optic services using the Galway City and County Metropolitan Area Network (MAN) Services.
- Development Planning Staff equipped with touch screen convertible laptops to interact with the National E-planning electronic submission of planning applications for on location inspections.
- Security monitoring and surveillance proving very successful with clear evidence of successful mitigation and prevention of external threats.
- Council business and staff landline numbers moved to cloud hosted telephony giving greater flexibility for remote working, business continuity and access to economically scalable call centre services.
- Procurement of a joint National Local Authority cloud based Blended Working Application portal to facilitate staff to apply for remote working facility with clearly defined workflows for approval and review of applications.
- Short listing of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) inhouse application Severe Weather Event Management Systems developed with Galway Fire Service for Chambers Ireland Innovation in Local Authorities category.
- Developed and deployed GIS application for planning staff to collect data for Zoned Residential Land Tax initiative.
- Heritage Council financial grant assistance facilitating advanced drone and satellite mapping equipment acquisition for graveyard and build heritage mapping support.
- Unit 4 Milestone 7 Financial Systems upgrade facilitating continuing support, access to additional business process and updated server hosting technology.

INFRASTRUCTURE & OPERATIONS

ROAD & TRANSPORTATION UNIT

The Infrastructure & Operations Unit will ensure continued improvement on the roads network through delivery of both the National and Non- National Roads Programme. In collaboration with various government departments, i.e., Department of Transport and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), Galway County Council will continue with its infrastructure development which will include an emphasis on sustainable transport options across the entire county

The Unit is responsible for the design, maintenance, and improvement of the National, Regional and Local Road Network throughout the County and has responsibility for Road Safety, Marine and Arterial Drainage.

Strategic Goal: Community Participation & Social Inclusion

To facilitate the broadest possible participation by citizens in local decision making and the sustainable development of their communities and their county.

2020 ROADS UNIT

The 2022 Roads Programme was prepared following allocations for National and Non-National Road construction, repairs and maintenance grants totalling €75,251,481 from Transport Infrastructure Ireland, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and an allocation from Galway County Council:

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|--------------------|
| National Roads | - | €38,857,958 |
| Non-National Roads | - | €36,393,523 |

The Roads Programme was prepared in consultation with the elected members, reviewed and adopted by each Municipal District.

The grant allocated by Transport Infrastructure Ireland for the Motorway & National Roads for the year 2022 was **€38,857,958**

The 2022 allocation divided as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Improvement Works | €34,689,600 |
| Maintenance Works | €1,048,358 |
| Greenway | €3,120,000 |

Funding continued to be provided in 2022 to facilitate the continued advancement and delivery of the Major Inter Urban Routes. The following major/minor projects were managed by the Galway National Roads Project Office and the costs associated with this programme recouped in full, from Transport Infrastructure Ireland:

| | | |
|------------|---|--------------|
| M6 | Galway City Bypass | € 2,000,000 |
| N59 | Clifden to Oughterard | €700,000 |
| N59 | Maigh Cuilinn Bypass | € 23,000,000 |
| N17 | Milltown to Gortnagunnad Realignment (Minor 2016) | € 100,000 |
| N59 | Maam Cross to Bunnakill | €100,000 |
| N63 | Abbeyknockmoy to Annagh (Part of Gort / Tuam Residual Network) | € 400,000 |
| N63 | Liss to Abbey Realignment (Minor 2016) | € 200,000 |
| N65 | Kilmeen Cross | € 50,000 |
| N67 | Ballinderreen to Kinvara Realignment Phase 2 | € 400,000 |
| N84 | Galway to Curraghmore | €50,000 |
| N59 | Bunnakill to Claremount | €1,000,000 |
| N67 | AT South of Ballinderreen Cycleway | €50,000 |
| N83 | AT Tuam Road Cycleway | €50,000 |
| N63 | AT Abbeyknockmoy Village | €50,000 |
| N67 | AT Ballindereen to Oranmore | €50,000 |
| N67 | AT Kinvara Village | €200,000 |

LAND ACQUISITIONS

- Land acquisitions were ongoing for the N59 Maigh Cuilinn Bypass.
- Purchase of land continued to facilitate the N63 Abbeyknockmoy to Annagh Hill road projects
- Land acquisitions were ongoing for the N67 Ballinderreen to Kinvara realignment Phase 2 road project.
- Land acquisitions are ongoing in relation to N59 Maam Cross to Oughterard scheme.
- Land acquisitions were ongoing to facilitate the N63 Carrowmunniagh Safety Scheme (Twenty Minute Hill)

Other milestones achieved relating to the National Primary & Secondary Road Network during 2022 included:

- Regarding the N59 Bunnakill to Claremont section, GCC/Jacobs are continuing to progress with the preparation of draft contract documents for Ground Investigation Works, Archaeology Works, and Topographical Surveys. These documents may be subject to change following any feedback from NPWS & IFI in relation to the method statements that have been submitted for a review National Parks and Wildlife Services in December 2021
- Works continued throughout 2022 and the delivery of phases 0 to 4 of TII PMG for the N65 Kilmeen Junction Prioritisation Scheme.
- Galway County Council project engineers are advancing the N84 Galway City Boundary to Clonboo Scheme.

- Pavement works were completed at N59 Letternoosh, N63 Ballynahowa to Ballinlass and N65 Ballydavid
- Carrowmoneash Pedestrian Crossing was completed in Oranmore
- Carrowmunnigh Road Widening scheme was completed

REGIONAL & LOCAL ROADS

The expenditure incurred by Galway County Council for Regional and Local Roads, as funded by Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, in 2022 was €36,393,523 divided as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Improvement Works | €31,060,523 |
| Maintenance Works | €5,333,000 |

The expenditure can be classified under the following broad headings:

| Grant Category | 2022 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Improvement Grant | €19,357,000 |
| Restoration Maintenance Grant | €5,333,000 |
| Discretionary Grant | €5,687,500 |
| Specific Improvement Grants | €1,650,000 |
| Low-Cost Safety Improvement Grants | €417,500 |
| Bridge Rehabilitation Programme | €630,000 |
| Speed Limits in Housing Estates | €42,000 |
| Speed Limits – Rural Signage | €99,800 |
| Cycle Signs | €14,000 |
| Strategic Regional and Local Roads | €250,000 |
| Drainage Works | €1,397,683 |
| Training | €128,000 |
| Community Involvement Scheme | €964,160 |
| Former National Roads | €370,880 |
| PSCI – Survey Support | €52,000 |
| Overall Total | €36,393,523 |

Local Roads Maintenance:

The sum provided from the Council's own resources in 2022 was €6,462,799

The Local Roads General Maintenance allocation of €3,026,765 which includes a provision of €1,206,950 for ongoing operational costs.

The sum of €1,819,815 was allocated amongst the Municipal District for Local Roads Maintenance as follows:

| Local Road General Maintenance – Council Funds | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Municipal District | Length of Road Local Roads KM | Total Allocation |
| Athenry / Oranmore | 555.40 | € 180,069 |
| Ballinasloe | 1350.98 | € 438,007 |
| Conamara | 1142.68 | € 370,473 |
| Loughrea | 1626.50 | € 527,335 |
| Tuam | 937.44 | € 303,931 |
| Total | 5,613.00 | € 1,819,815 |

This sum provides for all types of maintenance including Verge Trimming, Drainage, Renewal and Provision of Signage, Bridge, and General Maintenance.

An allocation of €265,000 was provided for Winter Maintenance in 2022, from the Discretionary Maintenance Grant allocated by the Department of Transport. This allocation funds the gritting of priority routes in the county in accordance with the Winter Service Plan 2021-2022.

REGIONAL & LOCAL ROAD BRIDGE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME 2020

Funding of €630,000 was allocated by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport towards the rehabilitation of 12 specific bridges in County Galway. An additional €395,000 was allocated from the Discretionary Grant towards the repair of bridges on Regional and local roads. The overall allocation towards the repairs of Non- National Road Bridges for 2022 was €1,025,000, which was an increase of 1% on the 2021 allocation.

| Proposed Bridge Rehabilitation Programme 2022 | | | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Municipal District | Road Number | Bridge Name & Location | 2022 Proposed Expenditure € | Total Municipal District |
| | L-5229 | Sruthaun Buí, Lettermore | 70,000 | |
| | L-5231 | Coonawilleen, Lettermore | 70,000 | |
| Conamara | R-336 | Doirriu, Rossaveel | 80,000 | €360,000 |
| | L-12010 | Formwheel, Shannapheasteen | 120,000 | |
| | L-53211 | Baile Dhulocha, Corramona | 20,000 | |
| | R-364 | Fiddaun, Moylough | 35,000 | |
| | R-363 | Carrowmore, Ballybaun | 15,000 | |

| | | | | |
|--------------------|--------|--------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Ballinasloe | L-6354 | Cloonshivna, Ballygar | 20,000 | |
| | L-7403 | Ballintleva, Caltra | 15,000 | €255,000 |
| | R-359 | Woodlawn, Killaan | 20,000 | |
| | R-348 | Suck Bridge, Ballinasloe | 150,000 | |
| Tuam | L-2212 | Ballymary, Milltown | 15,000 | €15,000 |



Coonawilleen, Lettermore completed in 2022

Funding of €395,000 was allocated from the Discretionary grant for the repair of Regional and Local Roads Bridges in 2022.

| Proposed Bridge Repairs Programme 2022 | | | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Municipal District | Road Number | Bridge Name & Location | 2022 Proposed Expenditure € | Total Municipal District |
| Ballinasloe | L-3403 | Garryduff, Caltra | €15,000 | €25,000 |
| | L-3408 | Kilcloony Bridge, Ballinasloe | €10,000 | |
| | L-51364 | Tawnaghmore, Recess | €5,000 | |
| | L-51251 | Dooneen Bridge, Clifden | €60,000 | |

| | | | | |
|-----------------|---------|---------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Conamara | R-336 | Derrough North Bridge | €5,000 | €125,000 |
| | R-340 | Derravonniff | €5,000 | |
| | L-5303 | Cahergal, Clonbur | €10,000 | |
| | L-5301 | Cloghbrack | €15,000 | |
| | L-5306 | Ballymaglancy | €10,000 | |
| | L-53271 | Barnagorteeny | €5,000 | |
| | L-11054 | Canower | €10,000 | |
| Loughrea | L-85201 | Lismoyle, Gort | €10,000 | €85,000 |
| | R-348 | Kiltullagh Underpass Bridge | €10,000 | |
| | L-4194 | Kilreekil, Loughrea | €7,500 | |
| | L-4206 | Tomanymore Bridge. Toman, Abbey | €10,000 | |
| | L-4304 | Moaty, Kiltormer | €30,000 | |
| | R-351 | Clonco Bridge, Looscaun | €12,500 | |
| | R-446 | Carnaun Bridge, Kilreekil | €5,000 | |
| Tuam | L-6413 | Cloonacross, Milltown | €5,000 | €60,000 |
| | L-6187 | Culliagh North, Abbeyknockmoy | €30,000 | |
| | R-328 | Castlefarm Bridge, Dunmore | €12,500 | |
| | L-2226 | Stowelodge | €5,000 | |
| | L-2223 | Mahanagh, Levally | €3,500 | |
| | L-2215 | Graigueachullaire | €4,000 | |
| All | | Design & Land Acquisition | €50,000 | €100,000 |
| | | Completion of 2021 Programme | €30,000 | |
| | | 2022 Emergency Repairs | €10,000 | |
| | | De-vegetation | €10,000 | |

The new Clarin College Footbridge was also completed in 2022.



Athenry Footbridge completed in 2022

TAKING IN CHARGE – UNFINISHED HOUSING ESTATES

There are many different aspects to dealing with housing estates whether they are in the Taking in Charge or Unfinished Housing Estates category.

The Taking in Charge section continues to engage proactively with Residents, Developers/Owners, Agents, Bondholders, and other relevant Third Parties for the completion of Residential Estates to a standard for Taking in Charge and/or Bond Release.

The number of estates for Taking in Charge and/or for Bond Release in 2022 were:

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|----|
| No. of Estates Taken in Charge | – | 11 |
| No. of Estates – Bond Released | - | 0 |

The Taking in Charge section is currently engaged with over 60 developments which are at various stages in the Taking in Charge process.

The financial resources available to the Taking in Charge Section is by way of Bonds, specifically assigned to developments and/or funding received through Site Resolution with Irish Water. For the past few years, the Council allocated €100,000 in its budget for the Taking in Charge of Historical Residential Estates, enabling these estates to be completed and brought to required standard for taking in charge.

The progress of works on estates is governed by the funding available, engagement with third parties and the complexity of the work involved which may include wayleave agreements. While much progress has been made, there remains a significant amount of work to improve the living conditions of many house owners across the country.

MARINE MAINTENANCE

Galway County Council is progressing the marine and maintenance programme prioritising works as the budget will allow. There are in excess of 200 coastal piers listed following the last review within the County. A priority list of landing places has been identified in order to implement a programme of necessary works including repairs and replacements to ladders and railings, regular removal of algae growth on slipways, and safety improvements to piers. Marine Maintenance also includes maintenance of visitor yacht moorings and the navigation lights that are in the charge of Galway County Council.

In 2022 funding was secured under the Brexit Adjustment Local Authority Marine Infrastructure (BALAMI) funding programme. Locations and funding allocations confirmed in the table below. An element of Galway County Council matched funding was required in each case.

| Balami Funding | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Project title | Eligible project costs | Maximum funding conferred |
| Inishbofin Harbour | €90,000 | €76,500 |
| Cleggan | €40,000 | €34,000 |
| Blackweir | €80,000 | €68,000 |
| Spiddal | €37,000 | €31,450 |
| Inver | €22,000 | €18,700 |
| Loughaun Beg | €12,500 | €10,625 |
| Aircin | €37,000 | €31,450 |
| Sconnsa | €31,000 | €26,350 |
| Ballyconneely | €70,000 | €59,500 |
| | €419,500 | €356,575 |

Works have been completed and money drawn down.

Regular maintenance activity across the coastal infrastructure continued in parallel utilising the Galway Council budget provision under this heading.

As part of the ongoing navigation lights maintenance programme repairs were carried out in 2022 as required through engagement with the Commissioner for Irish Lights.

There are approximately 60 moorings spread over 8 separate locations. A replacement programme continued through 2022 with further such work programmed for 2023.



Completed Works at Blackweir Pier - BALAMI Funded Project

STRATEGIC HARBOURS

Caladh Inis Oírr

Significant progress was made on this project in 2022 culminating in the publication of the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) to acquire all lands necessary to carry out the approved works. This includes terrestrial and marine lands with the foreshore included in the CPO.

Pending An Bord Pleanála approval to confirm the CPO in the first quarter of 2023 it is anticipated that a contractor appointment will be made before the end of 2023 with the major works following in the summer seasons of 2024 and 2025. Project completion is projected by the end of 2025 on that basis.

Funding approval for the scheme has been confirmed.

Byelaws for the operation of Inis Oírr Pier were approved in 2022. The appointment of a Harbour Master is planned for the first half of 2023 – funding has been allocated in the budget for this position.

Caladh Mór Inis Meáin

Modelling work by the National Maritime College in Cork on this harbour was completed in 2022. It concluded that the harbour opening is not wide enough to facilitate the safe berthing of the current cargo boat 'Saoirse na Mara'. This vessel continues to use Céibh an Chóra for offloading at the island.

Galway County Council are engaging with the DRCD and the island community to establish the optimal path forward with respect to future works to An Caladh Mór. A feasibility study is to be prepared which will assess the various options and make a recommendation with regard to how to proceed.

Once that has been established, funding approval will be sought, and a project will be developed for delivery.

Céibh an Chóra Inis Meáin

Galway County Council have been notified of problems encountered by the cargo ferry vessel servicing Céibh an Chóra Inis Meáin due to silting at the pier.

A bathymetric survey at the location has been carried out which highlighted the problem area. Consultants Malachy Walsh & Partners undertook an analysis of the possible remedial solutions available and produced a report advising of the dredging options and associated costs.

The EPA and the Marine Institute have been consulted in relation to requirements for the dredging and subsequent dumping at sea of the material deposited. Funding approval has been secured for the works required to complete this project.

Foreshore Licence and EPA Dumping at Sea Licence applications are in preparation and will be lodged in early 2023.

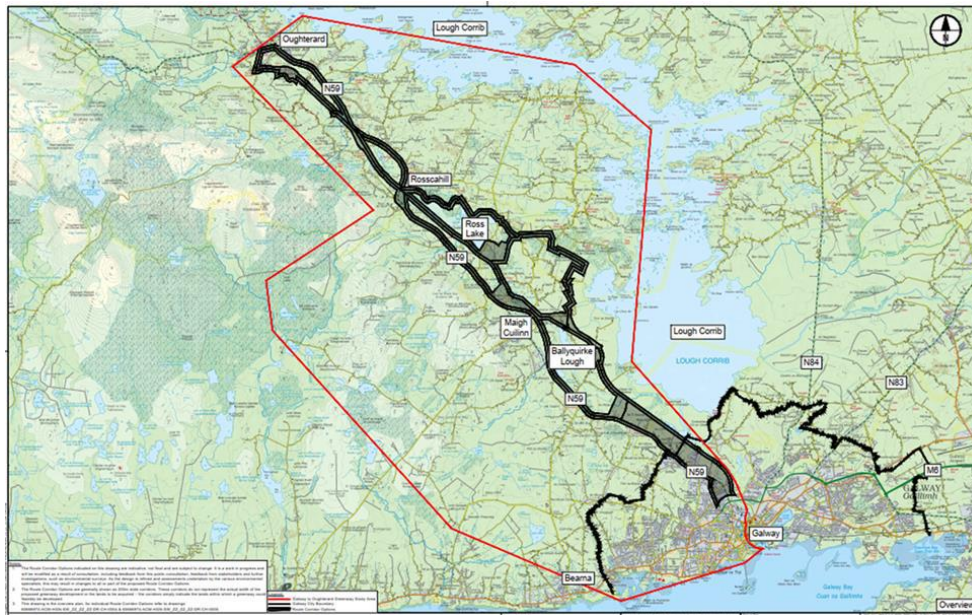
WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

GALWAY TO CLIFDEN GREENWAY

SECTION 1: GALWAY TO OUGHTERARD

The Galway to Oughterard Greenway is being developed within the Galway County Council National Design Project Office (NRPO) with the assistance of AECOM Consultant Engineers. The Galway to Oughterard Greenway will form an integral part of the Connemara Greenway. The project will seek to provide both long and short-distance recreational users and commuters with safe, convenient opportunities to travel between areas along the route. The project aims to provide opportunity for enhanced access to Connemara and entice users to explore its many towns, villages, and un-spoilt countryside. The overall length of the scheme is approximately 28km

and will join the Oughterard to Clifden greenway to form an 80km Greenway from Galway City to Clifden.



AECOM’s brief includes for 3no. Public Consultations. Public Consultation 1 was held in February/March of 2022 with the main purpose being to inform the public of the project and invite feedback on the Study Area and Constraints. Public consultation 2 was held over 3 days in June 2022 which presented Route Corridor options. This consultation proved very successful and approximately 300 submissions were received.

Following this, the publication of the emerging preferred route along with Public Consultation 3 will take place late Q1 2023 and will lead to detailed design of the route and followed by an application to An Bord Pleanála for approval. As with all greenway projects the preferred route will be strongly influenced by the 5 S’s” outlined in the National Greenway Strategy; “Scenic, Lots to See and Do, Sustainable, Strategic and Substantially Segregated”. To date there has been strong progress made and in generally a very positive reaction, works will continue with landowners and community groups engagement.

SECTION 2: CLIFDEN TO OUGHTERARD

An Bord Pleanála approved the construction of a greenway from Clifden to Oughterard in March of 2013. The majority of which was to use the disused rail corridor of the Great Western Railway which stretched over 48 miles (approx. 80km) from Clifden to Galway City. The railway closed in 1935 with the rail lines being removed. Over the years the rail corridor was purchased by private landowners with no section remaining in public ownership.

In August 2015 partial funding was provided by Failte Ireland for the construction of a 3.2km section which opened to the public in February 2016. In 2016 funding was again obtained from Failte Ireland for the construction of a further 6km section located in Ballinahinch which was opened to the public in December 2017. In November 2018 additional funding was received

through the Outdoor Recreation Scheme for a 3.5km extension to the 6km section already completed at Ballinahinch, this extension was opened in February 2019 to the public.

To date over 13km has been completed and open to the public with a further 4.5km under construction. Initially a permissive access model was being used to secure the lands however the purchase of the land by voluntary agreement is now sought.

Through TII funding has been provided to complete the 22km section between Clifden and Recess Village. There is approximately 4km of this remaining to be completed. Voluntary Land Acquisition for the final 4km is proving difficult due to slow landowner engagement/agreement.

In 2023 it is expected to complete and open the current 4.5km under construction and to get agreement on the purchase for the remaining 4km section in private ownership.

It is also planned to commence purchasing of land and start construction on the section between Recess Village and Oughterard which is approximately 30km in length.



ATHENRY TO MILLTOWN GREENWAY

The Athenry to Milltown Greenway seeks to develop a cycling/walking greenway between Athenry and Milltown in County Galway. The Athenry to Milltown Greenway will provide a recreational trail which provides commuters and leisure cyclists with a corridor linking the heritage towns of Athenry and Tuam. This route has the potential to also attract additional visitors to areas such as Ballyglunin and Milltown.

Galway County Council have commissioned a Feasibility Study and Route Options Assessment for a potential future Greenway from Athenry to Milltown Greenway, in Co. Galway and submitted same to Transport Infrastructure Ireland. The project is currently at Phase 1 – Feasibility stage.

DERRIGIMLAGH TO KYLEMORE ABBEY GREENWAY



Funding has been provided by Transport Infrastructure Ireland to complete phases 0 to 1 of TII PMG.

In 2022 Galway County Council carried out a competition to appoint a consultant to progress Phases 0-1 of the project. AECOM were appointed in November 2022 to deliver Scope & Pre-Appraisal and Concept & Feasibility for a Greenway/Cycleway route between the Marconi Site at Derrigimlagh going northwards to Kylemore Abbey.

Through work done by the Clifden Area Office and active voluntary groups there has been early landowner engagement and several different potential corridors for the proposed route have been identified. AECOM will continue this work in 2023 through, along with arranging Public Consultations.



Connemara Greenway at Derrylvickrune & Gowlan





Connemara Greenway site clearance at Recess & works at Munga & Athry



GALWAY TO ATHLONE CYCLEWAY PROJECT



A dedicated project office has been established in Ballinasloe, and work progressed with Route Corridor Public Consultations held on five route corridor options in January and February 2021. Over 10,500 submissions were received, and following further consultations with landowners and other stakeholders, a preferred route corridor was selected, and further public consultations took place in December 2021 into January 2022. An Emerging Preferred Route Corridor was chosen and public consultation No 3 closed in February 2022. The Option Selection Report was published in July 2022. Liaison with landowners on potential routes for the cycleway within the emerging preferred route corridor is ongoing. This corridor extends from Athlone to Shannonbridge, Portumna, Derrybrien, Gort, Kinvara, Kilcolgan, Oranmore to Galway City. A Code of Best Practice for Greenways, which includes procedures for acquisition of lands, was published in December 2021, and which is expected to advance the development of greenways in Ireland. The current program is for an application to be made to An Bord Pleanála in the Q2 2024.

Strategic Goal Economic & Enterprise Development

To maximise the continued and sustainable economic and enterprise development of our county.

FLOOD RELIEF SCHEMES

Galway County Council and the OPW work in partnership to deliver Flood Relief Schemes (substantial schemes) and Flood Mitigation works (local mitigation). The OPW funds all major flood relief schemes - schemes are carried out directly by the OPW under the Arterial Drainage Acts or can be carried out by Galway County Council under the Planning & Development Acts. The OPW

also provides 90% funding towards local flood mitigation works. A steering group meets regularly to ensure timely delivery of proposals that will reduce the risk of future flooding. The OPW also provides advice and assistance to Galway County Council when flood events occur.

SOUTH GALWAY, GORT LOWLANDS FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME:

An extensive Ground Investigation contract was completed in 2022, which has informed route selection and the costing of proposals. A number of environmental surveys were completed In 2022, including the salinity modelling of Kinvarra Bay, surveys of breeding & wintering birds and botanical surveys of multiple sites throughout the study area.

Consultations continued with numerous landowners and amendments have been made to the scheme proposals where feasible. Detailed drawings were completed for the majority of the scheme and issues such as fencing requirements and disposal of cut material were examined.

The Preferred Scheme is now being subjected to environmental reviews (EIAR and NIS). If the scheme remains environmentally acceptable and cost beneficial, a Public Exhibition will be undertaken in Q3 of 2023 before being submitted for Ministerial Confirmation.

BALLINASLOE FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME:

The second Public Consultation Period (Emerging Options) was undertaken in Q1 2022 where all stakeholders were given the opportunity to view and comment on the Emerging Options within the Study Area. The public's views and opinions have been compiled into a report, which will be fully considered in terms of the ongoing design process. Extensive ground investigations continued throughout 2022. Detailed assessment of the existing Derrymullen flood defence scheme was completed in Q4 2022. The third Public Consultation Period (Emerging Preferred Option) is scheduled to take place in Q2 2023.

CLIFDEN FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME:

Engineering and ecological surveys, along with the first Public Information Day were completed in Q2 of 2022. Extensive Ground Investigation works were completed in Q4 of 2022 and the options appraisal and economic assessments commenced in Q4.



Clifden Flood Relief Scheme – Flood Waters, Clifden September 2020

FLOOD MITIGATION WORKS

The Council completed works at 7 locations in 2022, under the OPW funded Minor Flood Mitigation Works & Coastal Protection Scheme including major coastal defence works at Leenaun Village & Graveyard (see below). Total funding received of €142,853 in 2022, which cover 90% of the total cost with the balance funded by Galway County Council. Applications submitted for another 4 locations are currently under consideration by the OPW.



Coastal Defence Works completed at Leenaun Graveyard 2022



Coastal Defence Works completed at Leenaun Village 2022

DRAINAGE DISTRICTS

The Council discharges its statutory responsibility for the maintenance of certain drainage works in the County through the Roads and Transportation Unit and the Council's Municipal District Offices. The Council has charge of twelve Drainage Districts and continues to allocate funds towards two former Joint Drainage Districts that were dissolved in 2014. The Council spent €175,000 on Drainage District works in 2022.

In 2022 maintenance works were carried out in the following Drainage Districts: - Ahascragh, Dunkellin, Kellysgrove, Kilchreest, Lavally, Meelick & Mountbellew.

Strategic Goal Organisational Capacity

To maximise organisational capacity through the continuous review of operational efficiency, financial and risk management and the development of our Staff and Elected Members

MACHINERY YARD

The supply and maintenance of Plant and Machinery for the Council's use is managed by the Machinery Yard. The Council is committed to the ongoing development of this service in order to provide an efficient and effective resource to facilitate the delivery of the Council's Work Programmes.

CLÁR

The CLÁR 2022 was first announced at the end of February 2022 by the Department of Community & Rural Development (DRCD) who prioritised funding for outdoor community amenities under the 2022 programme, thereby reducing the focus on schools and safety measures which was a key

measure in all previous CLÁR programmes. In September 2023, Galway County Council received an allocation of €612,863.07 from the DRCD for 15 projects under CLÁR 2022, Measure 1 - Developing Community Facilities and Amenities. Of the 15 projects awarded, 14 were allocated to community and voluntary groups with one project being implemented directly by the Loughrea MD and Corporate Services for the upgrade of Portumna Playground. This project (C122G11) was allocated €36,472.50 and will be rolled out in 2023.

TOWN & VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME

With financial support from the Department of Rural and Community Development, Galway County Council continued to support the revitalisation of towns and villages to increase their potential for their communities, through improvements to the public realm and physical environment, local infrastructure, and economic development facilities. The impact of COVID-19 continued to impact on delivery in 2022, with completion of projects under the 2019, 2020 and 2021 and progressing applications under the 2022 Scheme.

In 2022, the Municipal District Offices led on the completion of the following projects:

| Reference | Town/Village | Amount Recouped by Galway County Council from DRCD | Project Status |
|-----------|-----------------|--|--|
| TVRS 2020 | Portumna | € 97,455.00 | Works Completed & Final Claim – St. Joseph’s Road Pedestrian Path and Links to Forest Park |
| TVRS2020 | Belclare | €100,000 | Works Completed – Village Enhancements |
| TVRS 2019 | An Cheathrú Rua | € 80,000.00 | Works and Final Claims Completed – Public Lighting Village Footpaths |
| TVRS 2019 | Killimor | €76,015.95 | Works Completed – Final Claim Lighting and Village Paths |
| TVRS 2019 | Oranmore | €149,287.68 | Works Completed & Claim Submitted |

The Tuam MD continued to progress works in Barnaderg further to the approval of €100,000 under the Town and Village 2021 Scheme in partnership with Killererin Community Council.

Belclare, sample of enhancements delivered in 2022 by Tuam MD with funding from DRCD Town and Village Renewal Programme.



Strategic Goal Infrastructural Capacity

To ensure that our physical and social infrastructure is sufficiently developed to support economic development, and to enhance our quality of life

A number of significant achievements were recorded by the Roads & Transportation Unit during 2022 include:

N6 Galway City Ring Road

On 6th December 2021 An Bord Pleanála approved with conditions the N6 GCRR Proposed Road Development and approved with modifications the Motorway Scheme and the Protected Road Scheme.

The Board's decision has been challenged by way of Judicial Review in the three following proceedings:

- Galway Race Committee v. An Bord Pleanála, High Court Record Number: 2022/82 JR
- Brooks Timber & Building Supplies Limited v. An Bord Pleanála, High Court Record Number: 2022/101JR
- Friends of the Irish Environment CLG v. An Bord Pleanála & others, High Court Record Number: 2022/93JR

On 14th October 2022 An Bord Pleanála wrote to Friends of the Irish Environment informing them that it would not be opposing a request to quash the GCRR decision because it would not be defending a point in the JR challenge relating to the Climate Action Plan 2021.

The judicial review proceedings were listed for mention on the High Court's Strategic Infrastructural Development list for 19th December 2022 but were further adjourned until January 2023.

N59 Maigh Cuilinn Bypass

This scheme involves the construction a Type 1 single carriageway road of length 4.3 kms from Clydagh to the east of the village towards Drimcong to the west of the village. The main elements of the proposed scheme include 4.6km of type 1 single carriageway, realignment of the Knockferry roads over 850m, 1.7km of farm/accommodation roads, 2 no. at-grade roundabouts and 8 structures consisting of 5 bridges, 2 underpasses and 1 culvert.

The contract was awarded in October 2021 with Wills Bros Ltd mobilising and commencing works on site in January 2022. Wills Bros have progressed the construction works throughout 2022 with the main areas of work progression being site clearance (95%) earthworks (80%), structures (75%), drainage (45%), utilities (25%) and accommodation works (10%). It is anticipated that construction works will achieve substantial completion by Q3/Q4 of 2023 with the scheme being opened thereafter to traffic, bypassing the village of Maigh Cuilinn and removing traffic congestion through one of Galway's most congested villages.



Rock Breaking at Cut 02 Adjacent Knockferry Road



Installation of Steel Reinforcement for ST07 Lough Kip River Bridge Deck Pour



Ariel View of ST07 Lough Kip River Bridge



Kerbing & Utility Ducting Installation at Eastern Roundabout at Clydagh

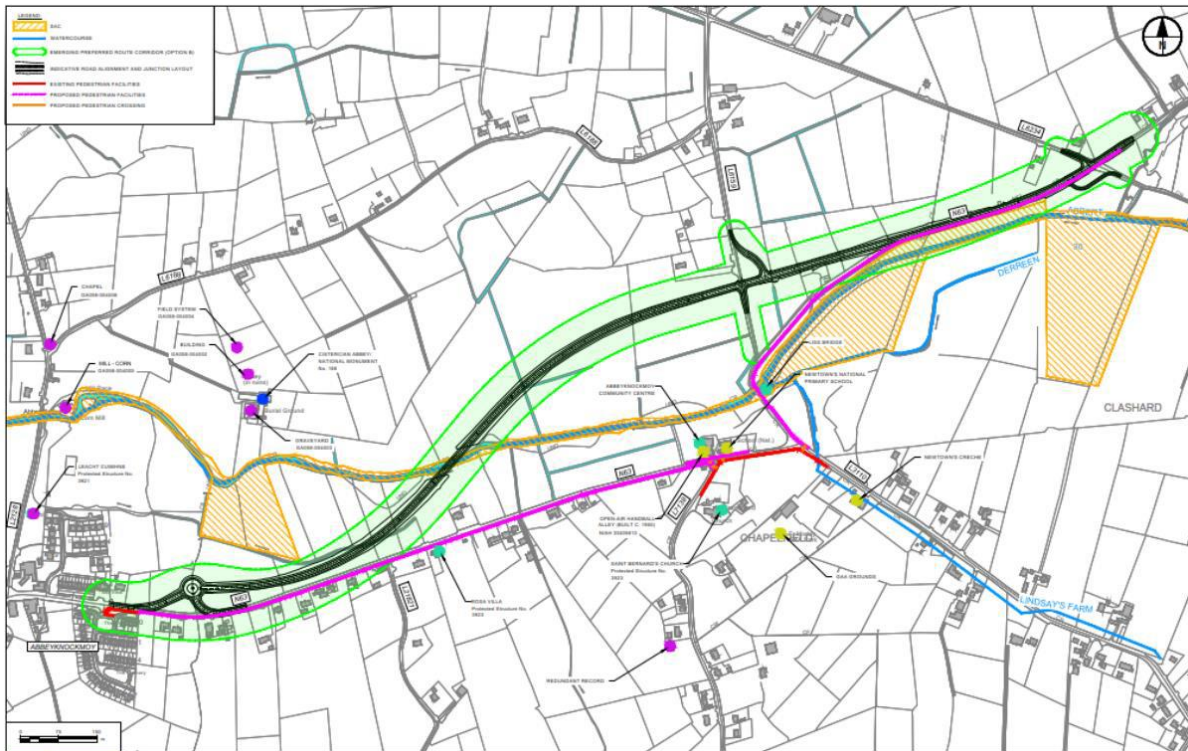
N17 Milltown to Gortnagunnad

This project is for the construction of 3.0 kms of standard single carriageway national primary road immediately north of Milltown. There has been 2Nr Public Consultation evenings which were both well attended and extremely positive. (Route Options and Emerging Preferred Route)

The acquisition of three properties by Galway County Council will be required in order to achieve the proposed realignment. The owners of these three properties have been consulted by Galway County Council and are all happy for the sale of their properties to proceed.

The land area to be acquired for the construction of the scheme measures approximately 9.25 hectares (ha) with 51 plots affected. Applications for approval of a CPO and an appropriate assessment (NIS) were submitted to An Bord Pleanála with both being approved, March and October 2022 respectively. The period for Judicial Review applications lapsed on 12th December 2022. In 2023 it is planned to progress land acquisition and detailed design.

N63 Liss to Abbey Realignment Scheme



The proposed N63 Liss to Abbey Realignment Scheme consists of the construction of a new 2.3km of National Secondary Road including a bridge over the River Abbert. Provision of both pedestrian and cycle facilities have been included as part of the Proposed Road Development, predominantly along the route of the existing N63.

The bridge option developed had a skew angle of 35 degrees and a maximum span length of 60.5 metres. The total bridge width shall be 15.65m which includes the minimum required cross sectional width plus additional verge widening to account for carriageway sightlines at the southwest and northeast corners. The construction cost of the proposed bridge is estimated at just over €5M.

The CPO was published on the 22nd of February 2022 and an application for approval of the CPO and Road Scheme was submitted to An Bord Pleanála on 25 February 2022. A virtual Oral Hearing for the Scheme was held by An Bord Pleanála, using MS Teams, on Thursday 24th November 2022. It is hoped that the Board will have decided and approved the Scheme in Q1 2023.

Detailed design of the **Athenry Northern Ring Road** (Strategic Infrastructure Grant) continued in 2022 and the CPO for the western ‘elbow’ section was published in December. 1 no. objection was received to the scheme. The Council awaits hearing from An Bord Pleanála as to whether an oral hearing will be held. The work on this scheme in 2023 will include further detailed design on the eastern section of this route as far as the Monivea Road to include liaison and design by Irish Rail on the interaction with the railway line. Tender documents for the construction of the western ‘elbow’ section will also be prepared - which could then be published, in the event of a positive outcome from ABP on the CPO.

The **Doire Fheartha SIG scheme** in Carraroe was completed in 2022. The works took place utilising direct labour, design by the Area Office with some subcontracted elements. This brings this scheme to a conclusion.

The **Kilbannon SIG scheme** in Tuam progressed further in respect of drafting of tender documents for construction, and land acquisition commencing in Q4 2022. For the year ahead it is intended that the tender for construction would be published, and that the land acquisition would be substantially completed. The DoT has continued the funding support for this scheme in 2023.

Further design work took place on the **Causeways SIG scheme** in Conamara South, with review by Galway County Council as to design considerations. This scheme will continue in 2023 with the support of the DoT and it is intended that the design will be finalised, and an ecological screening assessment undertaken. Depending on the outcome of the ecological assessment, the scheme will proceed via a Part 8 or Part 10 (NIS) planning application. Further funding support has been awarded to this scheme for 2023.

A new **Belleville SIG scheme** (Athenry) commenced in 2022 with an allocation of €50,000. The design services were tendered and awarded that year. A further funding allocation has been awarded to Galway County Council for 2023 which will enable the design to be progressed. The proposed works at this location are the realignment of the regional road to reduce the curvature in the horizontal alignment.

CLIMATE CHANGE FUNDING & ACTIVE TRAVEL

An allocation of €1,032,500 was given to Galway County Council in 2022 to complete several projects under the Climate Change Adaptation and Rehabilitation scheme (CCAR). The purpose of this scheme is to deliver projects which would have a significant and quantifiable impact on combating climate change and address damage to the network from severe weather. The projects completed in Galway typically included road-raising measures, installation of drains and gullies,

installation of culverts and other flood prevention measures. The DoT has reconfirmed its commitment to this scheme by making it available to local authorities again in 2023 and Galway County Council has received an increased allocation of €1,169,193.

ACTIVE TRAVEL 2022

A major national target objective of the NTA Active Travel Programme is the delivery of 1000km of new walking and cycling infrastructure by the end of 2025 – this is a key component in the government’s strategy to achieve a 50% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 (ref. Climate Action Plan, 2023).

The Active Travel Programme is set up to enable delivery of a safer and more accessible network which will encourage people to commute safely, walking and cycling between home, school, and business. By providing an alternative means of sustainable commuting, the need for short car journeys will reduce resulting in a greater modal shift.

NTA funded Active Travel works are for non-National roads and for locations within defined speed limits of 50/60kmh. This scheme continues as a rolling, multi-annual programme of works which continue to be worked around the County.

In 2022, Galway County Council received an Active Travel funding allocation of almost €7.9 million to deliver its Active Travel Programme for the year – multiple Active Travel projects were planned, tendered, and delivered on the ground in various Towns and Villages throughout Galway County.

The 2022 programme included a comprehensive range of projects, ranging from Transportation Modelling and Local Transport Planning projects by the Roads and Forward Planning teams; Design and Construction projects delivered directly by the Municipal District teams; and Safe Routes to School Delivery Plans delivered working alongside the An Taisce Green Schools teams.

Just over €3 million was spent on Construction projects in 2022, some of which included:

- Upgrade and repairs of existing footpaths
- Installation of new footpaths complete with drainage and public lighting
- Installation of cycle parking infrastructure at multiple locations around the County
- Installation and upgrade of Pedestrian Crossings
- Installation of Speeding Interventions and Driver Feedback Signs

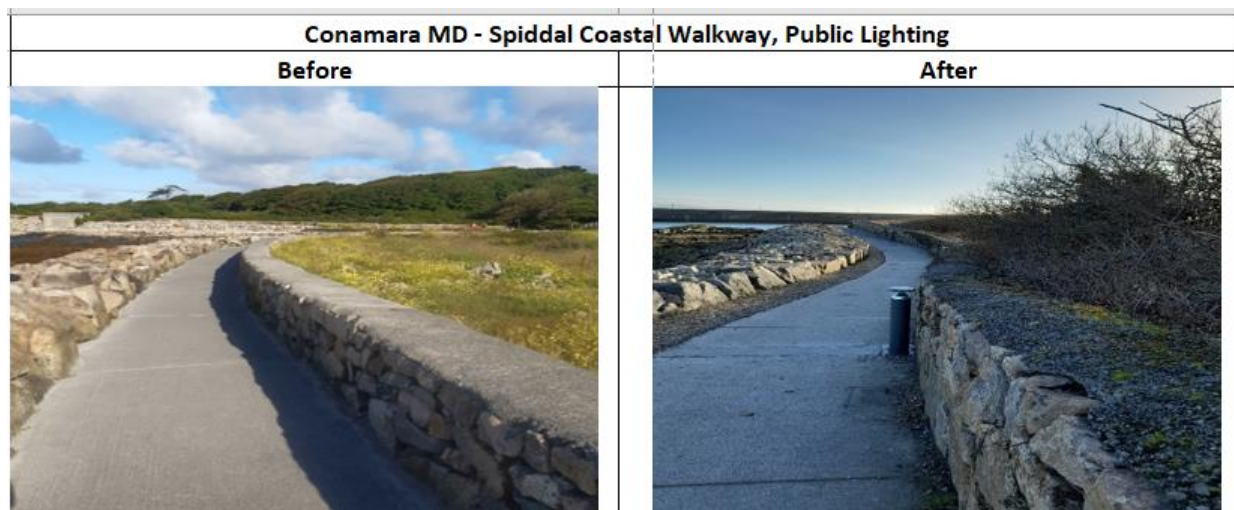
Construction projects that did not fully complete in 2022 are being rolled over and funded into 2023.

Design and Planning projects that were started in 2022 will continue to be developed on a multi-annual basis through to completion.

Some Photos of 2022 Active Travel projects







Strategic Goal Quality Customer Service

To ensure that quality customer service is at the centre of everything we do

CUSTOMER SERVICE

- The Unit continued to operate an Online Payment Facility to allow for the payment of Fixed Charge Notices (Parking Fines).
- The Unit continued to avail of www.galway.ie throughout 2022 to provide a Traffic Information Service, providing information on traffic disruptions arising as a result of road works, temporary road closures, roadworks speed limits etc.
- The Unit communicated with the public using various media, such as local radio, website, twitter, local newspapers, e-mails, texts, through the usage of the on-line customer comments system.
- The Roads and Transportation Unit successfully and efficiently delivered an extensive programme of works in 2022, which included works in addition to those included in the Roads Programmes, funded by other Government Departments such as Department of Rural and Community Development, An Roinn Cultúir, Oidreachta agus Gaeltachta.

ROAD SAFETY TOGETHER COMMITTEE

The Road Safety Together Committee met once during 2022 – continuing its active role in the promotion of road safety in Co. Galway.



(Photo: Galway Co. Council's Road Safety Together Committee)

Specific road safety initiatives undertaken by the Council during 2022 included:

- Support for the operation of the Junior School Warden Scheme
- Funding of Cycle Training to National Schools and funding of bike racks

Galway Co. Council, in conjunction with NUI Galway's Students Union, ran a road safety awareness campaign encouraging students who walk or cycle to college to arrive safely. High visibility vests were distributed to students attending the college during Road Safety Week, courtesy of the Road Safety Authority.



(Photo: NUIG Students)

Irish Road Safety Week took place from 3rd to 9th October 2022 and the Council raised road safety awareness amongst the public by the distribution of leaflets such as speeding, tyre depth gauge, learner drivers, the correct use of lights on vehicles, drink and drug driving, driver tiredness, mobile phone use, correct use of roundabouts, etc., and free reflective materials were provided.

To ensure the correct vision for driving, everyone was encouraged to get a Sight Test at least every 2 years. For the month of October, '22, Specsavers offered standard Sight Tests for €15.00.

The Council teamed up with GMIT's Students Union and high visibility rucksack covers were distributed to students attending the college.



Galway Co. Council's 'Arrive Alive' initiative advises on No Texting and Driving. Discs are available, free of charge, to members of the public through its Motor Tax Offices and Area Offices.



Galway Co. Council, in conjunction with Galway Fire & Rescue Service, An Cheathrú Rua; HSE Ambulance Service; Galway Civil Defence and An Garda Síochána, teamed up for a road safety awareness event aimed at teenagers at Coláiste Chroí Mhuire, An Spidéal, 6th October, '22.

The secondary school students who are about to become young drivers had an opportunity to experience what happens at the scene of a road traffic collision – a car dismantling demonstration took place, and a person was released from a vehicle. Crew from the Fire Service, Ambulance Service and Civil Defence were present, along with An Garda Síochána, to advise the 80 plus students present.

The aim of this initiative was to raise awareness of what happens at the scene of an accident which will hopefully prevent the young drivers-to-be becoming involved in road traffic incidents that all too often result in serious injury or death.



Strategic Goal Protection of Environment & Heritage

To improve, protect and promote our environment, culture, heritage, and language in the interests of present and future generations.

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SCHEMES

The Council, in partnership with the Department of Social Protection and the local community, continue to promote and encourage the development of Community Employment.

In 2022 the Council continued to sponsor five schemes with 77 participants in the following locations: Maigh Cuilinn/Oughterard, Laurencetown/Abbey, Gort & Environs, Tuam & Environs and Cloch na Ron/Clifden.



(Flower beds near Tuam Swimming Pool, carried out by Tuam & Environs Community Employment Scheme)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN ROADS SCHEMES

The Council continued to actively promote the Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme as a means of harnessing community support for road works on suitable local roads. A total of €964,160 was expended on 35 no. projects during 2022, funded by allocation under the Department of Transport Regional & Local Road.

THE NATIONAL BROADBAND PLAN.

The National Broadband Plan (NBP) is a government policy that aims to ensure that every home, school, and business in Ireland – regardless of how remote or rural – has access to high-speed broadband.

This is being achieved through a combination of Commercial investment across the country and a State Intervention in those areas where commercial operators acting alone are unlikely to invest.

NBP STATE INTERVENTION AREA

In November 2019, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications appointed NBI as the company to build, maintain and operate the State Intervention network for the next 25 years.

The National Broadband Plan is set to deliver high-speed fibre broadband to over 544,000 premises in the State, 39,964 of which are in Co. Galway and the projected investment in Co. Galway over the life of the project is €153 Million.

By the end of 2022 over 13,843 premises were passed with a Fibre to the home (FTTH) service in Co. Galway by NBI and are able to pre-order/order a service, this represents 35% of the Premises in the intervention area in County Galway.

In 2022 the Deployment areas of Gort and Loughrea where substantially completed.

NBI projects by the end of 2023 44% of the Premises in the intervention area in County Galway will be able to pre-order/order a service.

NBI current published build plan indicates they will have completed their network roll out in Co. Galway by December 2026.

Up to date information on NBI build plan for County Galway can be found <https://nbi.ie/where-are-we-working/>

COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT DELIVERING FTTH SERVICES

A key principle of the NBP is to support and stimulate commercial investment through policy and regulatory measures. This has acted as a catalyst to commercial investment by the telecommunications sector

From 2018 to the end of 2022 over 43,000 additional Eircode's in Co. Galway were passed by commercial companies with Fibre to the home (FTTH) networks.

Fibre network build is currently on going in Loughrea Town and works in Ballinasloe Town is projected to start in Q2 2023.

THE WIFI4EU INITIATIVE

The WiFi4EU initiative promotes free outdoor access to Wi-Fi connectivity for citizens in public spaces including parks, squares, public buildings, libraries, health centres and museums in municipalities throughout Europe. By the end of 2022, 40 wi-fi access points were live across the county and it is anticipated two further access points will be rolled out in 2023, providing free Wi-Fi access to locals and visitors alike.

THE BCP (BROADBAND CONNECTION POINTS) INITIATIVE

The BCP initiative is a pivotal part of the National Broadband Plan which will see high-speed connectivity brought to key public locations in areas which currently cannot access high-speed broadband. This is in advance of National Broadband Ireland rolling out fibre connectivity in these areas. BCPs will provide free Wi-Fi hotspots to the public, with some offering additional services to their communities, such as remote working spaces or locations for skills training. Currently there are 20 BCPs that are live and offering public Wi-Fi. The remaining 2 BCPs are expected to go live in 2023.

In 2022, Galway County Council secured funding (€127,779.33) for 5 BCP from Department of Rural & Community Development under the Connected Hubs call (2022) to create new or add additional Remote working spaces -this work is now complete, and returns have been made to DRCD.

REGION MAPPING OF DIGITAL RESOURCES.

The ArcGIS Map displays digital hubs, Libraries, buildings with public wi-fi and computers stock for public access, IFI4EU -public Wi-Fi points and BCP locations and their service offering, this map was updated in 2022

WATER SERVICES

WATER CONSERVATION

During 2022 works continued to reduce leakage from the water distribution network through planned and reactive intervention works through the Leakage Reduction Programme (LRP), in conjunction with rehabilitation works under the Water Network Programme (WNP).

In 2022 significant rehabilitation works were undertaken in Ballinasloe, Eyrecourt, Casla, Inis Oirr, Inisbofin which will improve water quality and supply issues in these areas.

Looking Forward, 2023 will see continued investment in the network through the WNP with rehabilitation schemes initially planned for Glenamaddy, Inverin, Roscahill, Tuam, Gort and Athenry and continued reduction in leakage through the LRP.

Other key work streams running in parallel and expected to deliver further benefits within the County include the following:

- Capital Find & Fix utilising the resources of Galway County Council Operational and Find Fix crews and Contractors across several District Metering Areas (DMA's) throughout the County.
- Pressure Management utilising the resources of Galway County Council Operational and Find Fix crews and Contractors across all Water Service Divisions North, South & West.
- Mains Rehabilitation (including lead replacement) are continuing via the Contractor Mains Rehab Crews across all Water Service Divisions North, South & West.

- First Fix activities are ongoing countywide via the Contractor Mains Rehab Crews.
- Metering (Non-Domestic) via the Contractor Mains Rehab Crews at location throughout the County.

As work progresses on these work streams in the coming years, significant water savings will be achieved delivering tangible benefits to both customers and the wider community.

GROUP WATER SCHEMES

The Programme provides support to group schemes through new group scheme grants, grants for ~~the~~ improvements, individual well grants and subsidy grants towards ongoing operation and maintenance. The issue of water quality and compliance with Drinking Water Regulation standards is central to investment decisions.

All the various Rural Water programmes are funded by the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage with the level of grant support varying from 75% to 100% depending on the category of works.

In 2022, Capital Grants in the region of €0.78m were paid out and operational Subsidies of in the region of €5.3m were also paid out.

The hyperinflation in materials and energy made for a very challenging for schemes during 2022.

The details of the funding measures under the programme are set out below.

Measure 1: Source Protection

(GWS Sector) – Protection of raw water source of existing GWS(Was 2(e)). This is Phase 1 and Phase 2.

- Phase 1 was the ZOC reports (€3,000 X 85% max grant).
- Phase 2 is at 100% subject to max per house of 9,000 across all funding headings.

Measure 2: Public Health Compliance

Upgrading of Treatment Facilities

- a. Water Treatment Improvements (RAL) 100%
- b. Amalgamation/rationalisation 100%
- c. Capital replacement costs 85%

Measure 3: Enhancement of Existing Schemes Including Water Conservation (

GWS Sector)Water conservation and network upgrades including storage.

- a. Water Conservation (85%)

- b. Network Upgrades (85%)

Measure 4: New Group Water Schemes

- a. Standalone Schemes
- b. Extensions

85% subject to normal limits or 90% in exceptional cases.

Measure 5: Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes to the Public (Irish Water) Water Sector

Existing schemes that wish to be taken in charge.

Measure 6: Community Connections (Water and Wastewater)

Extensions off the public network

Measure 7: Innovation and Research

- a. Proposals for use of new technology in the group water sector
- b. Projects in the rural water sector to support Water Framework Directives objectives, including awareness.

Measure 8: Individual Wells (75%) and on-site wastewater treatment systems (means tested).

The Multi Annual Rural Water programme 2019-2021 concluded in 2021 but carried forward into 2022 as the implementation of the programme was affected adversely by the Covid pandemic. Any projects not completed under the programme will be re-submitted for funding under the next programme.

All the funding measures have certain conditions and ceilings which will apply and be explained when applying.

CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME

Galway County Council continues to progress Water Services projects on Irish Water's Infrastructure and Capital Works Programmes, in accordance with the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water. Projects are prioritised by Irish Water to provide, or improve existing, water services infrastructure that will facilitate compliance with the Urban Wastewater Directive and Water Framework Directive. Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan is prepared at least every five years and submitted to the Commission of Regulation of Utilities for approval of funding.

During 2022, there has been significant advancement with the Athenry Sewerage Scheme network project, with a construction contract being signed at the end of 2022. The contractor, Coffey Construction Ltd., commenced works on site in February 2023 and hopes to complete works within the 24-month contract period.

The new wastewater treatment plants at Spiddal and Ahascragh were substantially advanced over the year, and it is expected that both plants will be commissioned early in Q2, 2023. Both are secondary treatment plants – Spiddal will have a design capacity of 1,000 P.E. and Ahascragh will be 470 P.E. Completion of the plant at Spiddal will facilitate the cessation of discharging untreated effluent to the sea. At Ahascragh, a compliant treated effluent will be discharged to the Bunowen River.



Ahascragh Wastewater Treatment Plant



Spiddal Wastewater Treatment Plant

Planning and design work recommenced on Ballygar WWTP and Mountbellew WWTP in mid-2022. For Mountbellew, the CPO for land acquisition has been completed and site investigation surveys are complete. Detailed design is underway, and it is expected that the project will go to tender in Q4 2023. It is proposed to discharge the treated effluent from the upgraded wastewater treatment plant at Ballygar to the River Suck, which will require a new rising main of approx. 3km. Additional lands and wayleaves will be required, and a site investigation contract will follow. It is intended that Ballygar and Mountbellew will be progressed as a single contract for construction in early 2025.

Planning and preliminary design is also progressing on Eyrecourt WWTP. During 2022, a number of options to upgrade the plant were presented by the consultants to Uisce Eireann. These options will be assessed, and an optimum option will be progressed to detailed design.

The Oral Hearing for the Compulsory Purchase Order for the Roundstone WWTP project was held on 15th March 2021 and the CPO was confirmed by An Bord Pleanála on 3rd March 2022. However, a judicial review of the decision was lodged, and the project cannot progress until this is resolved.

Uisce Eireann awaits a date for an Oral Hearing for the CPO for An Cheathru Rua WWTP site.

Works are also progressing on eliminating a discharge of untreated effluent at the Creagh Road in Ballinasloe and reduction in storm overflows at Station Road in Loughrea.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Section 126(c) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 provided for the establishment of a National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC). A function of the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) is to scrutinise the performance of any local government body against or in comparison with relevant indicators that the Commission considers it appropriate to refer to, and which includes relevant indicators relating to customer service.

Local Authorities are asked to validate and submit information and data on 42 Performance Indicators. This data is collated by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) and is made available to the NOAC for further analysis and publication as part of a National report on Local Authority Performance Indicators. In addition to information supplied from the Council, data is provided by external bodies (Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport's (D/TTaS) Vehicle Registration Unit (VRU), the EPA, Road Management Office (RMO) which is based on other national reporting systems to which the Council must submit data. This information is saved and validated by the Council as part of the national returns using an on-line e-returns system.

The indicators attempt to deliver a common approach to measurement and benchmarking and the availability of the information is intended to support all local authorities to improve the services they provide to local communities. NOAC believes that, by learning from one another, there is scope to develop and enhance best practice in the performance by local government bodies of their functions.

Work on refining the indicators is an on-going process and NOAC recognises that a number of the indicators require modification or replacement with a more relevant data set.

For 2022, there were 42 local authority performance indicators, as outlined below.

Each Indicator is provided with a reference as follows:

- Housing (H1 to H6)
- Roads (R1 to R3)
- Water (W1 and W2)
- Waste/Environment (E1 to E6)
- Planning (P1 to P5)
- Fire Service (F1 to F3)
- Library/Recreation (L1 and L2)
- Youth/Community (Y1 and Y2)
- Corporate (C1 to C5)
- Finance (M1 to M4)
- Economic Development (J1 to J4)

Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

Performance Indicators

01/01/2022 - 31/12/2022 (Annual)

Galway County Council

Status: Locked

| Topic | Indicator | Value | Comment |
|----------------------------------|---|----------|--|
| Housing: H1, H2 & H4 Approved | A. Number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 1/1/2022 | 2624 | |
| | B. Number of dwellings added to the local authority owned stock during 2022 (whether constructed or acquired) | 58 | |
| | C. Number of local authority owned dwellings sold in 2022 | 36 | 12 properties sold 24 properties that were removed due to change of use in 2022 |
| | D. Number of local authority owned dwellings demolished in 2022 | 0 | |
| | E. Number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 31/12/2022 | 2646 | |
| | F. Number of local authority owned dwellings planned for demolition under a D/HLGH approved scheme at 31/12/2022 | 0 | |
| | A. The percentage of the total number of local authority owned dwellings that were vacant on 31/12/2022 | 5.03 % | |
| | The number of dwellings within their overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/2022 | 133 | 98 regular vacancies 35 derelict properties awaiting sale or demolition for future council housing |
| | A. Expenditure during 2022 on the maintenance of local authority housing compiled from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022, divided by the no. of dwellings in the local authority stock at 31/12/2022, i.e. the H1E less H1F indicator figure | €2685.71 | |

Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

| Topic | Indicator | Value | Comment |
|----------------------------------|---|------------|--|
| Housing: H1, H2 & H4 Approved | Expenditure on maintenance of local authority stock compiled from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022, including planned maintenance and expenditure that qualified for grants, such as Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) grants for energy efficient retro-fitting works but excluding expenditure on vacant properties and expenditure under approved major refurbishment schemes (i.e. approved Regeneration or under the Remedial Works Schemes). | €7106392.7 | Expenditure of €5149329 in 2022 on energy retrofit which skews figure spent on maintenance. To include full figure as per NOAC 06/04/23. |
| Housing: H3 & H5 Approved | A. The time taken from the date of vacation of a dwelling to the date in 2022 when the dwelling is re-tenanted, averaged across all dwellings re-let during 2022 | 77.86 wk | |
| | B. The cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted in 2022, averaged across all dwellings re-let in 2022 | €17035.95 | |
| | The number of dwellings that were re-tenanted on any date in 2022 (but excluding all those that had been vacant due to an estate-wide refurbishment scheme) | 80 | |
| | The number of weeks from the date of vacation to the date the dwelling is re-tenanted | 6228.57 wk | |
| | Total expenditure on works necessary to enable re-letting of the dwellings | €1362876 | |
| | A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area at the end of June 2022 | | |
| | B. Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2022 | 1106 | |
| | C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2022 not compliant with the Standards Regulations | 99.06 % | |
| | D. Number of dwellings deemed compliant in 2022 (including those originally deemed non-compliant) | 231 | |
| | E. The number of inspections (including reinspections) undertaken by the local authority in 2022 | 1879 | |

Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

| Topic | Indicator | Value | Comment |
|--|--|---------|---------|
| Housing: H3 & H5 | | | |
| Housing: H6 Approved | A. Number of adult individuals in emergency accommodation that are long-term (i.e. 6 months or more within the previous year) homeless as a percentage of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation at the end of 2022 | 60.71 % | |
| | The number of adult individuals classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on the night of 31 December 2022 as recorded on the PASS system | 28 | |
| | The number out of those individuals who, on 31/12/2022, had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously, or for 6 months cumulatively within the previous 12 months | 17 | |
| Roads: R1 & R2 | | | |
| Roads: R1 & R2 Approved | A. (a) The percentage of Regional road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2022 | 99.00 % | |
| | A. (b) The percentage of Local Primary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2022 | 98.00 % | |
| | A. (c) The percentage of Local Secondary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2022 | 98.00 % | |
| | A. (d) The percentage of Local Tertiary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2022 | 88.00 % | |
| | B. (a.1) The percentage of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2022 | 2.45 % | |
| | B. (a.2) The percentage of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2022 | 9.63 % | |
| | B. (a.3) The percentage of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2022 | 24.17 % | |

Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

| Topic | Indicator | Value | Comment |
|----------------------------|---|-------------|---------|
| Roads: R1 & R2 Approved | B. (a.4) The percentage of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2022 | 63.67 % | |
| | B. (b.1) The percentage of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2022 | 6.96 % | |
| | B. (b.2) The percentage of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2022 | 5.17 % | |
| | B. (b.3) The percentage of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2022 | 48.68 % | |
| | B. (b.4) The percentage of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2022 | 39.05 % | |
| | B. (c.1) The percentage of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2022 | 16.17 % | |
| | B. (c.2) The percentage of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2022 | 8.94 % | |
| | B. (c.3) The percentage of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2022 | 50.85 % | |
| | B. (c.4) The percentage of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2022 | 23.84 % | |
| | B. (d.1) The percentage of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2022 | 22.23 % | |
| | B. (d.2) The percentage of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2022 | 6.55 % | |
| | B. (d.3) The percentage of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2022 | 47.02 % | |
| | B. (d.4) The percentage of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2022 | 18.88 % | |
| | A.1 Kilometres of regional road strengthened during 2022 | 17.9 km | |
| | A.2 The amount expended on regional roads strengthening work during 2022 | €4217811.00 | |
| | A.3 The average unit cost of regional road strengthening works per square metre (€/m ²) | €35.91 | |

Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

| Topic | Indicator | Value | Comment |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------|---------|
| Roads: R1 & R2 Approved | B.1 Kilometres of regional road resealed during 2022 | 35.5 km | |
| | B.2 The amount expended on regional road resealing work during 2022 | €1656864.00 | |
| | B.3 The average unit cost of regional road resealing works per square metre (€/m2) | €6.97 | |
| | C.1 Kilometres of local road strengthened during 2022 | 178.9 km | |
| | C2. The amount expended on local road strengthening work during 2022 | €16758512.00 | |
| | C.3 The average unit cost of local road strengthening works per square metre (€/m2) | €18.19 | |
| | D.1 Kilometres of local road resealed during 2022 | 159.6 km | |
| | D.2 The amount expended on local road resealing work during 2022 | €4321456.00 | |
| | D.3 The average unit cost of local road resealing works per square metre (€/m2) | €6.56 | |
| Motor Tax: R3 Approved | A. The percentage of motor tax transactions which were dealt with online (i.e. transaction is processed and the tax disc is issued) in 2022 | 83.53 % | |
| Water: W1 & W2 Approved | Percentage of drinking water in private schemes in compliance with statutory requirements | | |
| | The number of registered schemes monitored by each local authority as a percentage of total schemes registered | 97.62 % | |
| | The number of registered schemes monitored in 2022 | 205 | |
| | Total number of registered schemes in 2022 | 210 | |
| Waste: E1 Approved | A. The number of households which availed of a 3-bin service offered by a licensed operator at 31/12/2022 | 19184 | |

Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

| Topic | Indicator | Value | Comment |
|---|---|---------|---------|
| Waste: E1 Approved | B. The percentage of households within the local authority that the number at A represents (based on agglomerations of more than 500) | 93.69 % | |
| | | | |
| Environmental Pollution: E2 Approved | A. Total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2022 | 1109 | |
| | A. Number of pollution cases closed from 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022 | 1100 | |
| | A. Total number of pollution cases on hands at 31/12/2022 | 1333 | |
| | The opening number of pollution cases carried forward from the year end 2021 | 1324 | |
| | | | |
| Litter Pollution: E3 In Progress | A1. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2022 was unpolluted or litter free | 20 % | |
| | A2. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2022 was slightly polluted | 39 % | |
| | A3. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2022 was moderately polluted | 33 % | |
| | A4. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2022 was significantly polluted | 8 % | |
| | A5. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2022 was grossly polluted | 1 % | |
| | | | |
| Green Flag Status: E4 Approved | A. The percentage of schools that have been awarded/renewed green flag status in the two years to 31 December 2022 | 29.41 % | |
| | Schools which attained a Green Flag for the first time in 2022 | 0 | |
| | Schools which renewed their Green Flag in 2022 | 38 | |

Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

| Topic | Indicator | Value | Comment |
|---|---|-------------|---------|
| Green Flag Status: E4 Approved | Schools which held a Green Flag from 2021 and therefore do not require renewal until 2023 | 32 | |
| Energy Efficiency: E5 In Progress | A. The cumulative percentage of energy savings achieved by 31/12/2022 relative to baseline year (2009) | -39.70 % | |
| Public Lighting: E6 Approved | A. Total annual consumption of the public lighting system | 4896.79 MWh | |
| | B. Average wattage of each public light | 81.95 W | |
| | C. Percentage of the total system that LED lights represent | 51.74 % | |
| | Number of LED lights in the public lighting system | 6489 | |
| | Number of non-LED lights in the public lighting system | 6052 | |
| Climate Change: E7 Approved | 1 a) Does the local authority have a designated (FTE) Climate Action Coordinator? | Yes | |
| | 1 b) Does the local authority have a designated (FTE) Climate Action Officer? | No | |
| | 2. Does the local authority have a climate action team? | Yes | |
| Planning: P1 Approved | A. Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority | 15.22 % | |
| | Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority i.e. buildings where a valid Commencement Notice was served in the period 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022 by a builder or developer on the local authority | 1005 | |
| | Number of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2022 that were the subject of at least one on-site inspection during 2022 undertaken by the local authority | 153 | |

Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

| Topic | Indicator | Value | Comment |
|-------------------------------|---|---------|---------|
| Planning: P2 & P3 Approved | A. Number of local authority planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in 2022 | 25 | |
| | B. Percentage of the determinations at A which confirmed (either with or without variation of the plan) the decision made by the local authority | 48.00 % | |
| | Number of determinations confirming the local authority's decision (either with or without variation) | 12 | |
| | A. Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022 that were investigated | 225 | |
| | B. Total number of investigated cases that were closed during 2022 | 312 | |
| | C. Percentage of the cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development | 83.33 % | |
| | D. Percentage of the cases at B that were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations | 11.22 % | |
| | E. Percentage of the cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings | 5.45 % | |
| | F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2022 | 1702 | |
| | Number of cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development | 260 | |
| | Number of cases at B that were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations | 35 | |
| | Number of cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings | 17 | |

Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

| Topic | Indicator | Value | Comment |
|---|---|--|---------|
| Planning: P4 & P5 Approved | A. The 2022 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2022 Census | €24.00 | |
| | AFS Programme D data consisting of D01 - Forward Planning, D02 - Development Management, D03 - Enforcement (inclusive of the relevant Programme D proportion of the central management charge) for 2022 | €4632229 | |
| | A. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2022 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of their receipt | 71.60 % | |
| | B. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2022 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant | 28.40 % | |
| | The total number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2022 that were not withdrawn by the applicant | 81 | |
| | The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2022 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of the date of receipt of the application | 58 | |
| | The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2022 that were decided (granted or refused) within an agreed extended time period | 23 | |
| | Fire Service: F1 Approved | A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme E expenditure data for 2022 divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2022 Census figures for the population served by the fire authority as per the Risk Based Approach Phase One reports | €52.66 |
| AFS Programme E expenditure data consisting of E11 - Operation of Fire Service and E12 - Fire Prevention for 2022 | | €14556899 | |
| Fire Service: F2 & F3 Approved | A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire | 1.99 min | |

Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

| Topic | Indicator | Value | Comment |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------------|---------|
| Fire Service: F2 & F3 Approved | B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire | 4.75 min | |
| | C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents | 2.05 min | |
| | D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents | 5.37 min | |
| | A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 minutes | 45.29 % | |
| | B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes | 25.95 % | |
| | C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes | 28.76 % | |
| | D. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes | 47.99 % | |
| | E. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes | 35.38 % | |
| | F. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes | 16.63 % | |
| | Total number of call-outs in respect of fires from 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022 | 725 | |
| | Number of these fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes | 274 | |
| | Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes | 157 | |
| | Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes | 174 | |

Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

| Topic | Indicator | Value | Comment |
|-----------------------------------|--|---------------|---------|
| Fire Service: F2 & F3 Approved | Total number of call-outs in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire) from 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022 | 944 | |
| | Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes | 453 | |
| | Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes | 334 | |
| | Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes | 157 | |
| Library Service: L1 Approved | A. Number of visits to libraries per head of population for the local authority area per the 2022 Census | 1.33 | |
| | B. Number of items issued to library borrowers in the year | 617687 | |
| | C. Library active members per head of population | | |
| | D. Number of registered library members in the year | 33497 | |
| | Number of visits to its libraries from 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022 | 366389 | |
| Library Service: L2 Approved | A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme F data for 2022 divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2022 Census | €20.53 | |
| | B. The annual per capita expenditure on collections over the period 1/01/2022 to 31/12/2022 | €0.40 | |
| | A. AFS Programme F data consisting of F02 - Operation of Library and Archival Service (inclusive of the relevant proportion of the central management charge for Programme F) for 2022 | €5675974 | |
| | B. The annual expenditure on new stock acquired by the library in the year | €111653.57 | |

Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

| Topic | Indicator | Value | Comment |
|--|---|-----------|---------|
| Youth and Community: Y1 & Y2 Approved | A. Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme | 41.67 % | |
| | Total number of second level schools in the local authority area at 31/12/2022 | 36 | |
| | Number of second level schools in the local authority area from which representatives attended the local Comhairle na nÓg AGM held in 2022 | 15 | |
| | A. The number of organisations included in the County Register at 31/12/2022 and the proportion of those organisations that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN | 19.98 | |
| | Total number of organisations included in the County Register (maintained in accordance with section 128 of the Local Government Act 2001) for the local authority area as at 31/12/2022 | 1151 | |
| | Total number of those organisations that registered for the first time in 2022 | 73 | |
| | Number of organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College on whatever date they registered for the PPN | 230 | |
| Corporate: C1, C2, C4 & C5 Approved | A. The wholetime equivalent staffing number as at 31 December 2022 | 816.59 | |
| | A. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2022 | 3.96 % | |
| | B. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2022 | 0.21 % | |
| | Total number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2022 | 7677 day | |
| | Total number of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2022 | 395.5 day | |
| | Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of self-certified sick leave days in 2022 | 0 day | |

Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

| Topic | Indicator | Value | Comment |
|--|---|---|--|
| Corporate: C1, C2, C4 & C5 Approved | Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of medically certified sick leave days in 2022 | 331.5 day | |
| | If any staff are on long-term sick leave (i.e. a continuous period of more than 4 weeks), include a text note of the number of staff on long-term sick leave | 67 on long term sick leave of more then 4 weeks continuous sick leave | |
| | A. All ICT expenditure in the period from 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022, divided by the WTE no. | €2968.25 | |
| | Total ICT expenditure in 2022 | €2423845 | |
| | A. All ICT expenditure calculated in C4 as a proportion of Revenue expenditure | 1.61 | |
| | Total Revenue expenditure from 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022 before transfers to or from reserves | 150457973 | Entered on behalf of Finance and IT. Received figure by email from Finance. To be approved by M Martyn |
| Corporate: C3 Approved | A. The per capita total page views of the local authority's websites in 2022 | 7.27 | |
| | B. The per capita total number of followers at end 2022 of the local authority's social media accounts (if any) | 0.53 | |
| | The cumulative total page views of all websites operated by the local authority for the period from 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022 obtained from a page tagging on-site web analytics service or equivalent | 1402749 | |
| | The total number of social media users who, at 31/12/2022, were following the local authority on any social media sites | 102509 | |
| | The number of social media accounts operated by the local authority | 39 | |
| | Indicate if there was a change to the cookie policies on the local authority sites and the date this came into effect | Changes to Cookie Policy in October 2022 in respect of www.galway.ie | |
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Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

| Topic | Indicator | Value | Comment |
|-------------------------------|---|------------|---------|
| Finance: M1 to M4 Approved | A. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2018 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS | €-11921 | |
| | B. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2019 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS | €4852 | |
| | C. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2020 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS | €7601 | |
| | D. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2021 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS | €27916 | |
| | E. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2022 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS | €43103 | |
| | F. Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2022 as a percentage of Total Income in 2022 from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS | 0.03 % | |
| | G. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2022 | €779.75 | |
| | H. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2022 excluding significant out of county / shared service expenditure | | |
| | The 2022 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS | €153445651 | |
| | The 2022 Total Expenditure figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS | €150487943 | |
| | The 2022 Revenue expenditure excluding county / shared service expenditure for the service providers of HAP, MyPay, DRHE and Dublin Fire Services | | |
| | A. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2018 | 86.0 % | |
| | A. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2018 | 91.0 % | |

Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

| Topic | Indicator | Value | Comment |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------|---------|
| Finance: M1 to M4 Approved | A. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2018 | 76.0 % | |
| | B. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019 | 87.0 % | |
| | B. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019 | 91.0 % | |
| | B. c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019 | 79.0 % | |
| | C. a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020 | 82.0 % | |
| | C. b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020 | 92.0 % | |
| | C. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020 | 79.0 % | |
| | D. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021 | 84.0 % | |
| | D. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021 | 91.0 % | |
| | D. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021 | 81.0 % | |
| | E. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2022 | 88 % | |
| | E. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2022 | 88 % | |
| | E. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2022 | 83 % | |
| | A. Per capita total cost of settled claims for 2022 | €1.96 | |
| | IPB Insurance: Number of notified claims for 2022 | 80 | |
| | IPB Insurance: Number of settled claims for 2022 | 55 | |
| | IPB Insurance: Total cost of settled claims for 2022 | €377401.24 | |
| | Total cost of claims settled under excess for 2022 | | n/a |
| | Self-insured: Number of notified claims for 2022 | | |
| | Self-insured: Number of settled claims for 2022 | | |

Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

| Topic | Indicator | Value | Comment |
|---|---|-----------|--|
| Finance: M1 to M4 Approved | Self-insured: Total cost of settled claims for 2022 | | |
| | A. Overall central management charge as a percentage of total expenditure on revenue account | 13.88 % | |
| | B. Total payroll costs as a percentage of revenue expenditure | 38.75 % | |
| | Overall central management charge from the Local Authority FMS and defined in the Annual Budget | €20888931 | |
| | Total payroll costs from Appendix 1 of the AFS for 2022 (including Salaries, Wages and Pensions) | €58319487 | |
| Economic Development: J1 to J5 Approved | A. The number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022 per 100,000 of population | 15.5542 | |
| | The number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022 | 43.0 | |
| | A. The number of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2022 per 100,000 of population | 31.1086 | |
| | B. The number of trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2022 per 100,000 of population | 11.5753 | |
| | The number of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2022 | 86 | |
| | The number of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2022 | 32 | |
| | A. The number of participants who received mentoring during the period 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022 per 100,000 of population | 265.5082 | |
| | The number of participants who received mentoring during the period 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022 | 734 | |
| | A. Does the local authority have a current tourism strategy? | No | Informed by Kieran Coyne that no tourism strategy was in place for 2022. It is currently in the final stages of being approved |

Returns Report



This report includes details of the return made by your organisation.

| Topic | Indicator | Value | Comment |
|--|---|-------------|---|
| Economic Development: J1 to J5 Approved | B. Does the local authority have a designated Tourism Officer? | Yes | |
| | The spend on local economic development by the local authority in 2022 per head of population | €45.69 | |
| | The spend on local economic development by the local authority in 2022 | €8818131.82 | New updated figure entered as per email from Kieran Coyne, for his approval |

| STRATEGIC GOAL: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION & SOCIAL INCLUSION | | | |
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| <i>"To facilitate the broadest possible participation by citizens in local decision making and the sustainable development of their communities and their county"</i> | | | |
| SUPPORTING STRATEGY | BUSINESS PLAN ACTION | TARGET DATE | 2022 OUTCOME |
| Continued management of Community Employment and Labour Activation Schemes. | Facilitate and support community involvement and participation | | |
| | Sponsorship of 5 Community Employment Schemes | Maintain 100% capacity of CES employees throughout the year | Met Target |
| Work with the Strategic Policy Committees (SPC's), the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) to develop, co-ordinate and implement a coherent integrated approach to local and community development. | Facilitate the Elected Member and Community Representative within our democratic structures in carrying out their representational role in response to the needs of the Community | | Elected Members supported via our democratic structures in carrying out their representational role. |
| | To facilitate the Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committees in policy formation | 4 meeting p.a. | Met Target |

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| Continued management of Community Employment and Labour Activation Schemes. | Facilitate and support community involvement and participation | Maintain 100% capacity of CES employees throughout the year | Met Target |
| | Sponsorship of 5 Community Employment Schemes | | |
| Work with the Strategic Policy Committees (SPC's), the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) to develop, co-ordinate and implement a coherent integrated approach to local and community development. | Facilitate the Elected Member and Community Representative within our democratic structures in carrying out their representational role in response to the needs of the Community | | Facilitated meetings of the Strategic Policy Committees, Local Community Development Committee, and the Joint Policing Committee during 2022. |
| | To facilitate the Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committees in policy formation | 4 meeting p.a. | Met Target |
| Provide advice and financial resources to support communities and the sustainable development of the county. | Complete the delivery of the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019 - 2021 as efficiently as possible within available resources and liaise with the Department to put in place a new Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2022 - 2024 for the group scheme sector in the county. The Rural Water Programme includes the payment of group scheme grants for the construction and upgrading of rural group water schemes and the ongoing support of the schemes through group water scheme subsidy. | Dec-22 | In total €6m paid out |

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| <p>Work with the Strategic Policy Committees (SPC's), the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) to develop, co-ordinate and implement a coherent integrated approach to local and community development.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Support the Community & Culture SPC & Economic Development & Enterprise SPC on the development of plans, strategies, and policies * Support the LCDC and its subcommittees to achieve a joined-up approach to service delivery and delivery of LECP | <p>4 SPC Meetings 6 LCDC Meetings 2 Meetings per Sub-Committee No. of policies discussed and agreed.</p> | <p>5 LCDC Meetings Held & 3 Sub-Committee Meetings. * 3 Community & Culture SPC Meeting Held. Key matters incl. Ukrainian Refugee Crisis: LECP and Draft County Culture & Creativity Strategy 2023-2027 * 4 Meetings Economic & Enterprise SCP held. Key matter incl. LEO, BIA Campus, Draft County Tourism Strategy, Village Renewal and Regional Data and Indictors & LECP.</p> |
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| <p>Work in partnership with the key stakeholders including local community groups in the promotion of heritage, fire prevention, water safety, climate change and environmental enhancement/awareness.</p> | <p>* Promote fire safety and energy efficiency works in community facilities through all appropriate funding schemes, and in homes through the Smoke Alarm Scheme. Build capacity of local community groups in the areas of climate change and environmental awareness / enhancement through targeted PPN training programmes.</p> | <p>Ongoing, KPIs include No. of grants awarded for community facilities upgrades & tidy towns initiatives No. in Smoke Alarm Scheme No. of PPN training programmes</p> | <p>Fire Safety & energy efficiency works prioritised in Galway County Council and LCDC funding schemes. PPN training held during 2022 including elements such as training on the Sustainable Development Goals, Sustainable Living, and Beekeeping.</p> |
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| <p>Promote participation in sport and recreation in association with other agencies and the community, maximising the opportunities available through the Galway Sports Partnership and other appropriate schemes.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Support the GSP to drive strategic direction of access to sports. * Promote and develop sports participation programmes for individuals of all abilities and communities and maximise the number of programme and participants within available budgets. * Leverage other funding schemes to maximise participation of disadvantaged groups and communities in sporting programmes. | <p>4 GSP Meetings. No. of programmes. No. of participants. Level of leveraging and participation of marginalised groups.</p> | <p>519 trained in Safeguarding over 34 courses. * 158 trained Children’s Officers over 13 courses. * 101 Designated Liaison Officer trained over 9 courses. 50 out of 56 courses delivered on-line in 2022. * 15 First Aid Programmes delivered. * 34 Clubs awarded Funding (45k) with 44k Supplementary fund awarded to 38 Clubs. Community Sports Development Officer delivered over 20 inclusion & participation initiatives & Sports Inclusion Disability Officer, 10 Initiatives.</p> |
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| <p>Coordinate the implementation of relevant Community Development Programmes and funding schemes, including the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), in association with the LCDC and other relevant stakeholders.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Monitor SICAP to ensure effective and efficient delivery and conduct site visits to increase LCDC knowledge. * Develop a Healthy Ireland Plan to identify emerging priorities from the Covid-19 pandemic for delivery through a Programme of Works under Round 4 of the Healthy Ireland Fund. * Attend all LEADER Evaluation Meetings and comply with Section 48 requests. <p>Allocate Community Enhancement Programme funding to enhance community facilities.</p> | <p>Ongoing, KPIs include Compliance with annual monitoring schedule and attainment of SICAP KPI's Compliance with HIF deadlines & purposes. No. of CEP grants awarded and appropriate targeting of grants</p> | <p>All SICAP KPI's were exceeded with 152 community groups receiving support under KPI 1 which was achieved 132%, and 993 individuals receiving support under KPI 2 which was achieved 110%. €286,805 was allocated under the Community Activities Fund with 60% of funding allocated towards running costs of community groups, and the remaining 40% towards small-scale capital grants for community facilities and amenities.</p> |
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| <p>Maintain and develop an arts service in line with the Galway County Arts Plan to ensure that the arts contribute to the enrichment of people's lives while supporting the celebration of County Galway's unique traditions and culture.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Arts Plan 2020-2024 - continue to develop and support the Arts Programme; make funding application for support funding to the Arts Council in line with Framework Agreement. * In consultation with Public Art Management Group, implement public art programme in line with Galway County Council Public Art Policy 2020-2024. * Various Arts programmes and initiatives to be progressed * Deliver and programme Creative Ireland programme 2022 including Cruinniú na nÓg programme. * Deliver Arts Act grants * Participate as Partner in Erasmus+ project * Support Creative Places Tuam Pilot * Support Music Generation, Aras Eanna, Unesco City of Film, Wrap Fund * Support Strategic Planning for Arts Festivals in the county and develop new festivals in collaboration with communities * Programme Culture Night * Programme Local Live Performance Scheme | <p>No. of initiatives and programmes supported through Arts Grants - 45 Annual Plan developed to implement Arts Plan. - 35 initiatives No. of initiatives supported under Creative Ireland and compliance with deadlines - 25 initiatives No of Initiatives supported by Cruinniú na nÓg is 25 No of Performances supported under LLPS - 12 Culture Night - 35 event No of Arts Festivals Supported - 6</p> | <p>*By December 2022 the following was delivered: No. of initiatives and programmes supported through Arts Grants - 46 * Annual Plan developed to implement Arts Plan. - 36 initiatives *No. of initiatives supported under Creative Ireland and compliance with deadlines - 43 initiatives * No. of Initiatives supported by Cruinniú na nÓg was 22 *No. of Performances supported under Local Live Performance Scheme (LLPS 3&4) - 16 *Culture Night - 37 events *No. of Arts Festivals Supported - 6</p> |
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| <p>Provide advice and financial resources to support communities and the sustainable development of the county.</p> | <p>* Support the PPN as a one-stop shop for funding information and support through funding workshops, Grants Information Booklet, and capacity building training. * Support communities to enter national competitions such as Pride of Place.</p> | <p>Clear information provided for PPN Members. No. of national competition entrants and performance</p> | <p>Monthly PPN Newsletters issued in 2022.</p> |
| <p>Review and implement the community elements within the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) to promote and support community development and social inclusion.</p> | <p>* Complete a review of the community elements of the LECP by end Q1 and commence development of new LECP in accordance with Guidelines from the DRCD.</p> | <p>Progress on actions updated by Q1. Attendance at Departmental workshops and establishment of ASG to commence LECP development process</p> | <p>A desktop review of the community elements of the LECP was commenced to feed into the development of priorities for a new LECP.</p> |

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| <p>Supporting the Age Friendly initiative ensuring that the fact of an ageing population informs our policies and actions.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Support the Age Friendly Alliance and OPC to deliver activities and improvements in consultation with older people. * Implement Annual Workplan * Establish an Interdepartmental Committee to reflect the cross-departmental nature of developing an age-friendly County | <p>4 meetings p.a. No. of initiatives supported.</p> | <p>4 Meetings of the Age Friendly Alliance. New Older People's Council established, and 5 meetings held in addition to training from Age Friendly Ireland. 15 events held to celebrate creativity in older age during the Bealtaine Festival. 2 projects awarded national funding under the Creativity in Older Age Scheme. 26 Open Days supported under Positive Ageing Week to encourage older people to re-engage in social and leisure activities</p> |
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| <p>Support the development of the Public Participation Network (PPN) structures for community engagement and wellbeing, ensuring that these structures inform and are aligned with local government policy and activity.</p> | <p>* Support PPN Secretariat to manage PPN Membership, budget and to develop and implement an Annual Work Plan aimed at capacity building, information sharing and supporting effective representation on Committees.</p> | <p>No. of PPN Member Groups and % of these in SI college & no. of SI reps on LCDC (KPI Y2) No. of LA consultations with PPN. No. of Committees with PPN representation. No. of training days for LA staff and elected members on PPN.</p> | <p>No. of PPN Member Groups - 1,151 PPN (KPI) No. in Social Inclusion Pillar - 230 (KPI) 12 committees with PPN representation PPN presented to Municipal Districts</p> |
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| <p>To promote social inclusion and reduction of social inequalities by engaging with communities and other agencies to improve the quality of life for marginalised groups, including youth, migrants, travellers, socially and financially disadvantaged.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Manage Comhairle na nÓg and support the delivery of key annual topics and a Stakeholder Engagement Plan * Collaborate with Galway Rural Development and Interagency Group to develop a Migrant Integration Strategy. * Support the Traveller Interagency Group to develop a local Strategic Plan for the Traveller community in the County. * Implement the Disability Participation and Awareness Fund to increase opportunities for People with Disabilities in community life * Carry out Walkability Audits with older people to identify barriers to independence caused by community infrastructure deficits * Develop a programme of social inclusion events to celebrate diversity and inclusion. | <p>% of schools participating in CNN (KPI - Y1). Progress on key CNN topics. Migrant Integration Strategy in place No of meetings of TIG. No. of SI Events.</p> | <p>15 meetings of the Comhairle na nÓg Committee took place in 2022 + 3 Sub-Committee Meetings to plan AGM at which there were 63 attendees. 2022 topic was 'LGBT+ Awareness' and Safe Spaces training took place to raise awareness 4 TIG meetings held in 2022 and Workplan developed 2 Beach Audits, upgrading of disabled parking spaces and awareness campaign, and staff training was funded Under Disability Participation and Awareness Fund.</p> |
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| <p>To maximise the use of Council facilities, such as Municipal District offices and Libraries for the dissemination of information on services.</p> | <p>* Collaborate with Libraries on Healthy Ireland Programme and Age Friendly Programme to share and disseminate information and utilise their facilities for cultural and community events.</p> | <p>No. of collaborations</p> | <p>All libraries to be designated as Age Friendly Libraries by May 2024 with 3 key actions to be identified by each Library in this regard.</p> |
| <p>Maximise the potential of the European Capital of Culture 2020 designation and its legacy to the local community and local economy.</p> | <p>*Seek opportunities to support creative collaboration on European Projects with other EU Countries and organisations and artists living in the County. * Support the delivery of Orbs to Galway 2020 Opening Ceremony towns in line with Town Enhancement proposals and the MDs *Continue to support communities with the development of cultural proposals</p> | <p>3 learning exchanges with Erasmus+ Culture Up programme with Arts Office Host 1 visit to Galway County for European Partners Q4</p> | <p>3 learning exchanges with Erasmus+ Culture Up programme with Arts Office held. Arts Office Host 1 European Partner visit to Galway County inQ4 (Culture Up Project).</p> |

| <p>STRATEGIC GOAL: ECONOMIC & ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT</p> | | | |
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| <p><i>"To maximise the continued and sustainable economic and enterprise development of our county"</i></p> | | | |
| <p>SUPPORTING STRATEGY</p> | <p>BUSINESS PLAN ACTION</p> | <p>TARGET DATE</p> | <p>2022 OUTCOME</p> |
| <p>Enhance urban environments by the implementation of streetscape improvement</p> | <p>Collaboration with Economic & Rural Development unit and deliver on Local Authority led Rural Regeneration Projects</p> | | |

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| projects and the elimination of dereliction. | Tuam Regeneration Master Plan - implementation | Pending, subject to funding approval | The Tuam Masterplan was endorsed by Tuam MD on April 12th, 2021. The Plan will support any future RRDF funding applications as and when they materialise. |
| Implement the Digital Strategy and identify opportunities for hubs / co-working spaces at community level. | Maximise the continued and sustainable economic and enterprise development of our County | | Supported the continued and sustainable economic and enterprise development of our County. |
| | Facilitate roll-out of National Broadband Plan | Ongoing | Ongoing |
| | Support Implantation of Digital Strategy | Q4, 2022 | Ongoing task each year, with the current strategy in place until Q4 2023 |
| Maximise the potential of Broadband connectivity throughout the county in co-operation with Government initiatives. | Facilitate roll-out of Broadband connection points (22 no.) and support funding applications. | Ongoing | Ongoing |
| Enhance urban environments by the implementation of streetscape improvement | Collaboration with Economic & Rural Development unit and deliver on Local Authority led Rural Regeneration Projects | | ERCD Unit supported in delivering on local authority led Rural Regeneration Project. |

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| projects and the elimination of dereliction. | Tuam Regeneration Master Plan - implementation | Pending, subject to funding approval | The Tuam Masterplan was endorsed by Tuam MD on April 12th, 2021. The Plan will support any future RRDF funding applications as and when they materialise. |
| Implement the Digital Strategy and identify opportunities for hubs / co-working spaces at community level. | Maximise the continued and sustainable economic and enterprise development of our County | | |
| | Facilitate roll-out of National Broadband Plan | Ongoing | Ongoing |
| | Support Implantation of Digital Strategy | Q4, 2022 | Ongoing task each year, with the current strategy in place until Q4 2023 |
| Maximise the potential of Broadband connectivity throughout the county in co-operation with Government initiatives. | Facilitate roll-out of Broadband connection points (22 no.) and support funding applications. | Ongoing | Ongoing |
| Lead the development of funding applications for urban and rural regeneration programmes and other funding programmes to revitalize our towns and villages. | The Capital Team in Water Services assist and input to Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan along with colleagues in Planning to ensure that infrastructure investment by Irish Water is aligned with development plans. | Ongoing | Process is an ongoing one |

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| Guide the sustainable development and growth of the County in accordance with EU, National and Regional policy, including through the implementation of the County Development Plan | Development Management is carried out within the statutory and regulatory framework including the County Development Plan and European Directives. Promote and guide high standards of development quality in urban and rural areas throughout the County in a manner that supports the sustainable development for all of the people within the County in a fair impartial and equitable manner | Within Statutory timeframe | 2036 Planning decisions made - 55% within 8 weeks |
| | Monitor, control and enforce unauthorised development within the County Development Plan area under the Planning Acts, thus giving credibility to the planning system through effective enforcement. | Within Statutory timeframe | Warning Letters served -82; Enforcement notices- 59; Referred to Law Agent- 21 |
| Promote and support festivals, fairs, and events throughout the County. | Process Special Event Licences. Engaging with community group via the Heritage office to support festivals and community activities | Within Statutory timeframe | 25 festivals/ events supported by Heritage Office |
| Guide the sustainable development and growth of the County in accordance with EU, National and Regional policy, including through the implementation of the County Development Plan. | * Funding applications under the range of schemes available to be guided by relevant policy and County Development Plan | Ongoing | Funding applications guided by the County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 as adopted in May 2022. |

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| <p>Enhance urban environments by the implementation of streetscape improvement projects and the elimination of dereliction.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Consider a part of funding proposals including URDF/RRDF/T&V strategies/proposals. *Finalise the Pilot Street Schemes for Athenry & Ballinasloe and continue to develop and implement schemes such as Streetscape/shopfront to improve the aesthetics and encourage use of vacant properties. *Proactively incorporate community owned vacant or underused properties as part of Town and Village Renewal programme to maximise their value as community assets for social and economic benefit. | <p>Ongoing, key KPIs include Number of applications submitted including proposals for vacant/underutilised sites. Number of applications submitted under the streetscape/shopfront scheme.</p> | <p>In 2022, 25 EOI received TVRS, 2 projects re: vacant properties shortlisted for DRCD funding approval. 1 vacant property (Athenry) purchased under Building Acquisition Measure (BAM) QT4 2022. In December 2022, DRCD Approved 100k for An Spidéal Streetscapes * & 100k for Portumna to commence in 2023.</p> |
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| | <p>Complete works and secure recoupment for National Streetscape Schemes in Ballygar, Glenamaddy, Oranmore, Oughterard, Loughrea and Headford (184 properties)</p> | <p>Apr-22</p> | <p>Streetscape Scheme 2021 completed by April 2022. 174 properties awarded. Grant Aid of €294,867 recouped in July 2022 for TVRS Streetscape Schemes in 6 locations. 148 Properties completed works (77% of those awarded), including commercial, residential, vacant. (Headford 31; Oranmore, 7; Ballygar, 19; Glenamaddy 16; Oughterard 19; Loughrea 56 properties. Ballinasloe Streetscape (Pilot) - 90 applications, 74 completed and drawn-down with 152k expended by QT4 2022.</p> |
| | <p>Implement Shopfront Enhancement Schemes for Tuam (Key Town) and Athenry (Strategic Potential) to progress Masterplan and Regeneration Goals for these locations and engage with business and local communities.</p> | <p>Subject to funding from DRCD and Deadline set by DRCD.</p> | <p>100k Applied for Tuam Streetscape November 2022; 45 Applications Received for Tuam.</p> |

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| <p>Implement and review the economic elements within the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) to promote a robust and diverse economy.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Complete a review of the economic elements of the LECP by end Q1 and commence development of new LECP in accordance with Guidelines from the DRCD * Continue to have a focus and support key economic sectors in the County including the Tourism & Hospitality Sector in line with Tourism Strategy being developed, the Food Sector in association with the BIA Innovator Campus, the Creative Sector including AV in association with the Galway Film Centre and initiative such as the WRAP fund and UNESCO City of Film | <p>Progress on actions updated by Q1 Attendance at Departmental workshops and establishment of ASG to commence LECP development process Ongoing initiatives and support for key sectors and initiative under the high-level framework and action plan to be developed under LECP</p> | <p>Socio-Economic Analysis Completed QT4 as part of Stage 1 LECP. * Economic Initiative Ongoing in support of Tourism, BIA Innovator, Creative Sectors.</p> |
| <p>Facilitate the provision of commercial and enterprise space in a structured manner across the county.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Progress the development BIA Innovator Campus Ltd, Regional Food Innovation Hub, Athenry as a flagship project of local, regional, and national importance in association with relevant partners. Administer and Monitor RRDF Funding in BIA; Continue provide strategic leadership in an advisory capacity and at Director level on the Board. * Progress the development of the AV/Film Production facilities at the former Airport Site in Carnmore | <p>Ongoing with completed drawdown of RRDF Funding in line with progress and DRCD agreement * Progress Carnmore site in line with Council agreement and final report/S183 to be brought to Council when planning process complete</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Planning for Carnmore Site submitted in 2022, further Information required to conclude planning processes in 2023. S183 to be advanced by GCC in parallel. * RRDF Quarterly Monitoring Reports for BIA Innovator Campus CLG ongoing. RRDF Funding Draw-down ongoing in 2023. |
| <p>Work with the IDA, Enterprise Ireland, Údáras na Gaeltachta and other agencies in identifying and attracting opportunities for investment and job creation.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Liaise with other agencies to maximise use of existing commercial and enterprise spaces for investment and job creation. | <p>Ongoing.</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> |

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| <p>Develop and implement a Tourism Strategy and facilitate the continued expansion of the tourism sector by developing key branding, promotional and funding initiatives.</p> | <p>*Advance work on development of a tourism strategy. *Develop destination brand and implementation plan for Galway in partnership with City and agency partners</p> | <p>Tourism Strategy delivery October 2022; Destination brand delivery by Q3 2022</p> | <p>The Draft County Tourism Strategy progressed to final project stage incorporating stakeholder and agency feedback on draft documents by December 2022. Due for Launch in 2023. Galway Brand advanced to final design stage by Qt4 2023.</p> |
| <p>Promote and support festivals, fairs and events throughout the County.</p> | <p>Support tourism and economic development initiatives through the Community Support Schemes and capacity building events.</p> | <p>Evaluation February/ Drawdown of grants closes October</p> | <p>CSS Grants awarded April 2022. 57 Communities drew-down funding. *36 Community Festival and Events *14 Economic Development * 7 Regional Festivals</p> |
| | <p>*Continue to work with Fáilte Ireland with Wild Atlantic Way and the Hidden Heartlands brands and participate with destination working groups/taskforces. Work with partner local authorities and destination management organisations to deliver on shared objectives relating to tourism product development and marketing projects</p> | <p>Ongoing.</p> | |
| <p>Implement the Digital Strategy and identify opportunities for hubs / co-working spaces at community level.</p> | <p>* Support the development of community hub proposals under the range of funding schemes available and assist communities in the development of same including linking initiatives such as WDC where appropriate</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> | <p>50k secured under TVRS in 2022 to promote Hubs in County.</p> |

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| Lead the development of funding applications for urban and rural regeneration programmes and other funding programmes to revitalize our towns and villages. | * Progress applications under RRDF/T&V and other relevant programmes in line with calls for proposals | Ongoing - progress delivery of ongoing projects and develop new initiatives in line with funding calls. | |
| To develop a multi-faceted approach to tackling vacant and under-utilised properties in our town and village centres. | * Develop and implement Masterplans/Strategies for priority towns including Tuam Masterplan and the development of a plan for Gort and other funded towns. Implement policy around Town Centres First in line with opportunities | Ongoing and within funding calls provisions | Gort Masterplan Awarded 100k in 2022, preliminary consultations commenced. Ongoing in 2023. |
| Develop master plans for key strategic sites to ensure that they deliver on their potential in a planned and sustainable way. | * Work with Planning & Sustainable Development unit and with key stakeholders in the furtherance of the Masterplan for the former Galway Airport site | TBC | County Development Plan including policy objective to develop Masterplan for the former Airport Site adopted in May 2022. |
| Maximise the potential of Broadband connectivity throughout the county in co-operation with Government initiatives. | *Leverage funding where possible to develop Broadband Connection Points. *Assist hubs with their development including linking with WDC and other initiatives where appropriate to assist with marketing and development to ensure occupancy | No. of BCPs assisted. | |

STRATEGIC GOAL: INFRASTRUCTURAL CAPACITY

"To ensure that our physical and social infrastructure is sufficiently developed to support economic development, and to enhance our quality of life"

| SUPPORTING STRATEGY | BUSINESS PLAN ACTION | TARGET/TARGET DATE | 2022 OUTCOME |
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| | <i>Advance Major Schemes on the National Primary & National Secondary routes</i> | | |
| To provide a safe and efficient road network for all road users including the development of N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR), N59 including the Maigh Cuilinn Bypass, the Conamara Greenway and the Dublin-Galway Greenway. | GCRR - Galway City Ring Road - High Court Judicial Review of An Bord Pleanála's approval (06/12/2021) of scheme | Q4, 2022 | High Court decision Jan 2023 - Application remitted to ABP for further consideration |
| | N59 Clifden to Maam Cross- Strategic Assessment Report submitted to Department of Transport for approval | Q2, 2022 | No approval from DoT |
| | Maigh Cuilinn Bypass – Construction ongoing | Ongoing in 2022 | Construction ongoing – programmed to be complete Q4 2023 |
| To provide a safe and efficient road network for all road users including the development of N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR), N59 including the Maigh Cuilinn Bypass, the Conamara Greenway and the Dublin-Galway Greenway. | <i>Advance minor scheme on the National Primary & National Secondary routes</i> | | |
| | N17 Milltown to Gortagunnad Realignment -at CPO stage | Q3, 2022 | Q4, 2022 |
| | N83 - Baile Chláir Traffic Calming scheme Advance to tender stage | Q4, 2022 | Advance work to commence Q2 2023 |
| | N63 Liss to Abbey Realignment - submit to ABP Q1 2022 Oral Hearing Q3/Q4 2022 | Q1, 2022 | Q1, 2022 |
| | N84 Galway to Curraghmore-procure consultants to undertake feasibility study. | Q3.2022 | Q1, 2023 |
| | Athenry Ring Road - Submit to A.B.P | Q2,2022 | Q4, 2022 |

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| To provide a safe and efficient road network for all road users including the development of N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR), N59 including the Maigh Cuilinn Bypass, the Conamara Greenway and the Dublin-Galway Greenway. | <i>Maintain & Improve the roads Networks of 6941KM throughout the County</i> | | |
| | Prepare a road maintenance programme for non-national roads and Annual Roads Programme to be adopted by Elected Members | Q1, 2022 | Completed March 2022 |
| | Undertake and complete a maintenance and resurfacing programme for regional and local routes, incorporating ordinary maintenance (verge trimming, drainage, and signage provision/renewal), bridge maintenance, winter maintenance and route lighting maintenance within the limits of available funding and as agreed with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland/Department of Transport Tourism & Sport | Completion of Annual Roads Programme by Q4, 2022 Road Grant funding fully recouped by deadline set by TII/DTTAS | Completed 30.12.22 |
| | Number of Local Tertiary Roads repaired | 42 | 21.7 km DG |
| | Number of kilometres of Regional Road improved, as funded by Restoration Improvement Grant | 17Km | 17.85km |
| | Number of kilometres of Local Roads improved, as funded by Restoration Improvement Grant | 136Km | 178.92 km |

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| | Number of bridges improved - Rehabilitation Works | 12 | 12 |
| | Number of kilometres of Regional Road surface dressed, as funded by Restoration Maintenance Grant | 40KM | 35.52km |
| | Number of kilometres of Local Road surface dressed, as funded by Restoration Maintenance Grant | 181KM | 159.62 km |
| | Pothole Repairs – response time – number of working days, dependent on resources available: National Roads Regional Roads Local Primary & Secondary Roads Local Tertiary Roads | 2 5 10 20 | 2 5 10 20 |
| | Winter Service Programme – monitor weather conditions, and implement gritting programme on identified priority routes as required | Ongoing Winter Service | Ongoing Winter Service |
| To provide a safe and efficient road network for all | <i>Promote scheme for the improvement of private roads within the County</i> | | |

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| road users including the development of N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR), N59 including the Maigh Cuilinn Bypass, the Conamara Greenway and the Dublin-Galway Greenway. | Promote the Local Improvement Scheme to facilitate improvements on private roads | # of scheme completed subject to allocated funding from DRCD Fully recoup funding by Deadline set by DRCD | 50 20/10/2022 & 16/11/2022 |
| To provide a safe and efficient road network for all road users including the development of N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR), N59 including the Maigh Cuilinn Bypass, the Conamara Greenway and the Dublin-Galway Greenway. | Improvement of Safety of Road Network | | |
| | Number of Low-Cost Safety Improvement Schemes in place by year end. – locations to be advised by Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. | 11 | 18 |
| | Develop programme for identification, recording and monitoring of invasive species | Ongoing | Ongoing |
| | Treatment of invasive species at priority locations | Ongoing | Ongoing |
| | Facilitate applications for road improvement works under the Community Involvement Scheme and complete relevant works with Community support - complete works at various location subject to approved funding | # of scheme completed subject to allocated funding from DTTAS Fully recoup funding by Deadline set by DTTAS | 35 completed per PMS 30/11/2022 |
| Continue to Develop Road Safety Initiative | | | |

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| To provide a safe and efficient road network for all road users including the development of N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR), N59 including the Maigh Cuilinn Bypass, the Conamara Greenway and the Dublin-Galway Greenway. | Number of schools for which support will be provided for Cycling Training Programme | 25 | 30 |
| | Number of schools for which support will be provided for Drive for Life Programme | 10 | 0 – Course no longer taking place |
| | Successful operation of Junior School Warden scheme in County Galway | JSW scheme operations in 4 schools | JSW scheme operations in 3 schools |
| Promote and support the development of walking and cycling routes throughout the county. | <i>Support the Development of a National Cycle Networks/Greenways throughout the County</i> | | |
| | Conamara Greenway i) Progress Land Acquisition - Ongoing ii) Clifden to Recess - completion Q3, 2023 iii) Oughterard to Galway - advance to planning, Q4,2023 iv) Derrigimlagh - Kylemore Abbey - Advanced to Phase 0/1 of TII PMG v) Athenry - Milltown - advance to Phase 0/1 of TII PMG | Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Q4, 2022 - Q4,2022 | Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing - Q1,2023 |

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| | Galway to Athlone Cycleway -Preferred Route selected and preliminary design commences Q3 2022 | Q3, 2022 | Preferred route to be published in Q1 2023 |
| | <i>Support the Development of Walking routes throughout the County</i> | | |
| | Active Travel Programme 2022 - Capital Rolling programme. 18 projects from 2021 carried forward into 2022 for phase 2 works and an additional 10 projects to commence in 2022. Allocations to be recouped from NTA by specified deadline | Q4, 2022 | Met Target |
| | Traffic Management | | |
| <i>Prepare Traffic Management Plans for towns to enhance the quality of life in our communities.</i> | # of parking permits issued annually | 210 | 158 |
| | # of parking tickets issued annually | 1200 | 324 |
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| <i>To revitalise town, villages, and islands of County Galway and to improve the connectivity of communities, the built environment and public spaces.</i> | Collaboration with other Directorates/Government Departments/Community groups to maximise funding opportunities to deliver necessary infrastructure | | |

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| | Town & Village renewal Scheme (DRCD) - L.A. led projects | | |
| | TV19GY01 - Oranmore provision of foot & cycle path & refurbish green space in village centre | Q2, 2022 | Extension granted by DRCD for works to be completed in early Q4, 2022. Project completed and final drawdown due by end Q1, 2023. |
| | TV20GY03 - Portumna St. Josephs Road GCC & Community | Q2, 2022 | Project completed, final recoupment completed Q4, 2022. |
| | TV20GY04 - Tuam, Belclare GCC & Community | Q2, 2022 | Project completed, final recoupment completed Q4, 2022. |
| | CLÁR Measure 1 - L.A. led projects | | |
| | C121G02 - Woodford - Derrycrag | Q3, 2022 | Project completed under Active Travel Q4, 2022 |
| <i>Continue collaboration with OPW on Flood Risk Management and maintenance.</i> | <i>Drainage Maintenance</i> | | |
| | Number of kilometres of drainage maintenance completed by year end | 16km by Q4 2022 | 16km of Drain District channels maintained |
| | Minor Works Scheme | | |

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| | Continue to identify and submit projects for funding for minor flood relief works | 4 new submissions by Q4 2022 | 4 submissions made |
| | Complete minor flood relief works | 7 schemes by Q4, 2022 | 7 schemes completed |
| | Identify and submit projects for funding to OPW | As schemes are identified and resources permit. | 4 submissions made |
| <i>Work with OPW in relation to flood risk management</i> | | | |
| | Dunkellin FRS - Finalise compensation payments | 3 compensation payments outstanding at end Q4 2022 | All other compensation payments made for the scheme |
| | South Galway FRS - Commenced preparation of the EIAR | Q4, 2022 | Ground Investigation contract completed. |
| | Ballinasloe FRS - Development & Design | Q4, 2022 | Ongoing - Stage 1 - Dev & Design due for completion Q4, 2023 |
| | Clifden FRS - Development & Design | Q4, 2022 | Ongoing - Stage 1 - Dev & Design due for completion Q2, 2023 |
| | To deliver a programme of minor flood mitigation works to minimise and in so far as it is possible prevent flooding within the limits of available resources | Ongoing | Ongoing |
| <i>To Continue to develop our Piers and Harbours</i> | <i>Advance the Maritime Infrastructure Development & Coastal Protection Programme</i> | | |

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| | Inis Oirr Pier - complete tender documents (subject to funding approval): Awaiting completion of studies required by Foreshore office | Q4, 2022 | Tender documents for the procurement of a Design Build Contractor to carry out the construction almost finalised Q4 2022. Tender publication anticipated early in Q2,2023. |
| | Prepare and deliver routine maintenance & minor improvements programme for Piers, Harbours and yacht moorings - subject to available funding | # of piers maintained # of Harbours maintained # of Yacht moorings maintained | 6 – Piers 2 – Harbours Yes: Inishbofin & Cleggan 60 – Yacht Moorings |
| To deliver early inter-agency supports and provide stable and supported housing options to homeless individuals and families to reduce the reliance on emergency accommodation. | Delivery and management of homeless services in accordance with the Regional Action Plan. | No. of Adults in Emergency Accommodation that are Long-Term Homeless as % of the Total No. of Homeless Adults in Emergency Accommodation at the End of Q 4 2022 (<i>H6: Long Term Homeless Adults</i>). | 26% |
| | Develop internal and inter-agency protocols to guide the delivery of homeless services, addressing presentation, assessment, placement, referrals, transition and support housing to achieve a reduction in the level of long-term homelessness. | Number & % of Adults in Emergency Accommodation during 2022 with a Personal Support/Transition Plan. | 54 |

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| <p>To ensure that priority is afforded in the operation of the Housing Allocation Scheme to homeless households who have qualified for social housing support.</p> | <p>Number & % of Adults in Emergency Accommodation that transfer to (a) Social Housing (b) Social Housing Supports including HAP & (c) Homeless HAP.</p> | <p>NOAC 2022 report pending</p> |
| | <p>Number of transition houses and emergency support housing available/provided during 2022.</p> | <p>6</p> |
| | <p>Number of allocations to homeless households who have qualified for social housing support in 2022 GCC: (a) Social Housing (b) AHB's (c) Transition Housing Support (d) Leasing properties.</p> | <p>(a) 57</p> <p>(b) 29</p> <p>(c) 10</p> <p>(d) 2</p> |

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| | | To ensure that priority is afforded in the operation of the Housing Allocation Scheme to homeless households who have qualified for social housing support. | Persons with a category of homelessness as a basis of need are prioritised under the Housing Priority Scheme. |
| To accelerate the delivery of well managed and maintained social housing in sustainable communities for people to live while maximising the contribution to a climate friendly built environment. | Housing Supply - Advance 'Housing for All - a New Housing Plan for Ireland'; the Government's housing policy to 2030, delivering units under the construction, acquisition, turnkey, Part V, CAS, CALF, Buy & Renew, Repair & Leasing and Voids. (H1: Social Housing Stock. Move to increase the directly provided dwellings whether constructed or acquired by local authorities less the no. of units sold to tenant purchasers). | Progress the Housing Capital Programme in accordance with the targets and funding as per the Housing for All Plan and Galway County Council's Housing Delivery Action Plan. | Galway County Council delivered its target for 2022. |
| | | Work in close partnership with Approved Housing bodies (AHBs) to assist in progressing their Capital & SHCEP projects. | Galway County Council continue to work in close partnership with AHBs for the delivery of housing units. |
| | | Work to deliver 1717 build units over the lifetime of Housing for All 2022-2026. | 231 units delivered in 2022. |

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| | | <p>Advertise for expressions of interest and advance purchase of affordable turnkeys in Q1 2022.</p> | <p>2 Advertisement campaign took place in 2022 (March and September).</p> |
| | | <p>Identify land acquisition opportunities and progress to completion where feasible. Consider the acquisition of derelict properties with the prospect of bringing urban regeneration to locations.</p> | <p>Land acquired at various locations in 2022.</p> |
| | | <p>Scheduled meetings held of the LA & AHB Housing Delivery Forum.</p> | <p>Meetings took places in 2022.</p> |
| | | <p>Work to incorporate specific requirements into the design of new social housing estates to reflect disabilities, age-friendly housing guidance etc.</p> | <p>Each proposed scheme endeavours to includes these requirements.</p> |

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| To accelerate the delivery of well managed and maintained social housing in sustainable communities for people to live while maximising the contribution to a climate friendly built environment. | Delivery of the Affordable Housing Scheme. | Provide schemes of Affordable Housing for the county via the Affordable Housing Fund or other funding available. | Housing Demands/Needs assessments undertaken which identified the need to address affordability constraint in Galway County. |
| | | | Affordability Housing for All Affordable Housing Targets assigned to Galway County. |
| | | | Expression of Interest for Advance purchase advertised in September 2022, two applications submitted to DHLGH for funding approval. |
| To help individuals and families meet their housing needs in communities of persons of varied ages, family composition, ethnic backgrounds, and socio-economic status. | Delivery of Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) & Housing Assistance Payment (HAP). Look at HAP to Long Term Leasing options. | No. of Units Provided Under the RAS in 2022. | 14 |
| | | No. of Units Provided Under HAP in 2022. | 180 |
| To help individuals and families meet their housing needs in communities of persons of varied ages, family composition, ethnic | Delivery of Repair & Lease/Leasing/Enhanced leasing and/or Buy & Renew Schemes as resources allow. | No. of Units Provided Under Leasing/Repair & Leasing/Enhanced Leasing in 2022 if resources allow. | 0 – Repair and Lease |
| | | | 0 – Enhanced lease |
| | | | 1 – STL |

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| backgrounds and socio-economic status. | | No. of Units Provided Under Buy & Renew in 2022. | 0 – Buy and Renew |
| | | No. Of Croi Conaithe applications | 52 – Croi Conaithe Applications received |
| To accelerate the delivery of well managed and maintained social housing in sustainable communities for people to live while maximising the contribution to a climate friendly built environment. | Tenancy Sustainment Strategy- Implementation of the Tenancy Sustainment & Estate Management Strategy & ASB Policy | No. of Tenancy Sustainment Home Visits carried out by 31.12.2022. | Approximately 200 sustainment visits carried out in 2022. |
| | | Roll out of GCC revised tenant and Council responsibilities document. Review and revise tenancy agreement. | Revised tenant and council responsibilities document in progress together with tenancy agreement. |
| | | No. of ASB complaints dealt with in 2022. | 176 ASB complaints dealt with in 2022. |
| To help individuals and families meet their housing needs in communities of persons of varied ages, family composition, ethnic | Continue to adopt and implement the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024. Completion of adaptation and extension works at individual properties in Tuam, Loughrea, Ballinasloe and Carnmore areas. | Total No. of Traveller families accommodated as a % of overall targets set in the Programme. | NOAC 2022 pending |

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| backgrounds, and socio-economic status. | Progress Design, Planning & Tendering of Refurbishment works at Cloonlyon Traveller Specific Group Housing Scheme in Ballygar & Tuam Halting Site. | Design and tender stages completed. Contractor appointed – works to commence in 2023. |
| | Apply for funding for the refurbishment of Ballydavid Cottages Traveller Specific Group Housing. Subject to funding approval, proceed with tender and works. | Reviewed and decision made to transfer works to retrofitting programme in 2024. |
| | Proceed with the refurbishment works of Clontuskert Traveller Specific Group Housing. Subject to funding approval, proceed with tender and works. | Refurbishment works commenced in late 2022. To be completed in Q2 2023. |

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| | | Apply for funding for capital schemes to deliver improved housing for traveller communities. | Applications for major refurbishment works for several Traveller Specific houses submitted in 2022. |
| | | Apply for funding for the acquisition of standard housing for Traveller Families. | No suitable properties were identified for purchase. |
| | | Apply for funding for the acquisition of Traveller accommodation at Creggane Group Scheme and Tuam Halting Site. | Purchase of land to facilitate construction of additional houses progressed in 2022. |
| | | Apply for funding for works in relation to the Traveller group Scheme at Ballygurrane. | Application submitted to Traveller Accommodation Unit – awaiting approval at end of 2022. |
| To help individuals and families meet their housing needs in communities of persons of varied ages, family | Implement the Housing Strategy for People with a Disability for County Galway 2021-2026, rollout of new form & disability design. | Targets as detailed in the Housing Strategy for People with a Disability. | On-going |

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| composition, ethnic backgrounds and socio-economic status. | Progressing the establishment of subgroups. | Disability Steering Group to agree details of allocations procedures & nominations to Voluntary bodies as well as information sharing re care plans and risk assessments. | Two subgroups of the steering group meet on a quarterly basis. |
| | Rollout of the completion of all disability priority forms for all existing applicants. | To ensure that priority is afforded in the maintenance and upgrade of Council stock for disabled persons. | On-going |
| | | To support roll out of Disability & Mobility Grants as funding permits. | On-going |
| To accelerate the delivery of well managed and maintained social housing in sustainable communities for people to live while maximising the contribution to a climate friendly built environment. | Preventative Maintenance Programme for Housing Stock | Finalise the programme of prioritised PMP works for 2022 by end Q1. | Programme of works completed in Q1. |
| | | Progress contracts for further priority works (as identified above for delivery in 2022). | Works identified above have been tendered, contracts signed & works are ongoing. |

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| | | Complete all electrical and fire safety works across the county by end 2022. | Works are ongoing, approximately 70% completed |
| | | Progress contracts for the annual maintenance of heat pumps in existing housing stock for 2022 by end Q1. | Contract awarded & maintenance works ongoing. |
| To ensure that existing housing stock is used to the maximum degree possible to improve the quality of housing stock and to contribute to the renewal of the built environment. | Complete Housing Repairs (H4: Housing Maintenance Direct Costs). | Repairs completed on an assessed priority basis. | 3,611 repair requests were received in 2022, with 1,703 of these repair requests deemed to be valid with 1,526 requests closed. |
| | Progress a scheme of works to improve energy efficiency in the Council's stock and to contribute to efforts against climate change. | Submit a proposal to the DoHLGH in Q1 for 2023 works programme under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme 2021 -2030. | Programme of works submitted in Q1. |
| | Improve the Energy Efficiency of existing Housing stock while reducing carbon emissions and reliance on fossil fuel as a heat source and thereby reducing the risk of fuel poverty for occupants. | Complete works on the existing Energy Retrofit Programme. | Deep Retrofitting works completed on 122 houses in 2022. |

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| | Effectively Manage Housing Vacancies | To achieve a reduction in the % of housing vacancies @ end Q4 2022 versus % of housing vacancies @ end Q4 2021 (<i>H2: Housing Vacancies, H3: Average re-letting time and direct costs</i>). | Reduced vacancy rate from 7.2% to 4.2% |
| To help individuals and families meet their housing needs in communities of persons of varied ages, family composition, ethnic backgrounds, and socio-economic status. | Effectively Manage Housing Applications, Vacancies, Rents, Purchases and Loans. | Review procedures for processing housing applications and engaging with housing applicants. | On-going |
| | | To progress with scanning project to include new applications and old files. | On-going |
| | | To manage rents and rent review processes. | Rent review process under consideration. |
| | | To manage Housing for All Home Loans and Housing Tenant Purchases. | 13 Tenant Purchase applications completed in 2022. 22 Local Authority Home Loans approved. |

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| | | To develop online IT solutions - online application process, summary of social housing assessment (SSHA) and Housing List Dashboard stats. | Online IT solutions being developed with ICT Department. |
| | Continued roll-out of the Irish Refugee Resettlement Programme for County Galway. | Relocation of no. 9 refugee households by end of Q2 2022 to Local Authority properties. | 15 Refugee families successfully resettled by end of December 2022 |
| | | | Inspection Outcomes: |
| To ensure that existing housing stock is used to the maximum degree possible to improve the quality of housing stock and to contribute to the renewal of the built environment. | Proceed with the inspections of private rented properties (RTB, HAP, RAS). Inspections of private rented properties will contribute to the improvement of living standards Co. Galway tenants, including those in the HAP and RAS schemes. | Complete 1745 inspection target for minimum rented standards for 2022 (<i>H5: Private Rented Sector Inspections</i>). | First Inspection Non-Compliant: 317 Compliant: 3 |
| | Complete inspections related to requests for grants to assist with disability and ageing; to facilitate improvements to existing housing and quality of life of occupants. | Complete inspections in a timely manner for persons seeking grant aid to assist with disabilities and ageing. | Compliant: 231 |
| | | Issue legal notices when required and | Improvement Letter Issued: 1602 |

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| | | in line with government guidance re: Covid 19 protocols and restrictions. | Improvement Notice Issued: 25 |
| | | | Prohibition Notice Issued: 0 |
| | | | Legal Proceedings Issued: 0 |
| To revitalise town, villages, and islands of County Galway and to improve the connectivity of communities, the built environment and public spaces. | The Capital Team in Water Services assist and input to Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan along with colleagues in Planning to ensure that infrastructure investment by Irish Water is aligned with development plans. | Ongoing | Process is an ongoing one. |
| To revitalise town, villages, and islands of County Galway and to improve the connectivity of communities, the built environment, and public spaces. | Collaborate with other Directorates/Government Departments/Community groups to maximise funding opportunities to deliver necessary infrastructure to maximise use of existing community assets and development outdoor spaces. Undertake Communication and Expression of Interest Processes to establish and progress feasible projects. | Ongoing | |
| | Deliver GCC Led Projects and Monitor Investments in Community Led Town & Village Renewal Schemes (DRCD) and CLÁR Scheme as follows: | | |
| | Town and Village Renewal Programme | | |

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| TV19GY01 - Oranmore provision of foot & cycle path & refurbish green space in village centre | 22-Mar | Completed December 2022 |
| TV19GY10-Ballyglunin Railway Station Restoration - Co-work and Facility Enhancements | 22-Dec | Ongoing Extension April 2023 |
| TV20GY01- Baile Chláir - Claregalway Community Centre Upgrade and Co-work Spaces. | 22-Dec | |
| TV20GY03 - Portumna St. Josephs Road GCC & Community | 22-Sep | Completed December 2022 |
| TV20GY 03 Creggs - Upgrade at Heritage Centre and Outdoor Space | 22-Dec | Ongoing Extension April 2023 |
| TV20GY 02 Leitir Móir Community Park | 22-Jun | Ongoing Extension April 2023 |
| TV20GY06 Castleblakeny Community Playground | 22-Mar | Completed October 2022 |
| TV20GY04 - Tuam, Belclare GCC & Community | 22-Mar | Completed October 2022 |
| TV21GY - Progression of GCC Led Projects as Approved (Approval Due Feb 2021) | | Ongoing Extension April 2023 |
| CLÁR Measure 1 - L.A. led projects 2021 | | |
| Clonberne National School | 22-Nov | Completed and recouped |

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| Galway County Council and Woodford Parish Development | 22-Dec | Works undertaken as part of Active Travel. CLAR funding not recouped. |
| CLÁR Measure 2 - Support Community Led Project 2021 - 23rd Jan | | |
| Lurga NS | 23-Feb | Completed December 2022 |
| Skehana Community Development Committee (SCD) Community Playground | 23-Mar | Completed December 2022 |
| Abbey Community Development Association - Final Phase Community MUGA and Amenity Area | 23-Jun | Completed December 2022 |
| Glinsk Community Development Association - Playground | 23-May | Progress by QT4 - Works Ongoing to end of QT 2 2023 |
| CLAR Playground Innovation Fund, Galway County Council | | Works Ongoing to end of QT3 2023 |
| Comharchumann Forbartha Arann (Measure 3 - Outdoor Garden) | 23-Jul | |
| CLÁR 2022 | | |
| Comhairle Ceantar na nOileán Teo | | Awarded CLÁR 2022 & Administered by GCC, Works Ongoing |

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| Mountbellew Moylough GAA Club | | Awarded CLÁR 2022 & Administered by GCC, Works Ongoing |
| Cleggan - Claddaghduff Community Council | | Awarded CLÁR 2022 & Administered by GCC, Works Ongoing |
| Kilchreest National School BOM | | Awarded CLÁR 2022 & Administered by GCC, Works Ongoing |
| Clonberne Community Centre Co Ltd | | Awarded CLÁR 2022 & Administered by GCC, Works Ongoing |
| Gort GAA Club | | Awarded CLÁR 2022 & Administered by GCC, Works Ongoing |
| Ahascragh Fohenagh GAA Club | | Awarded CLÁR 2022 & Administered by GCC, Works Ongoing |
| Ballinasloe Rugby Club | | Awarded CLÁR 2022 & Administered by GCC, Works Ongoing |
| Clontuskert Community Development Group | | Awarded CLÁR 2022 & Administered by GCC, Works Ongoing |

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| Ionad Oideachas Pobail Glinsce & Caiseal | | Awarded CLÁR 2022 & Administered by GCC, Works Ongoing |
| Galway County Council, Portumna Playground | | Awarded CLÁR 2022 & Administered by GCC, Works Ongoing |
| Skehana Community Development (SCD) | | Awarded CLÁR 2022 & Administered by GCC, Works Ongoing |
| Killyan Community Field | | Awarded CLÁR 2022 & Administered by GCC, Works Ongoing |
| Collins Park Playground Committee | | Awarded CLÁR 2022 & Administered by GCC, Works Ongoing |
| Donaghpatrick National School | | Awarded CLÁR 2022 & Administered by GCC, Works Ongoing |

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| <p>To support Tidy Towns Groups to deliver improvements in all our towns and villages.</p> | | <p>45 Tidy Towns groups supported to enter National tidy Towns Competition. Grants awarded under CSS to target biodiversity planting and sustainable initiatives. Cross-departmental collaboration on training initiatives such as Sustainable Planting Workshops</p> | <p>45 Tidy Towns groups were supported to enter National tidy Towns Competition. Grants awarded under CSS to target biodiversity planting and sustainable initiatives. Cross-departmental collaboration on training initiatives such as Sustainable Planting Workshops</p> |
| <p>Develop and promote a Library Service to enable lifelong learning, information provision, literacy development, community engagement, health and wellbeing, cultural identity and creativity.</p> | | | |

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| <p>To utilise Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) and other funding to bring appropriate unused Council buildings into use for enterprise, culture, and community facilities.</p> | <p>Progress the delivery of Portumna Courthouse and Loughrea Town Hall as enterprise, culture, and community facilities in line with RRDF approvals and to progress additional proposals including for Tuam Town Hall and other opportunities in key towns</p> | <p>Ongoing, subject to resource availability</p> | <p>Ongoing: RRDF Team co-ordinating Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) of over 6m for the following locations: Athenry, Tuam, Kinvara, Portumna, Loughrea, Gort and Clifden based on ongoing resource availability. * Design Teams Appointed for Portumna Courthouse and consultation for Public Realm commenced. * BDP Consultants appointed to prepare the Town Centre First and Public Realm Improvement Plan for Gort Town Centre.</p> |
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| STRATEGIC GOAL: ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY | | | |
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| <p><i>"To maximise organisational capacity through the continuous review of operational efficiency, financial and risk management and the development of our Staff and Elected Members"</i></p> | | | |
| SUPPORTING STRATEGY | BUSINESS PLAN ACTION | TARGET DATE | |
| | | | 2022 OUTCOME |

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| <p>Ensure the property and assets of the Council are managed in a manner which maximises their present and future potential.</p> | <p>Continue programme of upgrading of Council fleet subject to availability of financial resources</p> | <p>ongoing</p> | <p>Ongoing yearly</p> |
| <p>Implementation of the Local Authority People Strategy to provide a Workforce of the Future with Capacity and Capability delivered through Effective Management having regard to legislative, financial, and changing circumstances.</p> | <p>Review personnel strengths in stations to ensure staffing sufficient to provide effective emergency response and minimise mobilisation of additional resources to incidents</p> | <p>Q2</p> | |
| <p>Plan for the protection of our citizens through the emergency management framework for response to flooding, adverse weather, and other emergencies.</p> | <p>Ensure continued review of severe weather and flooding emergency response plans</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> | |
| | <p>Continued use of the ArcGIS based Severe Weather Emergency Management System (SWEMS)</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> | |

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| <p>Fully explore and maximise opportunities that may arise through increased use of shared services and continue to deliver quality service under the existing shared service arrangement with Galway City Council for the Library, Fire Service, Local Enterprise Office, and other services.</p> | <p>Liaise with Galway City Council re site for a New Galway City Fire Station</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> | |
| <p>Fully explore and maximise opportunities that may arise through increased use of shared services and continue to deliver quality service under the existing shared service arrangement with Galway City Council for the Library, Fire Service, Local Enterprise Office, and other services.</p> | <p>Continued provision of city-based library service that establishes and enhances the quality of life for citizens and develops the social infrastructure in the city.</p> | <p>Community awareness of the city library service reflected in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of visits to each library • Number of books issued. • Number of active memberships • Number of events and activities held | |
| <p>Implementation of the Local Authority People Strategy to provide a Workforce of the Future with Capacity and Capability delivered through Effective Management having regard to legislative, financial, and changing circumstances.</p> | <p>Ensure appropriate training opportunities for the upskilling and development of all library staff</p> | <p>Liaise with HR in determining training requirements and supporting staff to attend and complete those requirements.</p> <p>Inform all staff of conferences, seminars, webinars that are relevant to the library service</p> | |

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| Continued implementation and review of organisation-wide Health and Safety Management System. | Provide and maintain a safe working environment for our employees, visitors, and contractors. All staff to comply with all Health and Safety legislation and minimise workplace accidents, incidents and near misses, and attend all Health and Safety Training when notified. | Continue to satisfy and monitor the requirements set out in Ancillary Safety Statement which are in place for each branch library. Follow up and progress actions contained in the Action Plans/Risk Assessment and continually review activity based and static risk assessments | |
| | | Ensure that all Fire and Emergency Evacuation Procedures and all Emergency Medical Procedures are current and in place. Ensure that staff in every branch library are aware of them. Report all near misses. | |
| Continued implementation and review of corporate governance structures and systems including risk management, procurement, audit, and statutory obligations under FOI, GDPR, Protected Disclosures and Official Languages Act. | All staff to comply with Garda Vetting Requirements | Ensure that all procedures are current and in place. Ensure that staff in every branch library is aware of Galway Co Council's Garda vetting requirements | |
| Work with the Elected Members to ensure that the Municipal Districts operate to their maximum potential. | Co-Ordinate Municipal District Schedules of Work | Early February | Completed February 2022 |

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| Continued implementation and review of corporate governance structures and systems including risk management, procurement, audit, and statutory obligations under FOI, GDPR, Protected Disclosures and Official Languages Act. | Facilitate compliance with Local Government Ethical Frameworks Standards and associated Regulations in relation to Annual Declarations, Lobbying, Donations and Protected Disclosures. | 100% compliance with Regulations and Legislation | |
| | Co-ordinate public right of access to records in line with the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and Access to Information on the Environment Regulations. | 100% compliance with FOI Act 2014 and the Access to Information on the Environment Regulations | 100% compliance |
| | Publish Disclosure Log of Freedom of Information Requests Received | Annually | Disclosure Log 2022 available on www.galway.ie |
| | Management of Council Meetings, Corporate Policy Group and SPC's to facilitate input of Members into Policy and to undertake their Reserved Functions in line with Statutory Requirements. | Consistent compliance with statutory requirements relating to Plenary Council Meetings and associated Committees. | Targets met |
| | Facilitate the County Joint Policing Committee, support public awareness of the JPC and co-ordinate monitoring of its Annual Workplan. | Consistent compliance with Statutory Regulations for the JPC | 100% compliance 4 meetings took place, one of which was the annual public meeting |
| | Publish the Annual Report 2021 | In accordance with statutory requirements | Completed May 2022 |
| | Administer Authorisation of Members attendance at Training and Conferences in line with Local Government Act 2014 and associated Regulations. | Consistent compliance with legislation and regulations | Completed |
| | Maintain and publish the Electoral Register 2022/2023 in accordance with Statutory Requirements. | 1st February 2022 | Completed February 2022 |

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| Maintain and publish the Draft Electoral Register 2023/2024 in accordance with Statutory Requirements. | 1st November 2022 | New legislation enacted July 2022, Electoral Reform Act 2022, moving to a rolling register |
| Prepare Supplementary Electoral Register for any Elections or Referenda called during 2022. | Consistent compliance with legislation | No electoral event called |
| Implement the Electoral Modernisation Registration Project | Ongoing liaison with the Franchise Section Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (Electoral Reform Act due to be enacted and commenced in 2022) | Commenced 2022, in progress to 2025 |

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| | <p>Ensure that the processing of personal data in relation to all Data Subjects is in compliance with Data Protection Acts & the GDPR, including demonstration of compliance around the 7 principles of GDPR and the rights of the Data Subject.</p> | <p>Ensure that data subjects are informed about their data protection rights, obligations and responsibilities and raise awareness about them; Management of mandatory logs, including Data Subject Access requests, Record of Processing Activities & Breach Incident and Notifications.</p> | <p>A suite of documents is available on Galway County Councils website for the information of the public in relation to Data Protection. This includes A Guide to Your Rights and How to Request Personal Information. Also, the Council's Privacy Statement, Data Protection Policy and CCTV Policy are available on the website together with the contact details of the Council's Data Protection Officer. Online Data Protection Awareness Courses were provided for Staff in 2022. In-person Staff Awareness Training was also made available for all staff and a Staff Newsletter was produced quarterly</p> |
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| | | | <p>to raise awareness of Data Protection issues and staff responsibilities. Mandatory Logs: A Data Protection Management System is implemented for use across the organisation to manage Data Protection including, but not limited to, maintaining the following mandatory logs; Data Subject Access Requests (100% compliance), Data Breach incidents and Notifications (100% compliance).</p> |
| | <p>Ensure compliance with the Council's Scéim Teanga in line with Ministerial Requirements and Official Languages Act (2003)</p> | <p>Daily. 100% compliance with Scéim</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> |

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| | Co-ordinate replies to Oifig Choimisinéir na d'Teangacha Oifigiúla in line with Statutory requirements and Comhairle Chontae na Gaillime Policies. (Scéim Teanga) | 100% Compliance with an Scéim Teanga | Ongoing |
| | To lead on, co-ordinating and sustaining compliance on Bi-Lingual Website. | Daily. 100% compliance with Bi-lingual only publication on the web. | Ongoing |
| | Implementation & compliance across the organisation of the Galway County Council's Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy | Ongoing | Ongoing |
| | Promote the development of Public Sector Innovation Initiatives across the Council in line with the Governments Public Service Innovation Strategy 2020 | Ongoing | Ongoing |
| | Raise awareness across the organisation of the LA's responsibility, under the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty or Public Sector Duty, to promote equality, prevent discrimination and protect the human rights of their employees, customers, service users, and everyone affected by their policies and plans. | Ongoing | Ongoing |
| | Co-ordinate NOAC Service Indicators for the organisation for return to NOAC. | In accordance with NOAC Timelines | Completed April 2022 |
| Ensure the property and assets of the Council are managed in a manner which maximises their present and future potential. | Continue programme of upgrading of Council fleet subject to availability of financial resources | Ongoing | |

STRATEGIC GOAL: PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE

"To improve, protect and promote our environment, culture, heritage and language in the interests of present and future generations"

| SUPPORTING STRATEGY | BUSINESS PLAN ACTION | TARGET DATE | 2022 OUTCOME |
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| | Energy Efficiency | | |
| Continue to pursue reductions in energy use through initiatives such as street lighting replacement, flood management and electric charging point provision. | Public Lighting Replacement programme - tender for P.L. retrofit - facilitate Mayo CoCo as Lead Authority | Tender to be awarded in Q2 of 2023 | Ongoing project with Mayo as Lead Authority |
| | Total No. of Lights 12,598 with 53% of LED | Continue to replace old bulbs with energy efficient LED as they require fixing. | 1740 LED upgrades in 2022 resulting in energy saving of over 378,000kWhrs (205t of CO2). |
| | Electric Skyline maintenance contract | Ongoing | Average of 5 days to fix lights |
| Minimise impact on the environment from Galway County Council activities including energy efficiency measures and reduced carbon emissions. | All of these supporting strategies are supported by the work of the Councils operations teams in conjunction with Irish Water under the Annual Service Plan. | Compliance with relevant KPIs set out by Irish Water | This is an ongoing process under the Service Level Agreement between the Council and Irish Water and is reviewed as appropriate at Tier 2 and Tier 3 meetings between the parties |
| Continue to implement an Energy Efficiency Strategy to deliver a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions to meet National and International obligations. | | | |
| Support Irish Water in leak detection and promotion of water conservation to minimise wastage. | | | |

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| Protection and Improvement of Water Quality and Catchment Management. | | | |
| Secure the sustainable development of the county through the review and implementation of the County Development Plan | Adopt and implement the development plan consistent with national and regional policies, including supporting Strategies, within the statutory timeframes. Further including applications for funding and submissions to National Frameworks | Commenced Q2 2020 on going work in 2021 2022 with envisaged final adoption Q2 2022. Funding applications in line with the associated closing dates | new County Development Plan adopted on 9th May 2022 |
| Create an awareness, knowledge, and pride in the built, natural and cultural heritage the county and implement actions of Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Plan 2017 -2022 | Implement the Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 and support the measures detailed in the plan | Events and training seminars/workshops, audits, and projects throughout 2022 | 16 Workshops/ events held in 2022 |
| Protect and enhance the natural and built environment by implementation of our Heritage Plan. | Promote and advise on the Built Heritage in the County of Galway | Review projects for funding and recoupment of the same within the allocated timeframes | 7 projects funded and recouped |

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| Protect and enhance the natural and built environment by implementation of our Heritage Plan. | Protect and advise on the Built Heritage in the county of Galway | Review projects for funding and recoupment of the same within the allocated timeframes. | Advice and Guidance provided on the Built Heritage in the County of Galway. Availed of funding opportunities to support the conservation and protection of our built heritage. |
| Ensure provision of safe and sustainable buildings within the county through effective implementation and monitoring of Building Control Regulations. | To ensure safe and sustainable buildings in the urban and rural areas in the county of Galway | To meet the minimum target for inspections within statutory timeframes. 15% inspection rate | Commencement Notices submitted in 2022 -794 ; 15% inspections target exceeded |
| Secure the sustainable development of the county through the review and implementation of the County Development Plan. | Assess level of risk of referred planning applications and issue responses where required | Ongoing | 189 planning files assessed |
| Protection and Improvement of Water Quality and Catchment Management. | Complete national inspection plan for septic tanks (101 tanks). | 31/12/2022 | 93 inspections completed under NIP |
| | Complete farm inspection programme (15 Farms) | 31/12/2022 | 32 farm inspections completed |
| | Carry out monitoring of rivers, lakes, discharge licences, bathing waters on a priority basis in accordance with legal requirements and monitoring programmes. | Ongoing | Monitoring programmes for rivers, lakes, discharge licences and bathing waters completed |
| | Enforcement of Discharge Licence legislation prioritising high risk sites | Ongoing | Ongoing |

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| | Highlight beaches with excellent water quality and facilities by achieving either Blue Flag or Green Coast status (5 with blue flag, 6 with green coast award). | 30/6/2022 | 5 blue flags and 6 green coasts awarded |
| | Protect public health by continuing to monitor bathing water quality at our beaches and implementing non-compliance protocols (26 bathing waters). | 31/09/2022 | Completed in line with programme. |
| | Carry out enforcement in relation to water complaints. | Ongoing | 102 complaints investigated |
| | Implement the Irish Water SLA for drinking water and wastewater facilities by completing the monitoring programme and incident response. | Ongoing | Completed in line with programme. |
| | Manage Private Water Supply monitoring programme | Ongoing | Completed in line with programme. |
| | Implement Catchment Management Plans in conjunction with LAWPRO | Ongoing | Ongoing |
| Monitoring and enforcement of illegal dumping and litter. | Investigate all environmental complaints in line with national priorities and within the timelines set out in the Enforcement Policy. | Q4 | 1142 litter and waste complaints investigated. |
| Implementation of Connacht Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan 2015 - 2021. New plan called "National Waste Management Plan for A Circular Economy" to be implemented in 2022 | Carry out inspections of high-risk waste facility permits and certs, household and commercial premises, permitted and bogus waste collectors, illegal dumping and C&D sites - 100% of identified high risk sites/collectors. | Q4 | Completed in line with programme |
| | Carry out joint inspections with the WERLA, the NTFSO and the Gardai and other regulatory bodies | Ongoing | The 4 WEO's attended on average 5 Multiagency inspections each |

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| Carry out enforcement in relation to illegal dumping and PRI referrals, Log all complaints and investigate in accordance with our enforcement policy | Ongoing | A total of 412 Waste Enforcement Actions were carried out in 2022 |
| Manage ADI projects, invoicing, monitoring of spend, compliance with RCT and Procurement Legislation | Q4 | 12 projects completed - cost of 88,392.57 |
| Manage CCTV programme when approval is given for the use of CCTV | Ongoing | It did not proceed waiting on confirmation of code of practice to be finalised |
| Follow up actions on the waste presentation by law inspections carried out in 2021 and new inspections to be carried out in 2022 | Ongoing | 673 household waste surveys were carried out |
| Set up and manage working groups in relation to areas of the county that have specific issues re illegal waste activities | Q4 | Ongoing |
| Ensure compliance with waste collection permits, including the continued roll-out of the Brown Bin in designated areas and monitoring of compliance in skip hire sector | Q4 | Completed in line with programme. |
| Enforce requirements in relation to Deco Paints, Solid Fuel and Solvents, carry out inspections in relation to Deco paints, solid fuel and solvents, Carry out enforcement in relation to air and noise, implement the Air Monitoring programme as per EPA requirements. | Q4 | Completed in line with programme. |

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| | To continue to provide recycling facilities for members of the public and extend where possible | Ongoing | Ongoing work regarding the development of a civic amenity site in Gort. 22 local WEEE collections supported |
| | Investigate and report on all complaints received regarding derelict sites and enter on Derelict Sites register where appropriate | Ongoing | Ongoing - 3 sites added to the Register of Derelict Sites |
| | Promote Green Programme with primary and secondary schools and other educational establishments and encourage more participation | Ongoing - 31/12/2022 | Continued working with An Taisce Green Schools Programme- 38 schools renewed in 2022 |
| Implementation of County Litter Management Plan. | Support and encourage community clean-ups | Number of groups registered with An Taisce National Spring Clean. Number of groups supported outside NSC | 193 groups registered in National Spring Clean + 3 extra supported |
| | Promote the use of social media platforms in highlighting illegal dumping | Ongoing | Ongoing - all social media outlets utilised intensively in 2022 |
| | Deliver an efficient and co-ordinated approach to the enforcement of litter pollution | Work in partnership with Community/Voluntary/Education Sector in educating and raising awareness of the effects of litter on our Environment. No. of meetings, campaigns, and initiatives. | Ongoing - Continued to develop a new Litter Fine Application for the issuing of litter fines. 13 campaigns with associated meetings as required |

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| | Work in partnership with the Connacht Regional Waste Management office in disseminating awareness and information of waste management practices and campaigns in all sectors. | No. of campaigns - 31/12/2022 | 6 campaigns |
| | Provide financial support and advice to Community/voluntary/ social enterprise sectors in relation to environmental projects | No. of projects/funding - 31/12/2022 | 10 projects including direct funding and attendance at events |
| | Review of Litter Management Plan | Q4 | reviewed |
| | Deliver an efficient and co-ordinated approach to the enforcement of litter pollution through completion of the NLPMS Surveys | 31/12/2022 | 184 Litter Pollution Surveys and 47 Litter Quantification Surveys completed |
| Provide Burial Grounds in association with the Community | Acquire new sites for the provision of burial ground facilities - complete Part 8 | 3 by 31/07/2022 | 2 |
| | Complete works on new extensions | 3 by 31/12/2022 | 1 |

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| <p>Implement statutory and contractual obligations in local abattoirs and small meat manufacturing plants in fulfilment of service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland including advisory work to food businesses. Liaise with external agencies, (e.g., DAFM) through local government management as required.</p> | <p>Comply with Service contract with the FSAI (current service contract expires 31/03/2022). Prioritise inspections of high-risk premises and local abattoirs. Carry out risk assessments on all approved premises with audits completed as per risk assessments. Carry out agreed sampling program in accordance with Service Plan to include residue samples, chemical additive sampling, microbiological sampling. Ongoing monitoring of Welfare and standards in 11 local abattoirs within the counties.</p> | <p>In line with service contract</p> | <p>Service contract with the FSAI rolled over to December 2022 -Ongoing discussions between CCMA and the LGMA with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine on the proposed transfer of the Local Authority veterinary service to the department. 115 inspections and audits were carried out in 2022. 73 samples were taken for microbiological and chemical safety of food and for the presence of antibiotic, heavy metal, and anthelmintic residues, as part of an EC monitoring program.</p> |
| | <p>Participate in FSAI and LAVS working groups. Attend and participate in Western Regional Zoonosis Working Group Meetings as well as outbreak control training with other regulatory authorities.</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> | <p>Working group engagement continued where required by Veterinary Personnel</p> |
| | <p>Supervise and organise TVI service in local abattoirs, to include implementation of SOP's in light of changing legislation and maintaining existing standards</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> | <p>Review of SOP - Standard Operating Procedures carried out in 2022</p> |

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| | Accurate returns completed and returned to FSAI within criteria set. | Ongoing | All returns completed and returned to FSAI via OAPI as per criteria laid down in service contract |
| | Provide training and advisory services to Start Ups and existing Food Business Operators. Liaise with the Councils' Economic, Rural and Community Development Section in regard to food sector development in the region. | Ongoing | Training carried out during 2022 with small food business operators - continued input into the development of the BIA Hub in Athenry |
| Implement regulatory framework in respect of dog control and animal welfare in horse control and operation of pounds. | Increase level of dog licencing and microchipping in the county and continue to promote responsible dog ownership | 31/12/2022 | Licencing compliance increased in Galway County during 2022 in comparison to that of 2021 with 8,792 licences sold. Door to door licencing/responsible dog ownership campaigns resumed. These were suspended during the Covid 19 pandemic |
| | Participate in CCMA led National Dog Control Working Group | Ongoing | GCC Veterinary personnel continued to participate in the National Dog Control Working Group during 2022 |

| | | |
|---|---------|---|
| Ongoing training for dog wardens/community wardens and review of current SOPs. Protocol in interaction with Housing Section and An Garda Síochána to be reviewed. | Ongoing | Ongoing - Dog Warden Service personnel completed legal training with La Touche in regard to Dog Related Legislation and also completed Dog Handling Training via dog rescue MADRA |
| Implement national An Garda Síochána / Local Authority Dog Warden Protocol and continue local liaison with nominated Garda inspectorate | Ongoing | Ongoing as required |
| Implement the DBE Act through inspections and risk analysis of registered DBE premises. All complaints of DBE's to be followed up. | Ongoing | All registered DBEs in the County were inspected by the dog wardens/veterinary officers in 2022. All issues arising from inspections followed up on by wardens/veterinary officers. 2 premises were deregistered during 2022. All complaints involved unregistered DBEs followed up |
| Provide advice and assistance to GCC Housing Section regarding the implementation of Control of Horses Act and in respect of dogs in local authority properties | Ongoing | Ongoing |

| | | |
|---|-----------|--|
| Provide advice and assistance in regard to Animal Welfare/Horse Control/Marine Mammals. Liaise with other agencies as required. Ensure all complaints received are logged and actioned. | Ongoing | Continued co-operation and liaison with DAFM as the central competent authority for animal welfare in regard to the welfare of farmed animals and horse welfare issues. Complaints logged on the Environment database and cross reported as appropriate. 10 marine strandings dealt with in 2022 |
| Recruitment of dog warden for East Galway to replace dog warden who retired August 2021 | 31/3/2022 | Dog warden appointed in April 2022 |
| Establishment of Dog shelter facility on East of County | 31/3/2022 | Appointment of contractor for the provision of a dog shelter and dog shelter keeper services in April 2022 |
| Oversee Large animal pound in line with legislation (Pounds Act) and liaise as necessary with public & external agencies regarding its use e.g. An Garda Siochana, rehoming charities | Ongoing | Ongoing |
| Assess all welfare complaints and cross report if necessary to pertinent agency. | Ongoing | Continued assessment of all cases reported and liaison with DAFM in regard to reporting of animal welfare cases where required |

| | | | |
|---|---|------------|---|
| | Assist the council in intervening in complex situations where large numbers of dogs are kept at a single property i.e., veterinary involvement in removal, assessment, treatment, rehoming, legal guidance surrounding cases | Ongoing | 1 major incident regarding dog hoarding situation reported to the dog warden service in December 2022 - 23 dogs on one site in the east of the County |
| Implement the action plan in Galway County Council's adopted Climate Adaption Strategy to delivery improved resilience to the impacts of climate change at local level | In consultation with the relevant departments, review the actions set out in the Climate Adaptation Strategy to determine: Actions that can be progressed in the short term, Actions that cannot be progressed, Actions that should be put forward into a draft Climate Action Plan. | 05/01/2022 | Ongoing |
| Implement with stakeholders the Climate Adaptation Strategy and develop the Climate Mitigation Strategy within the supports offered by the National Climate Action Plan, National Adaptation Framework and Mitigation Plans, and EU funding in Europe 2020. | In consultation with the IT Section, identify, develop, or purchase an IT system that will enable the short-term actions and associated tasks to be assigned, tracked and reported. | 05/01/2022 | Complete |
| | Prioritise the short-term actions and work with relevant departments to progress them. | Ongoing | Ongoing |
| | Support and encourage the work of the GCC Climate Change Steering Group. | Ongoing | Ongoing |
| | Develop an internal communications strategy. Support and encourage the participation of colleagues in climate actions and develop climate leaders throughout the organisation. | 03/06/2022 | Ongoing |

| | | |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Develop an external communications strategy and carry out meaningful engagement with all relevant stakeholders. | 31/12/2022 | Ongoing |
| Implement a Climate Mitigation Strategy focusing on service areas including Transportation, Energy Efficiency and Natural Restoration. | 31/12/2022 | Ongoing |
| Cultivate and actively participate in partnerships with enterprise, community, voluntary sectors, third level institutions and the research community to deliver on initiatives that reduce climate impact. | 31/12/2022 | Ongoing |
| In consultation with CARO and the IT Section identify, develop, or purchase a system for tracking carbon reductions. | Timeline to be confirmed | Complete for Internal Emissions |
| Lead the development of the Climate Action Plan and ensure input from all relevant stakeholders including the relevant sections in GCC. | Timeline to be confirmed | Ongoing |
| Support the Decarbonisation Zone project and work with the relevant stakeholders to identify and meet GHG emissions target reductions. | Ongoing | Ongoing |
| Support the SEAI Sustainable Energy Communities Program and the development of Energy Master Plans including the community-led County Level Energy Master Plan. | Ongoing | Ongoing |

| | | | |
|--|---|------------|----------|
| | Ensure payment and implementation of projects under Climate Action Opportunity Fund 2021. Provide education, support, and guidance to communities in relation to climate change actions. Highlight funded community actions. Ensure access to relevant information. | Ongoing | Complete |
| Continue to implement an Energy Efficiency Strategy to deliver a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions to meet National and International obligations. | Work with the GCC Energy Team to develop and implement a prioritised work program for reducing GHG emissions from GCC facilities and activities. | 31/12/2022 | Ongoing |
| | Build expertise within the GCC Energy Team by identifying training needs and organising relevant training. | 31/12/2022 | Ongoing |
| | Maximise on the input from the Regional Energy Bureau and the Energy Bureau Officer in developing and delivering the prioritised work program. | Ongoing | Ongoing |
| | Explore and develop opportunities to build and strengthen partnerships with Third Level Institutes promoting cross-sectoral communication and cooperation in the pursuit and implementation of appropriate Energy / Emission Projects. | Ongoing | Ongoing |
| | Cultivate and actively participate in partnerships with enterprise, community, voluntary sectors, third level institutions and the research community to deliver on initiatives that reduce climate impact. | Ongoing | Ongoing |
| | Minimise impact on the environment from Galway County Council activities including energy efficiency measures and reduced carbon emissions. | 31/12/2022 | Ongoing |
| | Work with the Roads and Transport Section to develop a strategy in relation to the electrification of the local authority fleet and EV charging points | 31/12/2022 | Ongoing |

| STRATEGIC GOAL: QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE | | | |
|---|---|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>"To ensure that quality customer service is at the centre of everything we do"</i> | | | |
| SUPPORTING STRATEGY | BUSINESS PLAN ACTION | TARGET DATE | 2022 OUTCOME |
| Review and implement our Customer Services Action Plan. | Response to Customer Complaints | | |
| | Responding to Fix Your Street Complaints, subject to relevant information being available | 2 days | Over 90% acknowledged within 2 days |
| | Economic Development | | |
| | Number of responses issued annually to Roads and Services queries | 600 | 937 |
| | Number of responses issued to Roads and Services queries within 15 days | 480 | 811 |
| | Number of Abnormal Loads Permits issued annually | 150 | 184 |
| | Number of Abnormal Loads Permits issued within 5 days | 150 | 184 |
| | Number of Road Opening Licences issued annually | 260 | 1065 |
| | Number of Scaffolding Licences issued annually | 30 | 29 |
| | Number of Scaffolding Licences issued within 5 days | 30 | 23 |
| | Emergency Response | | |
| | Provide necessary response to serious flooding incidents | As required | As required |
| | Provide necessary response to severe weather events | As required | As required |

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE SPC

Membership

| Name | Chair | Economic Development & Enterprise |
|--|-------|-----------------------------------|
| Cllr. Karey McHugh | 3 | 3 |
| Cllr. David Collins | 1 | 2 |
| Cllr. Declan Geraghty | | 3 |
| Cllr. Gerry Finnerty | | 3 |
| Cllr. Mary Hoade | | 3 |
| Cllr. Tim Broderick | | 3 |
| Community/Voluntary | | |
| Mr. Dan Dowling (Ballinasloe Area Community Development Ltd) | | 4 |
| Trade Union | | |
| Ms Marian Spellman | | 3 |
| Development & Construction Sector | | |
| Mr. Paul Carey | | 4 |
| Business/Commercial Sector | | |
| Mr. David Hickey | | 3 |

4 Meetings of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC took place in 2022.

The SPC undertook significant work on a number of areas and heard several presentations and updates on these areas of work. These included the following:

- The Local Economic & Community Plan
- Update on the Development of a Tourism Strategy for Galway
- Town & Village Renewal Scheme update 2022-2023
- Galway Airport
- Local Enterprise Office update/overview
- Bia Food Innovation Hub in Athenry – overview and updates
- Presentation from the IDA

Much of the work undertaken in 2022 will contribute to the ongoing economic and enterprise development of Galway and will continue to be priority actions over the coming years as per the agreed LECP

HOUSING SPC

Membership

| Name | Chair | Housing |
|----------------------------|-------|---------|
| Cllr. Joe Byrne | 1 | 1 |
| Cllr. Thomas Welby | | 1 |
| Cllr. Eileen Mannion | | 1 |
| Cllr. Jimmy McClearn | | 1 |
| Cllr. Colm Keaveney | | 1 |
| Cllr. James Charity | | 1 |
| Cllr. Seamus Walsh | | 1 |
| Community/Voluntary | | |
| Ms. Aimee McGee | | 1 |
| Social Inclusion | | |

| | | |
|----------------------------|--|----------|
| Mss. Nora Corcoran | | 1 |
| Business | | |
| Mr. Enda McGuane | | 1 |
| Construction Sector | | |
| Mr. Mark Coffey | | 1 |

During 2022 the following members were replaced

Cllr. Tim Broderick replaced by Cllr. Thomas Welby

Community/Voluntary Sector – Ms. Marcella Conneally replaced by Ms. Aimee McGee

Construction Sector – Ms. Tara Flynn replaced by Mr. Mark Coffey

Dates of Meetings

2nd February 2022

6th April 2022

1st June 2022

7th September 2022

16th November 2022

The following are the main policy issues discussed and considered by the Housing SPC in 2022:

- Housing for All
- Housing Delivery Action Plan
- Social Work and Housing
- Building Inspection
- Tenancy Estate Management
- Refugee Resettlement Programme
- Croi Conaithe
- Local Authority Home Loan Scheme
- Housing Statistical Portal
- Ukraine Response
- Presentations from Outside Bodies

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE SPC

Membership

| Name | Chair | Roads, Transportation & Marine |
|---|-------|--------------------------------|
| Cllr. Peter Roche | 1 | 1 |
| Cllr. Geraldine Donohue | | 1 |
| Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin | | 1 |
| Cllr. Declan Kelly | | 1 |
| Cllr. Jim Cuddy | | 1 |
| Cllr. Gerry King | | 1 |
| Cllr. Albert Dolan | | 1 |
| Agriculture/Farming | | |
| Mr. John Finn | | 1 |
| Business/Commercial Sector | | |
| Mr. Kenny Deery Chamber of Commerce | | 1 |
| Community/Voluntary | | |
| Mr. Tom Madden, Ballinasloe Training for Employment Ltd., Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre | | 1 |
| Development and Construction Sector | | |
| Mr. Diarmaid Kelly, Cuan (Beo) (PPN) | | 1 |

The Roads Strategic Policy Committee convened four times in 2022.

The following topics were discussed and progressed at these meetings:

1. Draft Policy on Roadside Memorials.
2. Renville Pier in relation to Red Route for the Galway to Athlone Greenway.
3. Issue with Gort to Tuam Motorway signage for Baile Chláir/Claregalway.
4. Update on Road Work Programme 2022.
5. Update on Active Travel Scheme.
6. Update on the Connemara Greenway.
7. Updates on N63 Liss to Abbey Realignment & N17 Milltown to Gortnagunned Realignment.

In April 2022 the Committee considered submissions/observations received from Elected Members in relation the Draft Policy on Roadside Memorials. The Draft Policy was agreed by the Committee and referred to Plenary Meeting and was adopted by the elected members at the June 2022 Plenary Meeting.

Rachel Lowe, Senior Engineer presented and outlined to the committee members an update on roads work programme in July 2022 and advised that the major challenge facing the work programme was the inflation in costs of materials and labour.

In July 2022 the NRDO office presented updates on the N59 Moycullen Bypass, N63 Liss to Abbey Realignment and N17 Milltown to Gortnagunned Realignment.

In July 2022, Paula Higgins, SEE presented an update on the Active Travel Scheme to the committee members.

A reply was received in August 2022 from the Minister for Sport and an Ghaeltacht in relation to the issue of signage for Baile Chláir/Claregalway. The committee agreed with the Ministers suggestion that the signage could be changed to read 'Baile Chláir na Gaillimhe'.

In September 2022, Kurt Lydon, Senior Executive Technician presented an update on the Connemara Greenway.

Membership

| Name | Chair | Planning & Community |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| Michael Connolly | From Jan to meeting in July 2022 | |
| Shane Curley | From meeting in Sept 2022 to present | |
| PJ Murphy | | |
| Donagh Killilea | | |
| Michael Maher | | |
| Dáithí Ó Cualáin | | |
| Dermot Connolly | | Moved to a different SPC replaced by Shelly Herterich Quinn in November |
| Shelly Herterich Quinn | | |
| PPN | | |
| Mark Green | | |
| Aodán Mac Donnacha | | |
| Construction Industry Federation | | |
| Colm Ryan | | |
| Irish Farmers Association | | |
| Ann Mitchell | | No rep from IFA on committee at present Ann Mitchell only attended meeting on 30/03/2022 she has retired |

4 meetings of Planning, Environment, Agriculture and Emergency Services held

And 2 joint meetings with Galway City Planning SPC.

Among the items discussed in 2022 were

- New County Development Plan 2022-2028
- Large scale developments legislation
- Residential Zoned Land Tax
- Burial grounds
- Anti – dumping initiative

COMMUNITY & CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT SPC

Membership

| Name | Chair | Community & Cultural Development |
|--|-------|----------------------------------|
| Cllr. Shelly Herterich-Quinn took over as chair from Cllr. Ivan Canning in September 202 | 1 | 2 |
| Cllr. Ivan Canning | | 1 |
| Cllr. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire | | 3 |
| Cllr. Peter Keaveney | | 1 |
| Cllr. Andrew Reddington | | 3 |
| Cllr. Liam Carroll | | 3 |
| Cllr. Dermot Connolly | 1 | 1 |
| Community Voluntary Sector | | |
| Ms. Megan Flynn | | 2 |
| Business Sector | | |
| Ms. Helena McElmeel (RIAI) | | 3 |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--|----------|
| Social Inclusion Sector | | |
| Mr. Máirtín Davy | | 2 |

The Community and Culture Strategic Policy Committee met on 3 occasions in 2022, on the 5th April 2022,

13th July 2022, 6th December 2022.

The following are the main policy issues relating to Community & Culture discussed and considered by the Community and Culture SPC in 2022.

- 1 Creative Ireland Programme
- 2 Local Live Performance Scheme 2022.
- 3 Ukrainian Refugee Crisis
- 4 Pride of Place
- 5 Draft Galway County Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027
- 6 Galway County Council Draft Beach Bye -Laws 2022

CLIMATE CHANGE & BIODIVERSITY SPC

Membership

| Name | Chair | Climate Change & Biodiversity |
|----------------------------|--------------|--|
| Cllr. Alastair McKinstry | 1 | 1 |
| Cllr. Gabrielle Cronnelly | | 1 |
| Cllr. Noel Thomas | | 1 |
| Cllr. Joe Sheridan | | 1 |
| Cllr. Evelyn Parsons | | 1 |
| Cllr. Martina Kinane | | 1 |
| Community/Voluntary | | |
| Mags Sheehan | | 1 |
| Peter Butler | | 1 |

| Business/Commercial Sector | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| John Hynes | | 1 |
| Agriculture / Farming | | |
| Henry Walsh | | 1 |

4 No Meetings of the Climate Change and Biodiversity SPC took place in 2022

The following topics were discussed and progressed at these meetings:

- Decarbonisation Zones
- EV Charging Infrastructure
- Active Travel
- Wetland Audit of Northeast Galway
- Biodiversity
- Presentation on rewetting of the bogs
- Presentation on Environmental awareness
- Galway Hydrogen Hub
- Climate Action Plan
- Pesticide Strategy
- National Biodiversity Action Plan
- Beekeeping
- Biodiversity and Pollinator District Plans
- Connemara blanket bogs breeding bird survey
- Nature Workshops
- Presentation by SAUTI Youth Group

MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS REPORTS

BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

The Municipal District of Ballinasloe met fifteen times in 2022. Four of these meetings were special meetings and the monthly December meeting was followed by a civic reception. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 2.00pm except for the month of August.

FEBRUARY 9TH 2022 AND FEBRUARY 16TH 2022

In February a special meeting was convened to discuss the Draft Local Area Plan for Ballinasloe. A second special meeting was convened to resume consideration of submissions received in relation to Draft Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2022 – 2028.

MARCH 2ND 2022

During the March meeting of the 2021 Annual Report of Galway County Council in relation to the performance and functions by the municipal district was approved by the Members.

The 2022 Annual Schedule of Proposed Works of Maintenance and Repair to be carried out in the Municipal District of Ballinasloe was considered and adopted by the Members.

JUNE 22ND 2022

The Annual General Meeting was held in June during which it was proposed that Cllr. Dr. Evelyn Parsons be elected Cathaoirleach and that Cllr. Dermot Connolly be elected Leas Cathaoirleach.

AUGUST 29TH 2022

In August a single item agenda special meeting of the Ballinasloe Municipal District Council regarding Arrabawn management Co-op limited and the devastating announcement which gives rise to direct and indirect job losses for the workers and closure of the plant in Kilconnell.

OCTOBER 12TH 2022

In October Ms. Loughnane and Mr. O'Connell, Planning Unit, provided a description of the housing application, the location, the legislation governing same, the various stages involved, the timelines and gave an update on the submissions received to date in relation to the strategic housing development application of 165 units (42 apartments, 64 townhouse duplex and 59 houses) ABP ref 312236.

NOVEMBER 9TH, 2022

In the November meeting Ms. Fenton, Acting Head of Finance, presented the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Ballinasloe Municipal District for 2023. Under section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 a draft budgetary plan for the municipal district of Ballinasloe was prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive; following consideration the plan was adopted by the Members.

DECEMBER 14TH 2022

A civic reception was held in honor of Aiden Sheridan for successfully completing his swim of the Shannon, becoming one of only a handful of people to overcome the 245km challenge. Aidan Sheridan swam approximately 254 kms - the length of the Shannon. Raising funds for the Irish Cancer Society and East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support.

PRESENTATIONS/DEPUTATIONS RECEIVED BY THE MEMBERS IN 2022:

During 2022 the Members received:

- A presentation on Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme
- Mr. Pearse Doherty, Event Co-Ordinator provided an update to the Members on the 300th Anniversary of the Ballinasloe Fair
- A deputation in relation to the Ballinasloe Town Theatre; its operation and funding.
- A presentation by Dr. Charlotte May on the Public Participation Network (PPN)
- A presentation on InPLACE project in Mountbellew Moylough

DECLARATIONS OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC BY THE MEMBERS IN 2022:

In accordance with the Roads Act, 1993 the Municipal District of Ballinasloe declared three roads to be public roads in 2022.

CONSIDERATION OF PART 8 DEVELOPMENTS BY THE MEMBERS IN 2022:

The Members Considered three reports under part eight of planning and development regulations 2001:

- construction of no.8 housing units at Ballymoe County Galway.
- extension to Creagh cemetery planning reference LA01/22
- proposal for development at Corralough, Williamstown, Co. Galway comprising of the demolition of an existing dwelling and the construction of a 5-bedroom dwelling, together with connection to existing services and ancillary site works – LA 12/21

TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT.

The members of the Municipal District of Tuam held eight meetings during 2022, including a budget meeting and the Annual General Meeting. With the easing of public health measures introduced to deal with Covid 19 most of the meetings were held in the Tuam MD Offices at Hight Street, Tuam during 2022, which covered the provision of services for the district, community issues and concerns, and matters appertaining to their representational role.

The Schedule of Works for the Municipal District was approved by the Members on the 21st February 2022 which amounted to €581,927 in accordance with Section 103A of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended). The Members also considered and approved the Annual Roadworks Programme for the Municipal District of Tuam with annual allocations for restoration improvements of €3,065,836 and Restoration Maintenance of €844,661 for 2022.

A Special Municipal District Meeting was held on 23rd March 2022 with a visit from the German Ambassador – Cord Meier -Klodt, where he met with the Tuam Straubing Committee and the Elected Members with a focus on enhancing the relationship between Straubing and Tuam helping their bond to remain productive and mutually beneficial.

At the Annual General Meeting held on 13th June 2022, Cllr. Colm Keaveney was elected as Cathaoirleach and Cllr. Mary Hoade was elected Leas Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Tuam for a period of 12 months.

Members received presentations on the following:

- Planning Update on operations and Services - Michael Owens, Director of Services
- Consideration of Part 8 Application for Tuam Town Hall - Ciaran Wynne, Senior Executive Engineer & J.P.O'Carroll, Architectural Technician 1

- Tuam Town Centre Enhancement measure – Eimear Dolan, Administrative Officer
- The review of the Tuam LAP 2018-2024 and the commencement of the new Tuam LAP 2023-2029 - Brendan Dunne – Senior Executive Planner, Aoife O’Moore – Assistant Planner
- Presentation by Galway Co Co Public Participation Network (PPN) – Charlotte May, Public Participation Network Resource Worker.

The members approved the draft General Municipal Allocation of €6,064,094 on the 14th November 2022 in advance of the 2023 Annual Budget meeting in accordance with Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

There were no deputations were held during 2022.

LOUGHREA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

The Municipal District of Loughrea includes the towns of Loughrea, Portumna, Gort and environs. The Municipal District held 11 monthly meetings, 1 Annual Meeting, 1 Special Meeting and 1 Budget Meeting during 2022.

The Members considered a wide range of topics which included

- Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach
- The adoption of the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District
- Schedule of Works for 2022
- Roads Programme 2022
- Flooding
- Declaration of roads to be public roads
- Taking in Charge
- Greenway
- Illegal dumping / bring banks / Burial Grounds
- Electric Sky / PPN / Kinvara Pier Survey
- Part 8 Planning Reports

Members met two Deputations during 2022 to hear and take actions on their concerns.

Cllr. P.J. Murphy was elected Cathaoirleach at the Annual Meeting held in June 2022 while Cllr. Declan Kelly was elected Leas Cathaoirleach.

CONAMARA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

The members of the Municipal District of Conamara held ten meetings in 2022 including an Annual Meeting and a Budget Meeting.

At their meeting on the 15th February 2022 the members approved the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2022 (to include Roads Programme and Environment, Housing, Recreation and Amenity Schedule of repairs and maintenance) for the Municipal District of Connemara.

The Annual General Meeting was held on the 21st June 2022 where Comh Dáithí Ó Cualáin was elected Cathaoirleach and Cllr. Noel Thomas was elected Leas Cathaoirleach for 2022.

A Volunteer Recognition Event for the Community Call Groups was held on 17th June in the Galway Bay Hotel, Salthill.

In accordance with the Roads Act, 1993 the Municipal District of Conamara declared eight roads to be public roads in 2022.

The Members considered a wide range of topics which included the following:

- Roads Programme 2022
- Flooding/Clifden Flood Relief Scheme
- Declaration of roads to be public roads
- Taking in Charge
- Water Quality
- Caravan Parking
- Draft Beach By-Laws/Lifeguards/Public Facilities
- Causeways
- Burial Grounds
- Piers & Harbours
- Road Safety/Hedge Trimming/Cold Weather response
- School Safety
- Connemara Greenway/Active Travel
- Moycullen Bypass
- Coach Parking Oughterard/Bus Shelters
- Policing Connemara Area
- Clifden Regeneration

Members received presentations on the following:

- Update on Clifden Regeneration Programme.
- Presentation by Coillte Nature on the Derryclare pathfinder project for the Wild Western Peatlands.
- Presentation on Invasive Species.
- Briefing by the Tourism Officer on the Clifden Destination Towns Programme
- Presentation on the Clifden Flood Relief Scheme.
- A report on Burial Grounds in Conamara area.
- Presentation on Active Travel.

ATHENRY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

The Municipal District of Athenry consists of the Local Electoral Area of Athenry-Oranmore. The Municipal District Members are elected to the Council at the Local Elections for a term of five years. The Members of the Athenry Municipal District met on ten occasions in 2022 to discuss the provision of services for the Municipal District, policy matters, community issues and concerns and matters relating to their representational role. The Meetings convened in Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway and also via “Teams” due to the pandemic

The district extends from the Galway City Boundary on the North, East and South and includes the main towns and villages of Athenry, Oranmore, Baile Chláir, Clarenbridge and Cór an Dola, as well as dispersed rural areas that have experienced consistent population growth. Issues relating to road maintenance, active travel, Oranmore railway, speed limits, road safety and traffic calming measures, were discussed at the Meetings and updates were given to the Members by the Engineers for the area.

The following are the members of the Athenry Municipal District.

Cllr. Liam Carroll, Fine Gael,

Cllr. James Charity, Non-Party,

Cllr. David Collins, Fine Gael,

Cllr. Gabe Cronnelly, Non-Party,

Cllr. Jim Cuddy, Non-Party,

Cllr. Albert Dolan, Fianna Fáil,

Cllr. Shelly Herterich Quinn, Fianna Fáil.

During 2022, Members approved the Declaration of several roads to be made Public Roads under Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

At the March Meeting, the Municipal District Schedule of Works, which included the Roads Programme 2022, was presented to the Members and, following consideration and discussion, the Members approved the Schedule of Works and Roads Programme.

The Annual General Meeting was held on the 14th of June 2022 and Cllr. Carroll was elected Cathaoirleach, for 2022-2023. Cllr. Cronnelly was elected as Leas Cathaoirleach.

The Municipal District Budget Meeting was held on the 8th November 2022 to consider (with or without amendment) a Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District. Following consideration and discussion, the Members rejected the Draft Municipal District Budget for Athenry Oranmore due to the shortfall in funding required.

During 2022 Mr Ger Mullarkey retired from Galway County Council and the members thanked him for his support over the years. Mr Alan Farrell took on the role as DOS for the area and he stated that he was looking forward to working with the Members and confident that there were significant opportunities for the MD in terms of the economic, social, and cultural development including Athenry being identified as a strategic town in the County Development Plan and a significant element of the MD in the economic corridor from Galway.

The Municipal District Meetings were facilitated by the Meetings Administrator Ms. Margaret Jordan and attended by Mr Alan Farrell, Director of Services for the Municipal District. Engineering and Administrative Staff from the Roads Section Ms Rachel Lowe, Mr Sean Whelan, Mr Peter Gavin, and Ms Geraldine Cooley. The Municipal District Office and other Council Departments also attended the Meetings to deal with queries and issues raised by the Members.

ELECTED MEMBERS NOMINATED TO COMMITTEES, CONFERENCES & TRAINING EXPENSES

ELECTED MEMBERS NOMINATED TO COMMITTEES & OTHER BODIES

| Lough Corrib Navigation Trustees Committee | Membership Date |
|---|--------------------------|
| Cllr. Thomas Welby | 07.06.2019 to 26.09.2022 |
| Mr. David Luskin | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Andrew Reddington | 26.09.2022 |

| Northern & Western Regional Assembly Committee | Membership Date |
|---|------------------------|
| Cllr. Tim Broderick | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. David Collins | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Joseph Sheridan | 07.06.2019 |

| Athenry Heritage and Tourism Co. Ltd. Committee | Membership Date |
|--|------------------------|
| Cllr. David Collins | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly | 07.06.2019 |

| Association of Irish Local Government Committee | Membership Date |
|--|------------------------|
| Cllr. Mary Hoade | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Jimmy McClearn | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Thomas Welby | 07.06.2019 |

| Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd. Committee | Membership Date |
|---|------------------------|
| Cllr. Liam Carroll | 07.06.2019 |

| Loughrea Heritage Committee | Membership Date |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Cllr. Michael "Moegie" Maher | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. PJ Murphy | 07.06.2019 |

| Local Authority Members Association (LAMA) Committee | Membership Date |
|---|------------------------|
| Cllr. Thomas Welby | 07.06.2019 |

| Western Inter-County Rail Committee | Membership Date |
|--|------------------------|
| Cllr. Michael Connolly | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Eileen Mannion | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Alastair McKinstry | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. PJ Murphy | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Joseph Sheridan | 07.06.2019 |

| Galway & Roscommon Education & Training Board (Formerly VEC) Committee | Membership Date |
|---|--------------------------|
| Cllr. Shane Curley | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly | 22.02.2021 to 28.02.2022 |
| Cllr. Mary Hoade | 28.02.2022 |
| Cllr. Colm Keaveney | 07.06.2019 to 28.02.2022 |
| Cllr. Michael "Moegie" Maher | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag | 28.02.2022 |
| Cllr. Peter Roche | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Thomas Welby | 07.06.2019 |

| Regional Health Forum Representation, West Committee | Membership Date |
|---|------------------------|
| Cllr. Liam Carroll | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Dr Evelyn Francis Parsons | 27.07.2020 |
| Cllr. Donagh Killilea | 07.06.2019 |
| Comh. Dáithí Ó Cualáin | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Peter Roche | 07.06.2019 |

| Joint Policing Committee | Membership Date |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Cllr. Jim Cuddy | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Joe Byrne | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Liam Carroll | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. James Charity | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Shelly Herterich Quinn | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Mary Hoade | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Colm Keaveney | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Gerry King | 07.06.2019 |
| Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Michael "Moegie" Maher | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. PJ Murphy | 07.06.2019 |
| Comh. Dáithí Ó Cualáin | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Andrew Reddington | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Peter Roche | 07.06.2019 |

| Galway Rural Development Company Committee | Membership Date |
|---|------------------------|
| Cllr. Martina Kinane | 26.06.2017 |
| Cllr. Peter Roche | 26.06.2017 |

| Forum Conamara Ltd. Committee | Membership Date |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Cllr. Seamus Walsh | 21.10.2019 |
| Cllr. Eileen Mannion | 29.06.2020 |
| Cllr. Thomas Welby | 07.06.2019 |

| Comhar na nOileán Teoranta Committee | Membership Date |
|---|------------------------|
| Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire | 21.10.2019 |

| Governing Authority of National University of Ireland, Galway Committee | Membership Date |
|--|------------------------|
| Cllr. Eileen Mannion | 25.01.2021 |

| Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee | Membership Date |
|---|------------------------|
| Cllr. Shelly Herterich Quinn | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Gerry Finnerty | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Shane Curley | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Michael "Moegie" Maher | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Peter Roche | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Liam Carroll | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Tim Broderick | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly | 07.06.2019 |

| County (Local) Rural Water Monitoring Committee | Membership Date |
|--|------------------------|
| Cllr. Gerry King | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Joe Byrne | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Tim Broderick | 07.06.2019 |

| County Galway Local Sports Partnership | Membership Date |
|---|------------------------|
| Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly | 07.06.2019 |

| Local Community Development Committee | Membership Date |
|--|--------------------------|
| Cllr. Noel Thomas | 07.06.2019 |
| Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag | 07.06.2019 to 28.02.2022 |
| Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly | 28.02.2022 |

| Audit Committee | Membership Date |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Cllr. Liam Carroll | 07.06.2019 |
| Cllr. James Charity | 07.06.2019 |

| Road Safety Together Committee | Membership Date |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Cllr. Shelly Herterich Quinn | 25.11.2019 |

| Public Art Management Group | Membership Date |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Cllr. Dr Evelyn Francis Parsons | 22.11.2021 |
| Cllr. Eileen Mannion | 22.11.2021 |
| Cllr. Donagh Killilea | 24.10.2022 |

| Údarás na Gaeltachta | Membership Date |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire | 28.11.2022 |

CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY ELECTED MEMBERS

| | Conference | Organised By | Venue & Date | Attendees |
|----------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|------------------|
| 1 | The Finance Act 2021 | Celtic Conferences | 7 th – 9 th January 2022 in Carlingford, Co. Louth | 2 |
| 2 | Environmental Ireland Conference | Environmental Ireland | 18 th -19 th January 2022, online | 1 |
| 3 | Housing for All | Celtic Conferences | 21 st - 23 rd January 2022 in Clonakilty, Co. Cork | 2 |
| 4 | Tourism & Digital Marketing | Celtic Conferences | 4 th – 6 th March 2022 in Carlingford, Co. Louth | 1 |
| 5 | Rural regeneration post pandemic | The Suck Valley Way | 27 th – 28 th April 2022 in Roscommon, Co. Roscommon | 6 |
| 6 | Tuam Twinning Event | Tuam Twinning Council | 17 th – 19 th August 2022 in Straubing, Germany | 2 |
| 7 | NDA Annual Conference 2022 | National Disability Authority | 20 th October 2022 in Dublin | 1 |

| | | | | |
|----------|--------------------------|-----|---|---|
| 8 | Europe Energy Conference | AEE | 26 th – 27 th October in Dublin | 4 |
|----------|--------------------------|-----|---|---|

TRAINING EVENTS ATTENDED BY ELECTED MEMBERS

| | Training Event | Organised By | Venue & Date | Attendees |
|----------|---|---------------------|--|------------------|
| 1 | Certificate in Continuing Professional Development in Climate Crisis and Local Government | UCC & AILG | January - May 2022, Online & in UCC | 2 |
| 2 | Module 1 - Elected Members Personal Safety & Risk Assessment | AILG | 17 th February in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath 19 th February in Cork | 4 4 |
| 3 | Sustainable Travel & Transport Planning & Local Authority Development Plans | AILG - OPR | 25 th February online | 7 |
| 4 | An overview of Housing for All | AILG | 4 th March online | 4 |

| | | | | |
|-----------|--|------|--|--------|
| 5 | AILG Annual Training Conference 2022 | AILG | 23 rd – 24 th March in Buncrana, Co. Donegal | 7 |
| 6 | LAMA Spring Training Seminar 2022 | LAMA | 11 th – 12 th April in Kilkenny | 8 |
| 7 | Housing for All – Pathway 1 and 2 | AILG | 6 th May online | 5 |
| 8 | Module 2 - Climate Action – The Role of the Local Government | AILG | 12 th May in Ennis 14 th May in Monaghan | 1 2 |
| 9 | WoMeN’s Caucus | AILG | 1 st June in Sligo | 2 |
| 10 | Housing for All – Pathway 3 and 4 | AILG | 10 th June online | 7 |
| 11 | AILG Module 3 – Finalising your Development Plan – key steps and requirements from the Development Plan guidelines | AILG | 16 th June in Athlone 18 th June in Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny | 3 3 |

| | | | | |
|-----------|---|--------------|---|--------|
| 12 | Facebook & Instagram: Safety Tools & amplifying your message | AILG | 8 th July online | 4 |
| 13 | Media and Social Media: How to connect with your audience | AILG | 15 th July online | 2 |
| 14 | AILG Module 4 – Local Authority Audit Committees & the Governance and Oversight role of Elected Members | AILG | 23rd July in Bundoran, Co. Donegal 28th July in Thurles, Co. Tipperary | 4 2 |
| 15 | AILG Autumn Training 2022 | AILG | 14th – 15th September in Trim | 7 |
| 16 | Planning that revitalises Ireland's towns and villages | AILG - OPR | 30 th September online | 3 |
| 17 | AILG Module 5 – Disability & Inclusion | AILG | 22nd October in Killarney, Co. Kerry 27th October in Sligo | 1 4 |
| 18 | Briefing for Elected Members on the Electoral Reform Act 2022 | AILG - DHLGH | 4 th November online | 2 |

| | | | | |
|-----------|---|------------|--|--------|
| 19 | LAMA Autumn Training Conference 2022 | LAMA | 9th – 10th November in Monaghan | 9 |
| 20 | AILG Module 6 – Data Protection - What Councillors need to Know | AILG | 17th November in Waterford 26th November in Navan | 2 5 |
| 21 | WoMeN’s Caucus | AILG | 22nd November in Dublin | 2 |
| 22 | The role of planning in protecting Ireland’s water quality | AILG - OPR | 25 th November online | 7 |

ELECTED MEMBERS EXPENSES

| Name of Elected Member | Annual Allowance | Salary | Cathaoirleach Allowance | Leas-Cathaoirleach Allowance | SPC Chair Allowance | Municipal District Chair Allowance | Expenses re attendance at training | Expenses re attendance at Conferences | Mobile Phone Allowance | Foreign Travel Expenses | Total |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Broderick Tim | 10556.67 | 26297.83 | | | | | | | | | 36,854.50 |
| Byrne Joe | 8468.92 | 26297.83 | | | 6000.03 | | | | 184.07 | | 40,950.85 |
| Canning Ivan | 9599.23 | 26297.83 | | | | | | | | | 35,897.06 |
| Carroll Liam | 4864.20 | 26297.83 | | | | 3000.01 | | | | | 34,162.04 |
| Charity James | 8144.91 4864.38 V | 26297.83 | | | | | | | | | 39,307.12 |
| Collins David | 6959.22 | 26297.83 | | | | 3000.01 | | | | | 36,257.06 |
| Connolly Dermot | 9907.41 | 26297.83 | | | 1500.01 | 3000.01 | | | | | 40,705.26 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---------|----------|--|---------|---------|---------|--|-------|--|--|------------------|
| Connolly Michael | 8317.04 | 26297.83 | | | 3461.56 | | | 48.37 | | | 38,124.80 |
| Cronnelly Gabriel | 6758.52 | 26297.83 | | | | | | | | | 33,056.35 |
| Cualáin Dáithí Ó | 8365.94 | 26297.83 | | | | 3000.01 | | | | | 37,663.78 |
| Cuddy Jim | 4447.14 | 26297.83 | | 2769.24 | | | | | | | 33,514.21 |

| Name of Elected Member | Annual Allowance | Salary | Cathaoirleach Allowance | Leas-Cathaoirleach Allowance | SPC Chair Allowance | Municipal District Chair Allowance | Expenses re attendance at training | Expenses re attendance at Conferences | Mobile Phone Allowance | Foreign Travel Expenses | Total |
|------------------------|------------------|----------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Curley Shane | 7416.26 | 26297.83 | | | 2538.47 | | 1845.30* | 491.08 | 160.95 | | 38,749.89 |
| Curraoin Tomás Ó | 3728.46 | 26297.83 | | | | | 3701.66 | 543.93 | | | 34,271.88 |
| Dolan Albert | 7863.68 | 26297.83 | | | | | | | | | 34,161.51 |
| Donohue Geraldine | 10524.68 | 26297.83 | | | | 3000.01 | | | | | 39,822.52 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|----------|----------|----------|--|---------|---------|----------|--------|--------|--|------------------|
| Finnerty Gerry | 8016.63 | 26297.83 | | | | | | | | | 34,314.46 |
| Geraghty Declan | 9903.15 | 26297.83 | | | | | | | | | 36,200.98 |
| Herterich Quinn Shelly | 6788.45 | 26297.83 | | | 4500.02 | | 1967.62* | 300.00 | | | 39,853.92 |
| Hoade Mary | 8552.45 | 26297.83 | | | | | 3189.53* | 55.87 | 333.75 | | 38,429.43 |
| Keaveney Colm | 7315.44 | 26297.83 | | | | 3000.01 | 518.48* | 549.30 | | | 37,681.06 |
| Keaveney Peter | 10827.53 | 26297.83 | 13444.10 | | | | | 25.48* | | | 50,594.94 |

| Name of Elected Member | Annual Allowance | Salary | Cathaoirleach Allowance | Leas-Cathaoirleach Allowance | SPC Chair Allowance | Municipal District Chair Allowance | Expenses re attendance at training | Expenses re attendance at Conferences | Mobile Phone Allowance | Foreign Travel Expenses | Total |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Kelly, Declan | 9947.97 ⁵ | 28803.86 ⁵ | | | | | | | | | 38,751.84 |
| Killilea Donagh Mark | 9983.96 | 26297.83 | | | | 3000.01 | 351.48* | 408.48* | | | 40,041.76 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------|----------|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------------------|--|--|------------------|
| Kinane Martina | 8400.24 | 26297.83 | | | | | 1193.84* | 509.35 | | | 36,401.26 |
| King Gerry | 10906.75 | 26297.83 | | | | | 1135.65* | | | | 38,340.23 |
| Mac An Iomaire Padráig | 6718.97 | 26297.83 | | | | | | | | | 33,016.80 |
| Maher "Moegie" Michael | 7412.94 | 26297.83 | 12384.68 | | | | 2127.07* | 1021.60 ⁴ | | | 49,244.12 |
| Mannion Eileen | 11316.00 | 26297.83 | | 3230.78 | | | | | | | 40,844.61 |
| McClearn Jimmy | 10646.00 | 26297.83 | 2825.00 ³ | | | | 2943.48* | | | | 42,712.31 |
| McHugh Farag Karey | 5648.52 | 26297.83 | | | 6000.03 | | 1500.00 | | | | 39,446.38 |
| McKinstry Alastair | 8100.93 | 26297.83 | | | 6000.03 | | 684.44 | 362.85 | | | 41,446.08 |
| Murphy PJ | 7006.60 | 26297.83 | | | | 3000.01 | | | | | 36,304.44 |

| Name of Elected Member | Annual Allowance | Salary | Cathaoirleach Allowance | Leas-Cathaoirleach Allowance | SPC Chair Allowance | Municipal District Chair Allowance | Expenses re attendance at training | Expenses re attendance at Conferences | Mobile Phone Allowance | Foreign Travel Expenses | Total |
|------------------------|---|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Parsons, Evelyn Dr | 11819.56 | 26297.83 | | | | 3000.01 | 383.88* | 116.12 | | | 41,617.40 |
| Reddington Andrew | 10606.59 | 26297.83 | | | | | | | | 658.20 | 37,562.62 |
| Roche Peter | 7881.40 | 26297.83 | | | 6000.03 | | 3048.40* | 365.49 | | 234.51 | 43,827.66 |
| Sheridan Joseph | 11352.27 2500 V | 26297.83 | | | | | 343.01 | 696.71* | | | 41,189.82 |
| Thomas Noel | 6657.64 | 26297.83 | | | | | | 612.63* | | | 33,568.10 |
| Walsh Séamus | 12749.81 ¹ 4484.51 V ² | 26297.83 | | | | 3000.01 | 405.72* | 410.85* | | | 47,348.73 |
| Welby, Thomas | 7109.34 | 26297.83 | | | | | 2406.79* | 211.15 | | | 36,025.11 |
| Total | 343,440.32 | 1,028,121.41 | 28,653.78 | 6000.02 | 36,000.18 | 30,000.10 | 27,746.35 | 6,729.26 | 678.77 | 892.71 | 1,508,262.90 |

- V = Vouched Expenses 2021
 1 Includes payments due for 2020 & 2021
 2 Vouched Expenses due for 2019
 3 Reimbursement of expenses from term of office in 2019
 4 €421.60 relates to attendance in 2021
 5 Includes payments due for 2021
 *Includes payments made in 2023

PAYMENTS MADE TO NON-ELECTED MEMBERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMITTEES:

| Committee | Amount paid |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Community & Cultural Development SPC | €136.61 |
| Transport / Infrastructure SPC | €71.25 |

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS/COUNCIL OFFICES

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Chief Executive: Jim Cullen

HOUSING & ECONOMIC, RURAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Director of Services: Liam Hanrahan

Senior Executive Officers, Housing: Patrick Gerard Scully
Carmel Kilcoyne

Senior Executive Officer, Community & Enterprise: Alan Farrell – currently Acting DOS

Administrative Officer, Housing: Nuala Heffernan, Angela Spelman

Administrative Officers, Community & Enterprise: Eimear Dolan,
Bernie Donnellan (Acting)

Senior Social Worker: Kieran Keon

Senior Engineer: Damien Mitchell

Senior Executive Engineers: Eithne Murphy
Kevin Murphy
Daithi Flood (Acting)

Senior Executive Engineer, ERCD: Ciaran Wynne

Rapid Co-ordinator: Kieran Coyne

Arts Officer: Sharon O’Grady (Temporary)

Sports Co-ordinator: Vacant

INFRASTRUCTURE & OPERATIONS

| | |
|---|--|
| Director of Services: | Derek Pender (Acting) |
| Administrative Officers: | Geraldine Byrne, Edel Hourigan |
| Senior Engineers: | Rachel Lowe Sean Devaney (acting) |
| Senior Executive Engineers: | Tom Prendergast Aengus Breathnach Sean Breathnach Alan Raleigh Enda Gallagher Fergal Fahey (Acting) Gerard Haugh Paraic Breathnach Paul Connolly (Acting) Paula Higgins Sean Whelan Stephen Lally (Acting) TJ Redmond (Acting) |
| Chief Technician: | Enda Thompson John Maloney |
| Administrative Officer, Water Services: | Enda Moloney |
| Senior Engineer, Water Services: | Eoin McHugh (Acting) Fergal O'Sullivan (Acting) Martina Connaughton Mike Sheil Anne Marie Johnston |

Safety Advisor/Health & Safety Officer: Julianne Gavin

AREA ENGINEERS

Municipal District Ballinasloe: Paul Batty
Philip McLynn

Municipal District Loughrea/Portumna: John Coyle

Municipal District Loughrea (Gort): Niall Kennedy

Municipal District Athenry/Oranmore: Peter Gavin

Municipal District Tuam: Tom Regan

Municipal District Conamara: T.J. Redmond

PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & CORPORATE SERVICES

Director of Services: Michael Owens

Senior Planner: Valerie Loughnane

Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services: Jean Brann

Administrative Officer, Planning: Eileen Keaveney

Administrative Officer, Corporate Services: Liadhan Keady
Laura Sharkey

Senior Executive Planners: Alan O'Connell
Saoirse Kennedy
Brendan Dunne (Acting)
Eimear O'Doherty (Acting)

Heritage Officer: Marie Mannion

Conservation Officer: Mairin Doddy

County Librarian: Bernie Kelly (Acting)

Senior Executive Librarians: Josephine Vahey
Siobhan Arkins
Una Kelly (Acting)

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Buildings & Facilities Manager: | Kevin Finn |
| Law Agent: | Robert Meehan |
| Senior Executive Solicitors: | Angela Casey Angela McCormack |
| Executive Solicitors: | Dermot Caslin Michael O'Doherty |
| Internal Auditor: | Eibhlin Curran |

FINANCE UNIT

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Head of Finance: | Aine Fenton (Acting) |
| Management Accountant: | Michael McGovern |
| Administrative Officers: | Margaret Jordan Ita Martyn |

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, FIRE & MAJOR EMERGENCY SERVICES, HUMAN RESOURCES & INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Director of Services: | Eileen Ruane |
| Senior Executive Officer, Human Resources: | Niamh Farrell |
| Administrative Officer, Environment: | Maria Flynn |
| Administrative Officer, Human Resources: | Anne Gardiner |
| Administrative Officer, Human Resources: | Johanna Roche |
| Chief Fire Officer: | Gerry O'Malley |
| Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officers: | Antony Travers Gearoid Blake |

Joseph Kelly

Paul G. Duffy

Civil Defence Officer:

Brendan Qualter

Head of Information Systems:

Michael Martyn

Senior Executive Engineer, Environment:

Mike Melody

Climate Change Co-Ordinator:

Christina Ryan

County Veterinary Inspector:

Joanne Perry

COUNCIL OFFICES



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe

Galway County Council

www.galway.ie/www.gaillimh.ie * www.twitter.com/galwaycoco * www.facebook.com/galwaycounty
email: customerservices@galwaycoco.ie

OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm

OFFICE LOCATION

Headquarters

Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway

The following offices are located
in Áras an Chontae

| | |
|--|------------|
| Housing Applications | 091 509200 |
| Housing Loans & Grants | 091 509301 |
| Human Resources | 091 509303 |
| Motor Taxation | 091 509099 |
| Planning | 091 509303 |
| Roads, Transportation & Marine | 091 509309 |
| Rates | 091 509171 |
| Register of Electors | 091 509310 |
| Freedom of Information & Access to Information on the Environment | 091 509319 |
| Casual Trading | 091 509327 |
| Local Enterprise Office | 091 509090 |

091 509000

The following offices are located at
Centrepoint, Liosbaun, Tuam Road
Galway

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Environment | 091 509510 |
| Water Services | 091 509505 |
| Community & Enterprise | 091 509521 |
| Business Response Unit | 091 509521 |
| Arts Office | 091 509521 |
| Social Inclusion | 091 509521 |

The following office is located at
Corporate House, Ballybrit, Galway

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| National Roads Project Office | 091 509594 |
|-------------------------------------|------------|

AREA OFFICES

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Athenry/Oranmore | 091 509088 |
| Ballinsloe | 091 509074 |
| Conamara South | 091 509060 |
| Conamara North | 091 509095 |
| Tuam | 091 509011 |

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Gort | 091 509065 |
| Portumna | 090 9741019 |
| Loughrea | 091 509166 |

FIRE BRIGADES

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Athenry, Ballinasloe, Clifden Galway City, Gort, Inis Mór Loughrea, Mountbellew Portumna and Tuam Civil Defence Officer | 999 or 112 091 570940 |
|---|--------------------------|

LIBRARIES

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Headquarters, Galway | 091 509388 |
| Galway City Branch | 091 509594 |
| Ballybane | 091 509244 |
| Westside | 091 509091 |
| An Cheathrú Rua | 091 595733 |
| Athenry | 091 845592 |
| Ballinasloe | 0909 643464 |
| Ballygar | 090 66249199 |
| Clifden | 095 21092 |

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Dunmore | 093 38923 |
| Eyre court | 090 9675056 |
| Glenamaddy | 094 9659734 |
| Gort | 091 631224 |
| Headford | 093 36406 |
| Inis Meáin | 099 73126 |
| Inis Oírr | 099 75154 |
| Inishbofin | 095 45891 |
| Killimor | 090 9676062 |
| Kilronan | 099 20937 |
| Leenane | 095 42920 |
| Letterfrack | 091 742666 |
| Loughrea | 091 847220 |
| Moylough | 090 9679072 |
| Oranmore | 091 792117 |
| Oughterard | 091 557002 |
| Portumna | 090 9741261 |
| Roundstone | 095 35518 |
| An Spidéal | 091 504028 |
| Tuam | 093 24287 |
| Woodford | 090 9749887 |

Tá míle fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras agus ghnó i nGaeilge
gaeilge@cocogaillimh.ie

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

MOTOR TAXATION

Indicative Activities in 2022:

The number of **motor tax** transactions carried out by Galway County Council motor tax offices in 2022 was 57,200. Over €9.8m was taken in by Galway Motor Tax Offices for this period.

- Approximately 84 % of total motor tax transactions for the Galway area were carried out online in 2022. The motor tax office continues to deal with phone queries in relation to the on-line taxing of vehicles.
- The motor tax offices issue tax discs for private and commercial vehicles, tractors, hackneys, taxis and large public service vehicles. Trade plates, trailer licences, replacement documents are also issued and Garda queries and other Local authority queries i.e., S103s and CT53s are also processed.

UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

Galway County Council adopted a Development Contribution Scheme under Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 in March 2016.

In order to meet the Council's core objectives, as outlined in the Corporate Plan, there is a requirement for significant investment in creating the necessary infrastructure to meet the needs of an expanding population. The Development Contribution Scheme is designed to help bridge the funding gap between the actual cost of creating that infrastructure and the exchequer and other funding that will be available. Since the inception of the scheme, whilst significant funding has been raised, the demands being placed on the Council are proving to far exceed the funding available.

During 2022 the collection of Development Contributions remained a priority for the Council. The monies collected will be used to assist in the provision of necessary public infrastructure and community facilities for the County. A sum of €3.37 Million was collected under the Council's Section 48 Development Contribution scheme in 2022.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2022

To be updated pending final publication from Finance Department

PROMPT PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS ACT 1997

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL OBSERVES THE REQUIREMENT OF THE PROMPT PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS ACT 1997