



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

# TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MANAGEMENT REPORT

Lúil 2023  
July 2023



Mr Liam Conneally, Chief Executive visited the Teagasc Offices and the BIA Innovator Campus to have a meeting with Mr Frank O'Meara, Director/Head of Teagasc and representatives of the BIA Innovator Campus.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to formally introduce the heads of both organisations and to get an update on the project including the official opening, as well as providing the forum for a discussion around the commitment of both organisations to the campus.

Following the presentation and discussions, Mr O'Meara and Mr Conneally commended the project stating that it is an invaluable project that has unique offering and that it will make a significant contribution to the ecosystem to grow the food sector and add value.

The BIA Innovator Campus representative confirmed their commitment to the founders in terms of delivering on the original objectives of the project, and to continued collaborative working to deliver on the relevant elements of the corporate plans and strategies of both Galway County Council and Teagasc.

It is expected that the project will open in September and all the elected Members as well as a broad range of stakeholders will be invited. Mr Conneally and Mr O'Meara agreed that the strategic collaboration between both their organisations was extremely beneficial and that the BIA Innovator Campus demonstrated how cross agencies and cross government working can deliver excellent outcomes.



FRONT ROW:  
MARTIN KELLY, GM  
BIA INNOVATOR  
CAMPUS, PETER  
FEENEY,  
CHAIRMAN BIA  
INNOVATOR  
CAMPUS, FRANK  
O'MEARA,  
DIRECTOR/HEAD  
OF TEAGASC, LIAM  
CONNELLY, CHIEF  
EXECUTIVE, GUS  
MCCARTHY, BIA  
INNOVATOR  
CAMPUS BOARD  
MEMBER

BACK ROW: ALAN FARRELL, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES AND BRENDAN LYONS, HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES & PROCUREMENT

## GALWAY COUNTY DRAFT TOURISM STRATEGY 2023 – 2030

On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July, a briefing on the Draft Tourism Strategy was arranged for the for the Elected Members in the Raheen Woods Athenry. The event, which was opened by the Cathaoirleach, Cllr Liam Carroll was attended by 24 Councillors in total and provided an opportunity to give a detailed insight into the development of the strategy and how it sits in the context of Failte Ireland's regional strategies and other key Council plans/policies.

As part of the briefing Liam Conneally, Chief Executive and Alan Farrell, Director of Services were joined by a panel of tourism representatives from Failte Ireland including Daithi Gallagher from the Wild Atlantic Way, and Fiona Dunne & Tony Dawson from the Ireland's Hidden Heartland team, with presentations that gave an insight into the key priorities for the recently launched regional plans for the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands.

Ali Curran from CHL consultants gave an in-depth presentation in relation to the background to the strategy, the process including the extensive consultation, the development of the strategic priorities and key concepts from the strategy including the development of the zones to assist with the implementation of the strategy.

Ruairi Lehmann, Galway City Council presented on the Galway Tourism brand that has been prepared jointly by the City & County Tourism Officers in association with Failte Ireland and industry representative. He outlined that the brand would provide a consistent identity for the sector, highlighting that success of the brand will be heavily dependent on the quality of the implementation campaigns and use.

As part of the presentations and panel discussion a number of key items were evident. These included the importance of the linkages between the regional strategies and the Council's strategy; the development and implementation of Destination & Experience Development Plans (DEDPs) by Failte Ireland which will be informed by the County Tourism Strategy and will entail detailed plans for implementation of key actions; the need for collaboration among the agencies, and the importance of engagement/capacity building at industry and community level.

The questions and answers to the panel provided an opportunity for the Members to clarify a number of matters. It was evident that the consultation process and research had culminated in a draft strategy that facilitated tourism development across the whole county and that the matters raised by the Members could be aligned with the strategic priorities and action plan contained in the draft strategy.

The CE and DOS outlined that the intention is to complete the environmental process which will take at least six weeks and advised the Members that there was a firm target of bringing it to the September Plenary meeting for the consideration and approval of the Members, stating that the purpose of the briefing was to facilitate a more in-depth briefing followed by questions and panel discussion. The Members were advised that CHL and the executive would review all the issues raised prior to completing the draft for issuing. The CE confirmed that it was his intention to build the tourism team and resources available to drive the implementation of the strategy, saying that Galway has all the vital tourism assets, and he wants to ensure there is adequate investment to enable delivery and add

value to the local economy. He said that the strategy would also strengthen the Council's ability to secure funding from other sources including Failte Ireland, Government Departments and Brussels.

The Draft Tourism Strategy was also brought to the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC on the 19<sup>th</sup> July and the SPC approved the Draft to move to the next phase of the process and agreed the target of getting it approved by Council at the September Plenary meeting.





Other notable pieces of work since the last report to the June plenary council meeting was the commissioning of a discover Galway promotion document including a calendar of events around the county and the development of a map for tourism focused map for Kinvara that was included in the June/July edition of 'This is Galway' magazine. Other areas were included previously and it is anticipated Gort will be included in an Autumn edition of the magazine.

Preparations are underway for the visit to Milwaukee in August with some tourism promotional material being lined up for display.

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## JOYCES COUNTRY AND WESTERN LAKES GEOPARK

In a significant step for local development in Connacht, Joyce Country and Western Lakes Geopark has just undergone an assessment mission by UNESCO, which it is hoped will lead to achieving UNESCO Global Geopark status in the near future.

Over a three-day period, two UNESCO assessors were guided through a kaleidoscope of fascinating heritage features, local businesses and communities in the beautiful Joyce Country and Western Lakes area of north County Galway and south County Mayo. Mountains, lakes, fjord, rivers, woodlands, geological sites, local business and start-ups, community development groups, stand-out visitor attractions – they were all in the mix.

The itinerary includes an event for Key Stakeholders (funders/other partners, communities, politicians) at Kylemore Abbey (co-hosted by University of Notre Dame campus). This was attended by the Cathaoirleach, Cllr Liam Carroll and Alan Farrell, Director of Services. Earlier in the day Mr Liam Conneally, Chief Executive and Mr Farrell met with the international judges to confirm the support of the Council for the project and engage with them as part of the judging regarding the UNESCO designation.

The territory of this aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark has outstanding beauty, derived from a fascinating 700 million years of geological heritage and the way the land has been inhabited and farmed since the last ice age about 12,000 years ago. It also includes three great western lakes – Loughs Carra, Mask and the top half of the Corrib.

This would be the first UNESCO Global Geopark in Connacht and the first on the island of Ireland to include a Gaeltacht, called Dúiche Sheoigheach agus Tuar Mhi Éadaigh (Joyce Country and Tourmakeady).



MR. ALAN FARRELL, DOS  
COMMUNITY & RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT AND CORPORATE  
SERVICES, ANTONIO GARCIA  
JIMENEZ, UNESCO ASSESSOR,  
CATHAOIRLEACH OF COUNTY  
GALWAY, CLLR. LIAM CARROLL  
AND STEPHANE LEGAL UNESCO  
ASSESSOR

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#### SICAP (SOCIAL INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY ACTIVATION PROGRAMME)

The Mid-Year review of the SICAP Annual Plan for 2023 is due for decision by end July 2023 and a meeting of the SICAP Sub-Committee will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> July to examine the financial and non-financial updates in detail and make recommendations to the full LCDC at its meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> July. Following a number of meetings to determine details to feed into the procurement process for SICAP 2024-2028, it is expected that the RFT (Request for Tender) will be published on E-Tenders in July, with an indicative publication date of 17<sup>th</sup> July which will remain open until early September.

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#### COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME

All Community Enhancement Programme (Community Support Fund) grants must be drawn down by 31<sup>st</sup> August. Most grants for running costs have been drawn down to date, however, most small-scale grants for capital projects or equipment remain outstanding. It is vital that any group who are experiencing delays with a project, or require a change in the nature of the project/equipment approved for funding, contact the Community Section without delay on 091 509521 or [communitygrants@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:communitygrants@galwaycoco.ie)

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#### HEALTHY IRELAND

Healthy Ireland Conference:

As part of this Conference on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023, the HSE's Healthy Ireland Implementation Plan 2023 – 2027 was launched. This Plan aims to build the role of the HSE in enabling individuals to live longer, healthier lives by supporting them to adopt healthy behaviours; supporting people to self-manage and live well with their chronic health conditions; supporting the development of healthy environments that help people and staff to adopt healthy behaviours. The full Healthy Ireland Implementation Plan 2023-2027 available [here](#).

Playground Stencils:

Healthy County Galway is rolling-out Playground Stencils for Schools in County Galway, and to date, 11 Schools have availed of the stencils at their ground. The Playground Markings Stencils Pack was developed by Capiche for the HSE back in 2006 as part of an initiative to counteract obesity and enhance the health and wellbeing of our school going population. The Playground Markings programme was designed with several key factors in mind, ease of use, durability, and cost effectiveness. The stencil packs are made up of a variety of stencils such as hopscotch, circuit trail, snail, and a maze. Healthy Galway provide the stencil packs free of charge on a loan scheme and the schools / community organisations are responsible for funding the paint and installation of the stencils. This initiative is primarily aimed at Primary Schools, but the stencils can also be utilized in other settings.



For more information or if you would like to avail of the Playground stencils on loan you can contact Andrew Mc Bride, Healthy Ireland Coordinator at [amcbride@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:amcbride@galwaycoco.ie) / 087 77 77 790.

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## EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

In order to add value to the Empowering Communities pilot programme, staff from the Community Section carried out a site visit to St. Grellan's, St. Theresa's, St. Anne's Housing Estates in Ballinasloe and met with the Residents Association. This culminated in a National Play Day Event for the estates and adjoining areas on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July with the theme 'wonder and discovery' and Galway Sports Partnership were on hand to involve the children in a variety of sports and physical activity programmes. Additional agencies attended and will form a Steering Group to identify and deliver further projects to enhance the estate.



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STAFF FROM THE COMMUNITY SECTION WITH ST. GRELLAN'S RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM INVOLVE YOUTH SERVICES, YOUTH WORK IRELAND, AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA, GALWAY RURAL DEVELOPMENT, GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP, AND LEAS CATHAOIRLEACH, CLLR. EVELYN PARSONS AT NATIONAL PLAY DAY EVENT IN BALLINASLOE.

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## LECP - COMMUNITY

Work is progressing on the Socio-Economic Statement which will set out the proposed goals and objectives for the next LECP. It is hoped to finalise the Socio-Economic Statement by end July and progress to public and targeted consultations during August and September 2023.

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## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

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### PRIDE OF PLACE

Cross-departmental work is progressing to assist Creggs Rural Development and Gort River Walk Group to prepare for the Judging Day on Wednesday 16th August, and all Elected Members, staff and agencies engaging with these groups are asked to be in attendance at Gort for the morning judging session, and in Creggs for the afternoon judging session.

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### AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

Cross-agency work is progressing on the updating of the Directory of Services for Older People. The next crucial stage is to carry out a survey of all community facilities and groups who offer social and leisure opportunities for older people and ask them to register these activities in the Directory of Services. A link to this survey will be circulated to all Elected Members and the PPN in the near future, and we would be very grateful if the survey could be circulated as widely as possible to ensure that all activities for older people are captured in the Directory.

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## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

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### ACTING AS AN INFORMATION HUB:

The PPN sent out 1 Monthly Newsletter along with 9 mass emails to all 1,242 Member Groups in addition to regular updates on our social media accounts. The PPN Website was updated regularly with funding announcements, news from Government Departments, resources for groups and local/ national events.

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### BUILDING CAPACITY:

The PPN hosted an information webinar to discuss Climate Change & Biodiversity efforts and opportunities in the County. The council has recently announced the Appointment of First-Ever Biodiversity Officer for the County, Rosina Joyce and Community Climate Action Officer, Denise Feeney – to mark this and to welcome them to their new roles the PPN organised an event to celebrate biodiversity projects and efforts being made within the County to tackle Climate Change.

**join us for a**  
**BIODIVERSITY**  
**&**  
**CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**info webinar**  
**TUESDAY, 27TH JUNE @ 7PM**

**speakers:**

- Mary Mullen, Galway County PPN
- Patrick McHugh, Galway County Energy Master Plan
- Rosina Joyce, Biodiversity Officer
- Tina Ryan & Denise Feeney, Rebecca Mooney, Climate Action Team GCC
- Mark Molloy, Assistant Environmental Awareness Officer
- Peter Butler, PPN Rep on Climate Change and Biodiversity SPC

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## PROMOTING REPRESENTATION:

The PPN is reviving the Green Recovery Linkage Group which acts as a linkage group made up of PPN members and individuals with an interest in addressing environmental concerns in County Galway. A public meeting will be held on the 25th June. The Disability Forum began planning its next meeting which will be held in August. Guest speakers were identified and contacted. Date for next meeting to be confirmed.

## RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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### OUTDOOR RECREATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME

#### **The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme was launched 1st June 2023.**

Details of the Scheme circulated to Elected Members, Public Participation Network, Notice in Newspapers, and social media.

- Projects must be shovel ready with all permissions in place, except for the Project Development Measure outlined below.

#### **ORIS 2023 provides funding as follows:**

#### **Project Development Measure – Deadline to Galway County Council, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

Timeline for completion of Project 18 Months.

- Detailed development of projects which would enable them to reach a standard for application under Measure 2 or Measure 3 of ORIS such as detailed design, preparation for Planning and/or Procurement, appropriate assessment etc.,
- Funding of up to €50,000 at a 90% rate of aid
- Local authorities and State bodies can each submit two applications under this Measure
- Local authorities with inhabited off-shore islands may submit one additional application under this Measure (max. 3 applications) which relates directly to a project on one of the inhabited off-shore islands

#### **Measure 1 – Deadline to Galway County Council - 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023**

Timeline for completion of project 18 months

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

#### **Measure 2 – Deadline to Galway County Council – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023**

#### **Projects must be ready to go!**

Timeline for completion of Project – 24 months

- Medium scale repair/upgrade and new trail/amenity development
- Funding of up to €200,000 at a 90% rate of aid
- Maximum of 3 applications can be submitted by each local authority
- Maximum of 1 application may be submitted per State body

### **Measure 3 – Deadline to Galway County Council – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023**

#### **Projects must be ready to go!**

Timeline for completion of Project – 24 Months

- Large scale repair/upgrade and new strategic trail/amenity development
- Funding of up to €500,000 at a 90% rate of aid
- Local authorities and State bodies can submit 1 application each under this Measure

**The following types of projects and activities, will **not be supported** by the scheme:**

- Greenways in excess of 20km
- Infrastructure for commercial activities
- Purchase/lease of land
- Legal fees
- Standalone outdoor gym/calisthenics workout area projects
- Sports grounds, traditional playgrounds and Multi-Use Gaming Areas (MUGAs)
- Works within Town Parks, marked street trails, walkways and cycleways within towns and villages except as outlined in Project Location above
- Surfacing works to public roads
- Refurbishment and construction of buildings (except in very exceptional and limited circumstances for projects where this would substantially improve access to, and the utilisation of, recreational resources by the wider public)
- Walking or running tracks located in a confined space, e.g. around sports pitches or playgrounds, or within other sports grounds
- Maintenance works on elements of trails which form a normal part of the work undertaken as part of the Walks Scheme
- Works covered under the agreed work plans of the Walks Scheme
- Activities which do not comply with the definition of countryside/outdoor recreation as set out above and as defined in Embracing Ireland's Outdoors3.
- Capacity building or training
- Ongoing operational costs
- Costs not directly related to the project
- Indirect costs of the project e.g. community organisation staff time spent working on the project in an administrative capacity
- Organisation core costs, including overheads
- Retrospective costs - activity that has already been undertaken or costs incurred prior to date of project approval
- VAT where applicants are registered for VAT
- Charges such as bank interest costs, fines, financial penalties, and legal dispute costs
- Sponsorship and charitable donations
- Depreciation
- Notional costs e.g., lost opportunity

## ‘Contribution in Kind’ & ‘Voluntary Labour Contributions in Kind’

Up to a maximum of 5% of project cost, can be provided in various forms including the provision of plant and equipment and/or voluntary labour etc. Grantee costs are excluded from this contribution.

The following are **ineligible** for ‘Contributions in Kind’:

- Project administration *e.g., attendance at meetings, preparation of grant application forms.*
- Funding drawdown claims and management costs.
- Contributions which cannot be verified such as routine litter picking, ongoing maintenance, cleaning, security and undertaking research.
- Labour provided by a participant on a Rural Social Scheme/TÚS/other exchequer funded scheme.
- Donated Materials *e.g., aggregate, cement.* The value of materials contributed must be verifiable and vouched (*e.g., by an invoice or statement from the body donating the material certifying both volume/quantity and market value of donation*). For example, flowers donated to a project are not reckonable for in-kind contribution.
- Donated Plant *e.g., tractor, trailer, concrete mixer etc.* The completed voluntary timesheet captures the labour value attributable to donated plant. No contribution is attributable to donated plant.

The following list of activities were deemed **ineligible as ‘Voluntary Labour’** recently by the Department of Rural & Community Development:

- Meeting with stakeholders such as Coillte/Forest Managers
- Meetings to discuss the project, visiting the site
- Seeking advice from stakeholders
- Linking in with various committees/ seeking advice and feedback from users of the trails,
- Managing Budgets,
- Researching Products for the Project
- Meetings regarding decision making *e.g.* in relation to location of seating, types of trails etc., contacting suppliers
- Litter picking.

## GALWAY TRAIL RUNNING EVENT – KILCORNAN TRAILS

Following the Official Opening of the “Kilcornan Trails” on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023 by the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway Cllr. Michael “Moegie” Maher, the Trails have become a huge success and provide access to over 6.7 km of safe and accessible walking in a combination of



### Welcome to ‘The Cow Park’

*This 42 acre park was given to the local community by the Redington family of Kilcornan House with a right to graze their animals here.*

This traditional grazing practice has created a species rich grassland. Native flowers, grasses and herbs support many bees, butterflies, insects, birds, bats and mammals. Currently under the auspices of Galway County Council, this biodiverse meadowland is dedicated to supporting amenity, recreation and wildlife conservation.

Look beyond this sign and you will see an ancient earthenwork. A large D-shaped earthen bank with a ditch on the outside encloses an area measuring 106m east-west and 82m north-south. Archaeologists are not sure what this earthenwork is, as it has never been excavated. It looks like a ringfort, where a farming family would have lived in early medieval times. But if it is, it's a very big one! Overlooking the Clarín River and beside the ‘Eisic Riada’ and the ancient SÍ Mhór roadway, it occupies a historically strategic place. Maybe the Anglo-Normans used this location as a military camp to command the crossing point on the river at the end of the SÍ Mhór.

Woodland, River, Farmland and Meadow trails.

Galway Trail Running Club are to host a "Connaught Championship Event" in Kilcornan. The "Backyard Ultra", will be held on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and will see the top 15 runners going to the All-Ireland Championship and the winner going on to represent Ireland at the World Championship

The runners start a 6.7km looped course on the hour, every hour. A last person standing event, where the event keeps going until there is only one person left.

The event is capped to 100 runners and will start just before sunset on September 22<sup>nd</sup> (8pm), runners will complete a loop every hour, with the winner expected to complete approx. 30-34 hours.

In 2018, The Partners, Galway County Council, The Brothers of Charity and Coillte worked together to progress an application for funding through the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure scheme, to develop a network of trails through the Clarinbridge Cowpark, Kilcornan Wood and Kilcornan Estate in order to maximise the benefits of these recreational areas.

A Grant of €200,000 was approved by the Department of Rural & Community through the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme in partnership with Galway County Council, Brothers of Charity Services, Kilcornan and Coillte.

*The Scheme is funded under "Our Rural Future" which specifically prioritises the growing outdoor activity tourism sector as part of a long-term vision for a vibrant and sustainable rural Ireland.*

	<p><b><u>Upcoming Sports Partnership Event at Kilcornan.</u></b></p> <p><b>Health Talk &amp; Activator Walk</b> (planned for September 2023) In September 2023, Galway Sports Partnership in partnership with Healthy Galway and Galway Rural Development plan to host a health talk and Activator walk event. This will be open to older adults and will be hosted in Kilcornan hall. There will be a talk from FitWalk Ireland followed by a walk around Kilcornan loop using Activator Walking Poles.</p>
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## GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

### SAFEGAURDING (CHILD PROTECTION)

Galway Sports Partnership continues to deliver Safeguarding courses online across the 3 different levels, Basic Awareness (SG1), Club Children's Officer (SG2) and Designated Liaison Person (SG3).

### BIKE WEEK

Galway Sports Partnership lead Bike Week 2023 with 19 events taking place across Galway. From Ballinasloe to Clifden. There were events for all levels and ages of cyclists. The highlights include the Gort Mini Greenway Cycle, Couch to 25k in Lawrencetown, Family Cycle in Ballinasloe and a beautiful family cycle for all ages through Carrabane Forest.

### OLYMPIC HANDBALL - TEACHER TRAINING

Galway has the highest number of primary schools taking part in Olympic Handball competitions in the country. The sport is very popular across Galway. To support the sport of Olympic Handball, GSP

linked with the Irish Olympic Handball Association to deliver two teacher training courses in Renmore Community Center in early Summer. The courses were aimed at primary and secondary school teachers as part of a plan to develop the sport from primary school to adults with the aim of having a Galway club in the coming years.

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## PICKLEBALL

GSP has been working with a number of groups including Pickleball Ireland to help develop the sport in Galway. Pickleball is similar to Tennis but played on a smaller court and is suitable for all ages and abilities. The focus of our programme is older adults (Over 50 years) and aims at increasing activity in a fun and social way for this age group. The work culminated in an event in Maree Community Centre in June.

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## INIS MEÁIN PARKRUN

Ireland's most westerly ParkRun was launched with great fanfare on Inis Meáin in early June. ParkRun is a 5km course that people can walk, run or jog every Saturday morning. Participation is free and people can take part in any of the ParkRuns across the globe.

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## AUTISM IN SPORT

Training for volunteers to cater for people with disabilities has taken place on 13<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June on-line. The courses, Autism in Sport and Disability Inclusion covered the main aspects of catering for people in across many sports.

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## SPORT ENERGY SUPPORT SCHEME (SESS) FOR COMMUNITY BASED FACILITIES

Sport Ireland have launched a second phase of the Sports Energy Scheme. Through LSPs, this phase will now also target community owned sports facilities which do not currently qualify for TBESS or other Government support schemes through DRCD, Local Authorities etc. Clubs or facilities affiliated to Sport Ireland recognised NGBs should access support directly through their NGB. General cost of living increases such as rising costs in accommodation, rent, rates or labour costs are not eligible. Fuel costs associated with machinery, vehicles, travel or transport do not qualify. Registration for this initiative was closed in early June.

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## ARTS OFFICE

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### CULTURE UP ARTIST IN RESIDENCE ON THE EDGE

The Arts Office successfully spearheaded an application for €50K to Arts Council's International Residency Initiatives Scheme in collaboration with Áras Éanna as lead applicant. From 12<sup>th</sup> July artists are invited to apply for one of ten [AIR on the Edge](#) residencies in Ireland, The Netherlands, Serbia, Denmark and Finland. Artist studio space, self-catering accommodation, artists fees and travel expenses will be provided for successful artists. Two artists from Galway County will be selected.

**Deadline for applications is 25<sup>th</sup>  
August 2023**



MENU

**AIR on the Edge  
Artist in Residence  
2023/2024**



DANCE ARTIST RESIDENCY

Magdalena Hylak and Lionel Kasparian undertook their first two weeks of residency at Nun’s Island Theatre at the end of June. They have been using this time to get the word out about their residency programme including upcoming workshops in the Autumn and 2024 for teens. We have been introducing them to organisations and communities in the county so they can build relationships in advance of their programme here in 2024.

Magdalena Hylak and Lionel Kasparian



CULTURE NIGHT 2023

Culture Night takes places on Friday 22 September 2023. An open call for Culture Night funding for Culture Night events was launched on 05 June and the deadline was 06 July. Artists, arts organisations and community groups were all eligible to apply for events taking place in Galway County.



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## CULTURE NIGHT LATE - ATHENRY

The Arts Office successfully applied for an additional €16K from Arts Council to partner with Macnas and Athenry Heritage Centre to co-produce a processional performance through the streets of Athenry on Friday 22 September as part of Culture Night Late (after 9 p.m.). We're working with the partners and all stakeholders on the development and production elements of this late Culture Night spectacle. The Macnas workshop moved to Gloves, Athenry in 2020 and we have been supporting them to engage with the local community through different projects including our Culture Night programme.

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## MACNAS CROM CREDIT DARACH PHOTO



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## OUGHTERARD COURTHOUSE ARTS PROGRAMME – COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCHEME

Arts Officer Sharon O'Grady opened the UachterArts Group Show at Oughterard Courthouse 16 June. The Oughterard Courthouse Arts Programme receives funding through the Community Support Scheme under Cultural Development. The OCAP arts group curate a number of arts exhibitions of professional artists in the Courthouse each year.



ARTISTS GIL CUSACK, JESS WALSH, MAUREEN MOONEY, SHARON O'GRADY (ARTS OFFICER), RENSKÉ BOEF AND OLGA MAGLIOCCO AT THE OPENING OF FULL CIRCLE – THE UACHTERARTS GROUP

Augmented Body Altered Mind by visual artist Alan James Burns as part of a national tour will exhibit at Áras Éanna, Inis Oírr in early 2024. The Arts Office is supporting the exhibition’s public engagement programme which includes the Art | Disability | Climate Change webinar on Thursday 20th July. Through the webinar art, lived experience of disability, climate change, and their intersections were explored by leading Irish and international arts professionals in an afternoon of free online panel discussions.

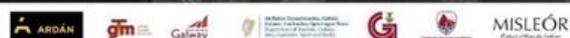


#### ARDÁN - MISLEÓR SHORT DOCUMENTARY GRANT

An open call for emerging filmmakers from the Traveller community had a deadline of 29 June. The successful applicant will receive €2,000 funding, as well as mentorship and support to produce a short documentary, which will premiere at the Misleór Festival of Nomadic Cultures in 2023. This project is supported by Galway County Council Arts Office.

#### ARDÁN - SHORT DOCUMENTARY BURSARY

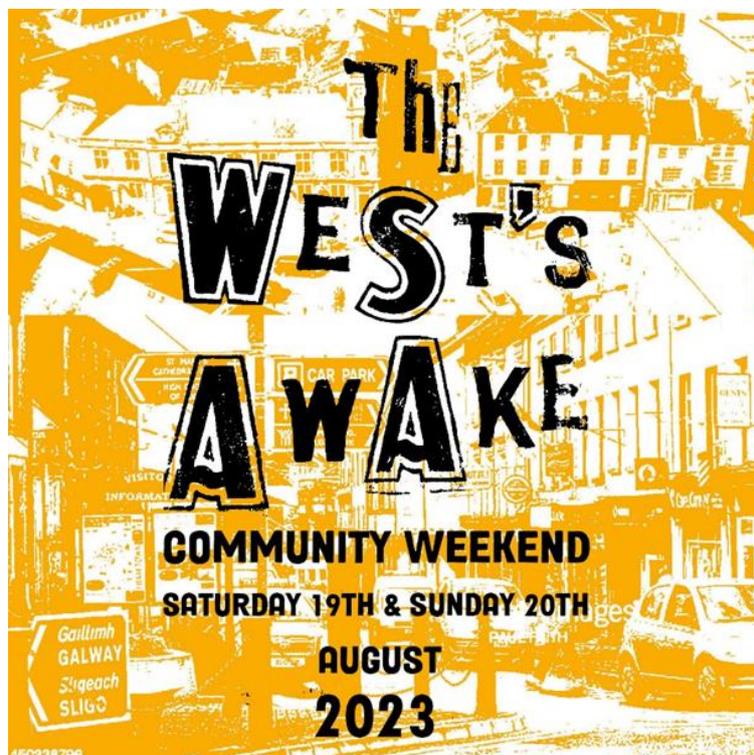
An open call for documentary film makers and film teams in Galway County had a deadline of 16 June. The successful applicant will receive a bursary of €3,000 to make a short 5-15 min documentary and mentorship with Donal Haughey throughout the process this year. The selection process is to take place in July.





THE WEST AWAKE COMMUNITY WEEKEND TUAM SATURDAY 19TH & SUNDAY 20TH AUGUST

The West's Awake community weekend invites local community groups, creatives and artists of all forms to be part of a showcase of Tuam's creativity and talent. This weekend is a chance to celebrate Tuam's local cultural heritage of the past, present and what's to come. Coordinated by Creative Places Tuam with support from Galway County Council Arts Office, Galway Rural Development, the Saw Doctors and the local community, the town of Tuam will host a local stage with family friendly events in the town on the weekend of the Saw Doctors concert. An open call took place for local talent to feature on a live music stage and other events such as a visual arts group show, community workshops, poetry readings, short film screenings will take place over this weekend.



## GALWAY FILM FLEADH 2023

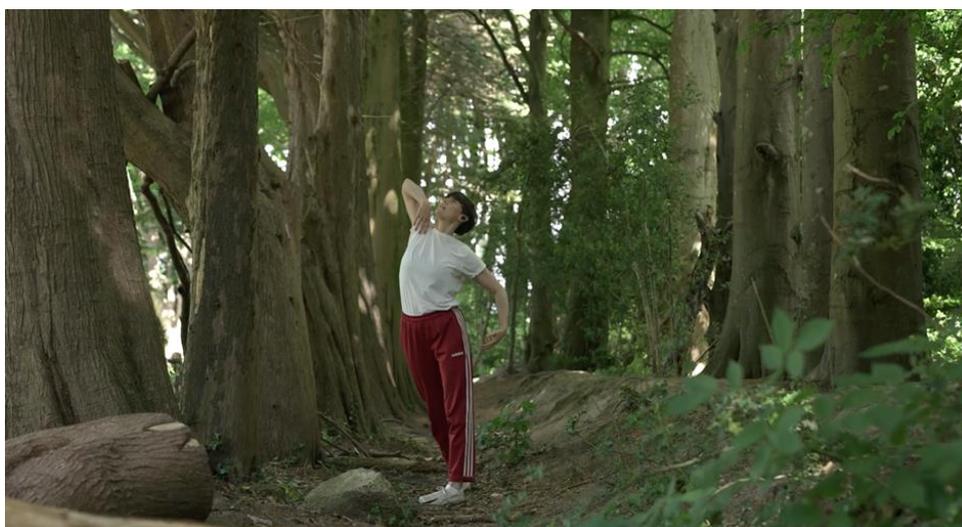
Cathaoirleach Liam Carroll and Arts Officer Sharon O’Grady attended the programme launch of the 35<sup>th</sup> Galway Film Fleadh on 27 June. The festival runs from 11-16 July and is supported by the Galway County Council community support scheme. <https://www.galwayfilmfleadh.com/>.



DR. ANNIE DOONA (CHAIR), SHARON O'GRADY, ARTS OFFICER, CATHAOIRLEACH LIAM CARROLL AND KATE O'TOOLE AT THE LAUNCH OF THE 35<sup>TH</sup> FILM FLEADH

## GALWAY DANCE PROJECT - RESIDENCIES

The Arts Office in partnership with Galway Dance Project has funded two residencies in 2023 through an open call called the [North-West Dance Residency Programme](#). Galway County dance artists Jessie Keenan and Linda Schirmer were successful this year.



OPW/GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL - MURAL TUAM

Following a youth consultation and the development of an agreed artistic brief, two artists were invited to take part in phase 2 of the selection process. The artists were paid to further develop ideas and presentations. A selection panel met on 19 June at Tuam Local Area Office. The panel included the OPW, Creative Places Tuam, Department of Social Protection, Youthreach and a Tuam based independent artist. Both artists presented to the panel on the day. Congratulations to Shane O'Malley who was selected by the panel to deliver this commission and we look forward to seeing his vision come to life.

SHANE O'MALLEY - TUAM PROJECT - MURAL



CREDIT; SHANE O MALLEY

CREATIVE IRELAND

CREATIVE COMMUNITIES' ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

Recruitment has been completed and we welcome our new Creative Community Engagement Officer on the 14th of August 2023.

CREATIVE IRELAND BURSARIES PROJECTS

ATHENRY HERITAGE CENTRE PRESENTS SILENT SCREENS TO JOYOUS SOUNDS

Athenry Heritage Centre presents the Silver Screen production by Little John Nee and Fionn Robinson of a live recreation of the music and sounds of silent movie star Buster Keaton in his classic performance of Sherlock Jr. They will use the very latest in technology including gramophones, electrical musical instruments, a steam iron, modern valve amplification and fashionable synthetic sounds to create a voyage over 100 years back in time in a courageous attempt to collaborate with the flickering ghosts of the early silver screen. Nee and Robinson have composed a new musical soundtrack to Buster Keaton's classic Sherlock Jr. and they will perform live to the silent movie with audience participation.

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## CLEAS TEO TRADISIÚIN FÍODÓIREACHTA OILEÁNDA ÉIREANN

Tá traidisiún fada fíodóireachta ar Oileáin Árann, agus tá ceardaithe áitiúla fós ag fíodóireacht criosanna Árann ar an seanstíl. Tá súil againn, trí cheardlann fíodóireachta a chur ar fáil do na ceardaithe sin agus do phobal Inis Oírr i gcoitinne, tacú le caomhnú agus forbairt cuid lárnach d'oidhreacht na hÉireann agus Oileán Árann.



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## FITE FUAITE

The FITE FUAITE project by Gort Arts Group aims to close the gap on integration by offering opportunities for Gort natives and non-natives to come together through the arts, specifically a series of learning and skill share workshops, held over a five-month period leading up to October 31st, 2023.

## WHO AM I? SENSE OF SELF IN MY COMMUNITY

The Brothers of Charity Service in Casla working with 15 people & their families across rural Connemara who have an Intellectual disability will work with local artist Nuala Ní Nuala Ni Fhlathuin to create an exhibition of work. Through this project they aim to foster and nourish a 'sense of self' and place in community. Working with an experienced artist they will visit each person's home, gathering stories, photographs and personal collected items which will form part of their individual exhibitions.

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## MISLEÓR FESTIVAL OF NOMADIC CULTURES AT BALLINASLOE HORSE FAIR

Misleór Festival of Nomadic Cultures will come to Ballinasloe Horse Fair 2023 with the installation of two wooden horses built from recycled materials will be on display in Ballinasloe, accompanied by Tinsmith Tom McDonnell, who will run an interactive Tin smithing workshop. This installation was developed to celebrate the importance of horses in Traveller and nomadic cultures and was a collaboration with members of both Traveller and Mongolian communities, and local artist Tommy Casby. They will also present Reimagining Life on the Road; Stories and visuals from 2 traditional Camps in Ballinasloe will be added to the digital map working with a digital mapping expert and the University of Galway.

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## KINVARA COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS BIDDY EARLY A FOLK OPERA

Kinvara Community Orchestra will produce a new work, written by Kinvara-based composer, Stephen Johnston, and conducted by Garry O’Brian and staged in Kinvara over two nights in December 2023. The subject of the Folk Opera is the life and times of the traditional herbalist and clairvoyant, Biddy Early. The story of Biddy Early is part of the cultural heritage of the West of Ireland. The Opera will be performed by 50 musicians and local singers. Kinvara Community Orchestra (KCO), was founded in 2020, draws on the rich seam of traditional players, amateur and semi-professional musicians and singers, living in and around South Galway, making it a fine vehicle for such a project.

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## WESTERN TRAVELLER ASSOCIATION/ BRÚ BRIDE – ENGAGE PROJECT A YOUTH CIRCUS PROGRAMME

This 11-week programme of Youth Circus will take place in Bru Bhride’s newly renovated Art Hub with 2 weekly classes aimed at two ages groups, 6–11-year-olds and 12–18-year-olds. The project uses circus art as an educational tool for personal, social and community development. It will include a variety of circus activities such as juggling, tightrope, acrobatics and physical games that will all be delivered by trained facilitators from Galway Community Circus. The groups will work towards a showing (100% vol participation in showing) on week 11. The project will be based on the principles of creativity, inclusion, respect trust and enjoyment.

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SHARON O’GRADY, ARTS OFFICER WITH ACTOR JOHN CONNORS AT THE LAUNCH OF THE NEW TUAM ARTS ACADEMY IN BRÚ BHRIDE.



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## ÁRAS ÉANNA – CÚIRT CEOL NA MBAN

Cúirt Cheoil na mBan is a unique traditional Irish music and dance community event on the Aran Islands where a troupe of 20 women musicians travel from house to house playing music, ending with a concert at Europe’s most westerly arts centre Áras Éanna. The community compares it to a secular version of the ‘stations’ visits in years gone by. The aim with the event is to revive an old tradition of visiting musicians while adding a modern twist and committing to supporting and promoting women in music. There will be a call for open houses for the event and community musicians to take part.

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Cheoil na mBan 2022



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## NEWBRIDGE TIDY TOWN AND ARTFARM ART TRAIL

Newbridge Tidy Towns Community group will create an Art Trail in and around the village of Newbridge in collaboration with Artfarm Collective artists Sheila Flanagan, Derek Duffy and Elaine Delaney. Envisioning this rural area as a form of 'Landscape art canvas', they wish to embrace both the notion of Creative communities and supporting local artists to make art relating to place and environment/climate action showcasing their work in unusual settings. Newbridge Tidy Towns Community group wish to create an Art Trail in and around the village of Newbridge in collaboration with Artfarm Collective artists Sheila Flanagan, Derek Duffy and Elaine Delaney. Envisioning this rural area as a form of 'Landscape art canvas', we wish to embrace both the notion of Creative communities and supporting local artists to make art relating to place and environment/climate action showcasing their work in unusual settings.



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## SHEILA FLANAGAN ARTFARM

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## TULCA – FILM SCREENING OF ABANDONED GOOD – BALLINASLOE

TULCA will screen the documentary film titled “Abandoned Goods” which examines artworks made by artists in mental health hospitals and centrally features the works of J.J. Beegan. TULCA will host a screening of the film and a talk by curator Iarlaith Ni Fheorais in the beautiful settings of the chapel in Ballinasloe Library. The screening event will offer an accessible point of reference for local artists and audiences in Ballinasloe to engage with the TULCA curator and wider programme and shine a light on Beegans work, mental health and the legacy of St. Brigids’ Hospital in Ballinasloe.

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## YEATS THOOR BALLYLEE

To celebrate the centenary of the poet W.B. Yeats winning the Nobel Prize for Literature, the Yeats Thoor Ballylee Society has organized a number of events at Thoor Ballylee, his 14th century home near Gort, Co. Galway. This June will see the launch of an international poetry competition, followed later in the summer by concerts, talks, heritage events, and poetry readings. In October, a specially commissioned play will be produced about the Nobel Prize. These Centenary Events will showcase the world of Yeats, the beauty of his poetry, his role in establishing the Abbey Theatre, and his influence on Ireland’s Cultural Revolution at the turn of the century.

**THE YEATS  
THOOR BALLYLEE  
POETRY PRIZE**

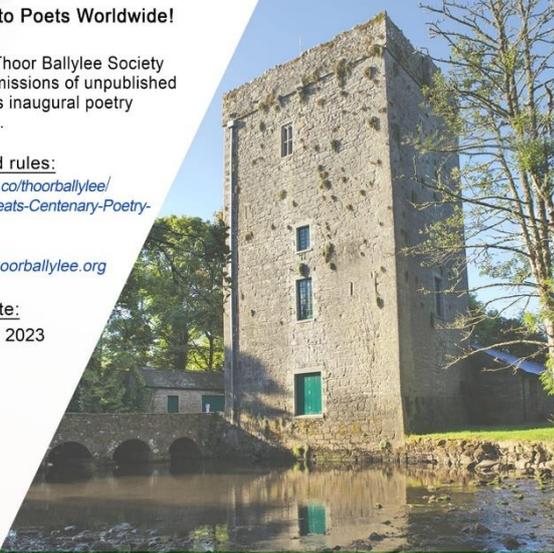
**CELEBRATING W.B. YEATS  
ON THE CENTENARY OF HIS NOBEL PRIZE FOR LITERATURE**

**Invitation to Poets Worldwide!**

The Yeats Thoor Ballylee Society invites submissions of unpublished poems to its inaugural poetry competition.

**Details and rules:**  
[www.zealous.co/thoorballylee/opportunity/Yeats-Centenary-Poetry-Competition](http://www.zealous.co/thoorballylee/opportunity/Yeats-Centenary-Poetry-Competition)  
[www.yeatsthoorballylee.org](http://www.yeatsthoorballylee.org)

**Closing date:**  
 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Supported by:  **Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**  
 Creative Ireland Programme Galway County Council




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## YEATS THOOR BALLYLEE POETRY PRIZE

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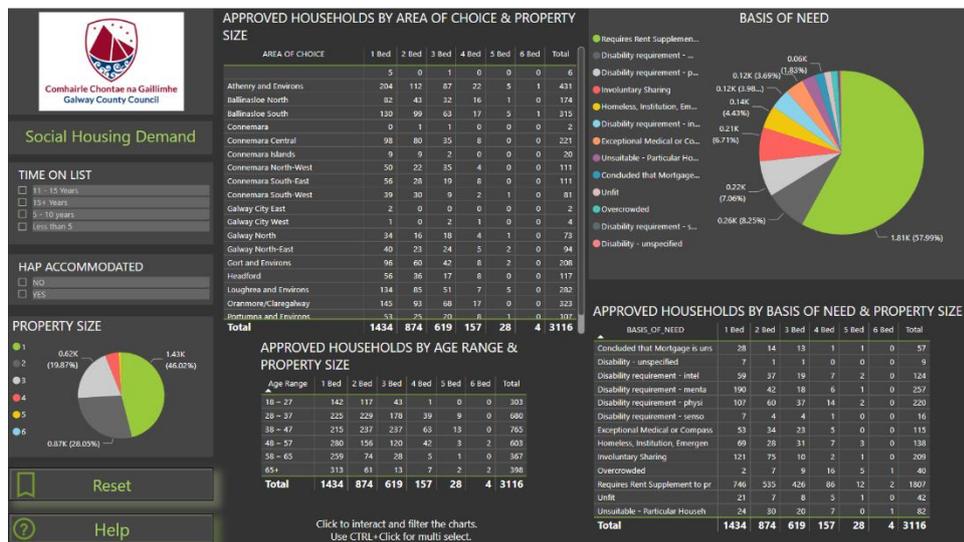
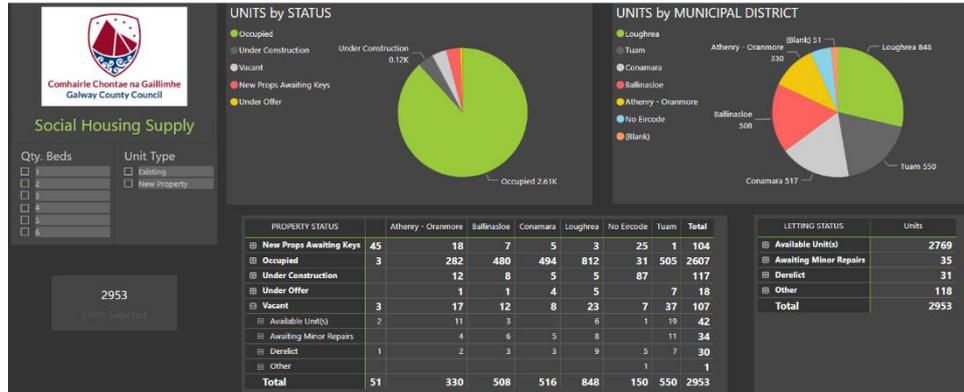
### CRUINIÚ NA NÓG – WRAP UP

Cruinniú na nÓg recoupmen for overall spend of €30,000 will be completed by the 27th of July.

# HOUSING & UKRAINE RESPONSE

## ONLINE SOCIAL HOUSING HOUSING SUPPLY AND DEMAND DASHBOARD

Galway County Council's online social housing supply and demand dashboards can be accessed using the following link:- [www.galway.ie/en/services/housing/supplydemand/](http://www.galway.ie/en/services/housing/supplydemand/)



## SUMMARY OF SOCIAL HOUSING ASSESSMENTS 2023

The Summary of Social Housing Assessments 2023 brings together information provided by local authorities on households in their functional area that are qualified for social housing support but whose social housing need is not currently being met. It is a point-in-time assessment of the identified need for social housing support across the country.

This is a statutory assessment to count the total number of households qualified for social housing support across the country on 1st November 2023, in order to better inform policy and plan for the delivery of the right types of housing support. 'Net need' or the total number of households qualified: This is the total number of households qualifying for social housing support whose social housing need is not being met. All the figures in this report are based on net need. Households must be qualified for social housing support. Households currently living in local authority rented accommodation, approved housing body accommodation, accommodation provided under the Housing Assistance

Payment (HAP) scheme, accommodation provided under the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS), accommodation provided under the Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme (SHCEP) schemes or any household on a transfer list are not included in the total number.

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## ASSESSMENT OF HOUSING NEED 2023

In Accordance with Section 21 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 and Section 6 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, Galway County Council has been instructed by the Department of Housing Planning & Local Government to carry out a Housing Needs Assessment for 2023.

The Council will be contacting certain applicants currently on the housing waiting list to reassess their eligibility for housing support. All applicants who receive this correspondence must reply in full to it.

Completed returns with all necessary documentation enclosed, should be completed online in the case of the online SSHA form or submitted to the Housing Section, Galway County Council not later than the 11th of August 2023.

Persons who do not return the forms / requested documentation for re-assessment before 11th August 2023, will be removed from the social housing waiting list. In the event of being removed from the waiting list, they will be required to re-apply and if approved, they will not be re-instated at your original date of application. This may also affect rent supplement.

Assessment forms and further details will be sent electronically or by post if requested. Queries should be directed to the Housing Section, Galway County Council, Aras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway H91 H6KX Telephone: 091 509200 E-mail: [ssha@galway.ie](mailto:ssha@galway.ie) or [www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie)

## OFFER A HOME – UKRAINE RESPONSE

Galway County Council continues to work on the Ukraine response with the administration of [www.offerahome.ie](http://www.offerahome.ie) programme. Under the 'Offer a Home' programme, local authorities are appealing for offers of houses, apartments, or holiday homes for use as temporary accommodation for those arriving from Ukraine. Ideally, properties would be available for at least six months. Property owners can offer homes at [www.offerahome.ie](http://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](http://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 always County Council and an assessment of the property is carried out shortly after.

The owner of the property is informed throughout the process and anybody who offers a property through the website can check the status of their offer at any stage through the site. Suitable properties are matched with Ukrainian beneficiaries with by our implementing partner IOM (International Organization for Migration) and provide support in agreeing licence agreement and other arrangements.

To offer an unoccupied property please register on the following website: [www.offerahome.ie](http://www.offerahome.ie)

Galway County Council is operating the Offer a Home programme – which is for offers of unoccupied homes. To date there have been 67 offers to this programme.

- 25 have been allocated
- 12 have been withdrawn from the programme
- 5 are no longer available
- 2 were assessed as not suitable
- 12 are being progressed by our implementing partner IOM
- 11 are currently being inspected

## CROI CONAITHE

### REVISED VACANT PROPERTY REFURBISHMENT GRANT SCHEME

With effect from 1 July 2023 additional funding is available under the Vacant Property Grant Scheme to support the refurbishment of vacant and derelict properties located on the islands.

The maximum rate of the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant payable is up to 20% higher for eligible vacant and derelict properties on qualifying islands.

A list of the qualifying islands in County Galway is as follows:

Co. Galway	Inishbofin
	Árainn (Inis Mór)*
	Inis Oírr*
	Inis Meáin*

#### *\*Gaeltacht Islands*

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

### HOME ENERGY RETROFIT CLINIC AT GLINSK

The housing Unit presented at a Home Energy Retrofit Clinic on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July in Glinsk Community Centre (near Creggs). The topics covered included the

- Vacant Homes Grants (Croí Cónaithe)
- Local Authority Home Loans
- Buy and Renew
- Repair & Lease
- Older Persons Grants
- Disabled Persons Grants and
- Mobility Grants.

The event was run as part of Glinsk Sustainable Energy Community initiative and other Speakers covered topics including an overview of SEAI Grants, an introduction to the Glinsk Sustainable Energy Community and a summary on the Home Energy Assessments that have been carried out. There was a large attendance on the night and the event was very successful.



## PROPOSED SALE OF DERELICT SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK

There are a number of ex social houses in the ownership of GCC that are deemed to be derelict and because of issues such as access, services, extremely rural location and lack of demand, it is considered that these are not viable to return to social housing. A batch of twelve properties have been identified initially and these have been placed with REMAX Auctioneers for sale. It is expected that for sale signs will be erected shortly and the properties will be advertised. Subject to the identification of a potential buyer, these properties will be brought before the Council under the Section 183 process for approval, in due course. The Contacts in Housing for further information are Carmel Kilcoyne, Kathleen Lohan or Brendan Kelly.

Address	Postcode	Municipal District
Loughcurra, Kinvara	H91H330	Loughrea
Ballyglass, Ballyshrul, Portumna	H53YT97	Loughrea
Loughatorick, Woodford	H62WC85	Loughrea
Creggauns, Creggs	F42T254	Tuam
Brierfort, Williamstown	F45R588	Tuam
Abbeylands, Dunmore	H54X319	Tuam
Coppanagh, Kylebrack	West of H62VK51	Loughrea
Kiltroque, Claregalway	H91N97A	Athenry/Oranmore
Tieranascragh, Ballycrissane	H53V2Y8	Ballinasloe
Doonreaghan, Cashel	H91Y89C	Conamara
Tulach Na Corraige, Loughrea	H62PR83	Loughrea
Croaghill, Williamstown	F45XR96	Tuam

## ENERGY RETROFITS

The Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme continues to carry out significant work across the county. The aim of the programme is to improve the fabric of the existing council dwellings and to provide an

energy-efficient heating system. The minimum BER rating required following the works is a B2. However, to date under this programme, Galway County Council has surpassed this in all our retrofits, achieving an A rating in many houses. Since 2021 under the current programme Galway County Council has retrofitted 178 dwellings throughout the county at an average cost of €41,600. Galway County Council are proposing to retrofit additional houses in the following locations in 2023.

Gort	20 houses
Tuam	22 houses
Headford	4 houses
Oughterard	8 houses
Loughrea	36 Houses
Rural cottages - Various locations	6 houses



## CARAVAN LOAN SCHEME

Galway County Council has 14 halting site bays, each of which includes a welfare unit, under its remit, with 10 in Tuam Halting Site and 4 in Capira Halting Site in Tuam. The licencees of these bays provide their own caravan or mobile home, with the Council responsible only for the maintenance of the bay.

We received notification in early July from the Traveller Accommodation Unit of the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage of the continuation of the Pilot Caravan Loan Scheme – Traveller Specific Accommodation, which supports the provision of Traveller Specific accommodation through preferential loans to Travellers to purchase their own caravan/mobile home for use on halting sites as their residence.

The amount of a loan advanced is subject to a maximum of 40,000 euro, with the loan repayable for a specified period of time. The Council is required to satisfy itself that the applicant can make the loan repayments and loan repayments received must be ring fenced to be used for site maintenance works. The Council recoups each the amount of each loan issued from the Traveller Accommodation Unit of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Galway County Council has been approved to allocate 1 Caravan Loan at this time, with a requirement to confirm with the Department its intention to draw its allocation by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023. This allocation will be reviewed by the Department of Housing later in the year.

We have received limited enquiries regarding the scheme, which has been publicised by the Councils Traveller Liaison Officer and through the local Traveller Representative Groups. Two expressions of interest have been received with no completed applications received to date.

LA 01/23 – CAISLÉAN RAITHIN, ARDRAHAN

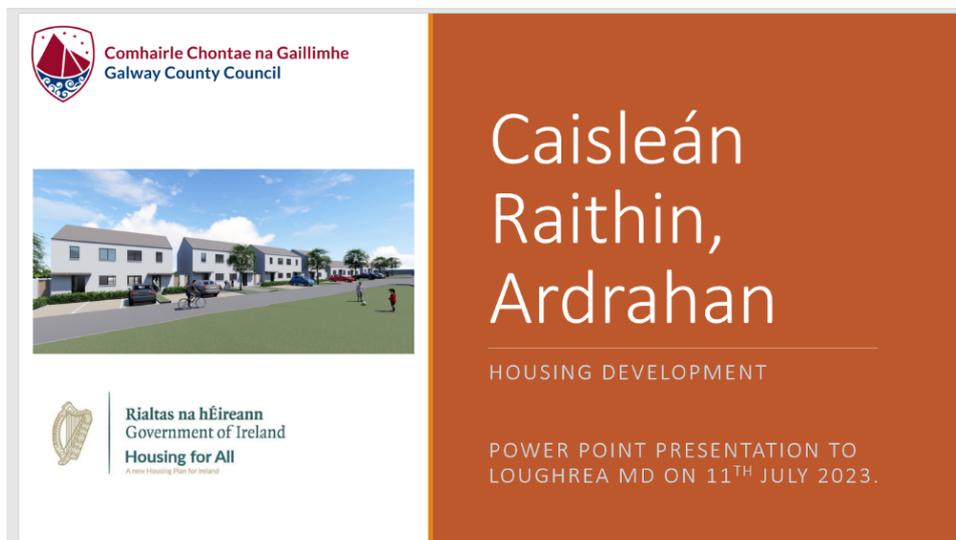
A Part 8 planning application, in accordance with the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, was lodged on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 for a 10-unit housing development on a greenfield site to the rear of the existing ‘Caisléan Raithin’ housing estate approx. 0.6 Km from Ardrahan village.

The proposal comprises 3 no. single storey 2 bed houses, 1 no. 2 storey 3 bed house, 6 no. 2 storey 2 bed houses, car parking, connection to existing services and all ancillary site development works.

No submissions/observations were received by the closing date of 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

A Chief Executive’s Report was presented to the Loughrea MD Meeting on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023 with the recommendation that the planning permission proceed subject to 19 conditions.

The Elected Members voted in favour of the proposed development to be carried out as recommended in the Report.



PRESENTATION TO LOUGHREA MD ON 11-07-23

LA 03/23 – ST. JOSEPH’S PLACE, BALLINASLOE

A Part 8 planning application, in accordance with the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, was lodged on 11th April 2023 for a 8-unit housing development on a greenfield infill site at St. Joseph’s Place, Ballinasloe.

The proposal will include 2 specialist (bungalow type) houses for older persons/those with reduced mobility and six 2 storey terrace houses, car parking, connection to existing services and ancillary site works.

No submissions/observations were received by the closing date of 24th May 2023.

A Chief Executive’s Report is currently being prepared and is due to be presented for consideration at the Ballinasloe MD Meeting on 26th July 2023.

A Part 8 planning application, in accordance with the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, was lodged on 19th May 2023 for a proposal to renovate and extend the existing terraced buildings at Dunlo Hill, including “Dooley’s Pub” (protected structure RPS ref 2730) to create a residential housing development comprising of; 10 no. duplex one bed apartments, 1 no. single-storey one-bed apartment, 2 no. duplex two-bed apartments (13 no apartments in total), as well as the conversion of “Dooley’s Pub” from a public house to a community use.

The proposal includes for partial demolitions (outbuildings and sheds to the rear courtyard areas) and alterations. It also includes for construction of 2 no. new 2 bed duplexes in lieu of the existing sheds on the northern boundary and a new single storey extension to the townhouses.

The development includes for connections to existing services, delineation of on-street carparking, provision of street trees, set down area and all associated ancillary site development works.

No submissions/observations were received by the closing date of 3rd July 2023.

A Chief Executive’s Report is currently being prepared and is due to be presented for consideration at the Ballinasloe MD Meeting on 26th July 2023.



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#### SITE NOTICES FOR PART 8 PLANNING PERMISSION ERECTED ON EXISTING STRUCTURES

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#### PART 10 - DROIM NA GAOITHE, BAILE CHLÁIR

A Part 10 planning application, in accordance with the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, is currently being prepared for a proposed residential development at a site in Droim Na Gaoithe, in Baile Chláir.

The site is approx. 2.7 Hectares with road frontage to the West onto the R381 main Baile Chláir to Oranmore Rd. and frontage to the South-East onto the Local L7110 ‘Lakeview’ Road.

The proposal is for an 88-unit housing development with a mix of 1-4 bedroom units comprising apartments, duplexes and houses. The proposal also provides for a creche and community playground with connections to existing services and associated ancillary site works.

An overview of the proposals was presented to the Athenry-Oranmore MD Meeting on 11th July 2023.

It is intended that the planning application will be lodged to An Bord Pleanála by the end of July 2023.



PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SITE LOCATION – DROIM NA GAOITHE BAILE CHLÁIR

### Circular RW 10/2023 Galway County Additional Restoration Improvement Allocations 2023

In recognition of the fact that cost inflation is having a significant impact on the cost of delivering regional and local road annual work programmes, the Minister for Transport is making additional funding of €22.5 million available to local authorities this year through Restoration Improvement (RI) Grants. This additional funding is intended to assist local authorities in delivering their annual road strengthening work programmes.

In late June 2023, in response to a query from the Department of Transport, Galway County Council indicated that the Road Operations Section had capacity to complete additional road resurfacing works, were funds to become available. A substantial set of proposals was submitted, focusing primarily on regional roads, roads damaged during the past winter, and the three-year roads programme.

On 3rd July, the Council was pleased to receive notification from the Department of Transport of additional funding under the Roads Improvement Grant scheme in the amount of €1,544,435. This brings the total amount awarded to Galway County Council in 2023 under the RI Grant to €21,999,435.

We propose to continue with our existing contractors in respect of completion of the works. The additional funding will accommodate 2 no. significant roads resurfacing projects in each MD, including a significant extension of the R446 works (former National Road – N6) in the Loughrea MD.

Thanks to the efforts of our MD teams, we have been able to position ourselves for best advantage in achieving these funds.

Furthermore, we have indicated our willingness and capacity to complete further additional works, should the opportunity arise.

The additional roads to be completed are outlined in the table below.

Further details can be obtained from the Senior Executive Engineers in the Municipal Districts.

Loughrea	R	R446 Dartfield Former National Road
Conamara	LP	L1320 Maigh Cuilinn
Tuam	R	R347 Athenry Road
Athenry-Oranmore	LS	Baumore
Loughrea	R	R348 Ballyfa

Conamara	LT, R	R374 ROSMUC
Tuam	R	R332 Frank Stockwell Road
Athenry-Oranmore	LT, R	L-71245 Cuillairbaun
Ballinasloe	LS, LT	L-8604 Garbally Drive
Ballinasloe	LS	L-8729 Millpark

### Kilrickle (Kilreekill) – Kilcooley Group Water Scheme GY841 - Update

The project includes for the installation of 41.5 km of water mains in the project area which comprises an unserved rural area in Kilrickle and the replacement of the existing Kilcooley GWS network. The newly installed network will be supplied by Cappataggle GWS and on completion will be amalgamated with Cappataggle.

The completed project will provide mains water to the Kilrickle area which experiences consistently poor groundwater quality and yield. It will also provide the existing Kilcooley GWS with compliant drinking water. This GWS has been on a boil water notice since December 2009 and is on the Department’s Remedial Action List RAL.

The completed project will supply 262 houses, 2 National Schools and several businesses with clean and wholesome drinking water.

The project budget is € 3.57 M made up of contributions from a DHLGH Grant of €3.24 M and Local Contribution of € 0.333 M.

To date, approx. 52% of the Pipeline is installed and 67% of valves installed. approximately 80% of the mains are being installed using directional drilling which reduces the need for open cut trench which in turn saves on road restoration works.



**FIGURE 1 & 2.**  
DIRECTIONAL  
DRILLING AND  
PIPE  
INSTALLATION  
ON THE BULLAUN  
ROAD.



**FIGURE 3 & 4.** OPEN CUT EXCAVATIONS AND TRENCH REINSTATEMENTS ON THE BULLAUN ROAD.



Figure 1: Spiddal main site

The photo above shows the secondary settlement tank in the foreground, sludge pumps on the left. In the background, welfare facilities and HMIs housed in the structures to the left (HMI means 'human-machine interface' and these interfaces are intended to streamline the use of industrial machinery by connecting a person to a machine, system, or device. Their purpose is to provide insight into mechanical performance and progress), wash water storage in centre background and concrete sludge storage tank in the right.

Changeover of flows in Spiddal is now scheduled for the week commencing July 31<sup>st</sup>. This will be followed by a 28-day process proving period which will conclude at the end of August when full commissioning is expected.

### Community Involvement Schemes

As the Members will be aware, the Department continued the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) in 2022 and 2023 and local authorities were invited to apply to the Department for CIS funding for those years. The CIS is based on a minimum community contribution of either 10% or 20% based on the criteria below. It is no longer permissible to carry out a CIS funded scheme where the local community contribution is a combination of monetary and works. Please see the following terms below:

Where the local community contribution is monetary a minimum contribution rate of 10% will apply; **and** where the local community contribution comprises works the minimum contribution rate will be 20%.

No other grants allocated under Department of Transport grant programmes can be used for the community contribution.

The legislative provisions for members of a community carrying out works under the Community Involvement Scheme are outlined in Section 13(6) of the Roads Act, 1993 which provides that, a person or a group of persons may, with the consent of a road authority, carry out maintenance works on a local road. A road authority may provide materials, plant, equipment, and the services of its staff to a person or group carrying out such works. The person or group (and each member thereof) carrying out works with the consent of a road authority will be indemnified by the road authority against all actions and claims howsoever arising in respect of the works, and the carrying out of works, provided that the works are carried out in a bona fide manner and in accordance with any conditions, restrictions or requirements specified by the road authority.

The 2023 Schemes numbers per MD are outlined in the table below. For actual scheme particulars please liaise with your local MD.

<b>MD</b>	<b>No of Applicants Received for 2023</b>	<b>No of Applications Going Ahead for 2023</b>
Athenry/Oranmore	10	8
Tuam	13	11
Loughrea	4	3
Ballinasloe	2	0
Connemara	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>22</b>

## NRPO Update

### N59 MOYCULLEN BYPASS

The N59 Moycullen Bypass is currently under construction. The works are 85% complete and are due for substantial completion in November 2023. Landowner consultation ongoing.

### N6 GALWAY CITY RING ROAD

A request for further information is expected from An Bord Pleanála and work is ongoing on traffic assessments and ecological surveys.

### N84 GALWAY TO CURRAGHMORE

Barry Transportation are progressing with Phases 0 of the TII Project Management Guidelines.

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## N59 BUNNAKILL TO CLAREMOUNT

Galway County Council are obliged to get the approval from the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Inland Fisheries Ireland for the construction stage method statements. On 27 June 2023 the NPWS wrote to Galway County Council advising that the responsibility for ensuring that the method statements comply with the EU Habitats Directive lies with Galway County Council. The project team are currently assessing this position with a view to progressing the advance works contracts.

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## N83 CLAREGALWAY

Advanced works including Archaeology contract to comment in July 2023.

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## N59 KENTFIELD

The design of realignment at the Corcullen junction is complete and the Design Report is being updated. The works screened in for Appropriate Assessment therefore a Natura Impact Statement is being prepared for An Board Pleanála approval.

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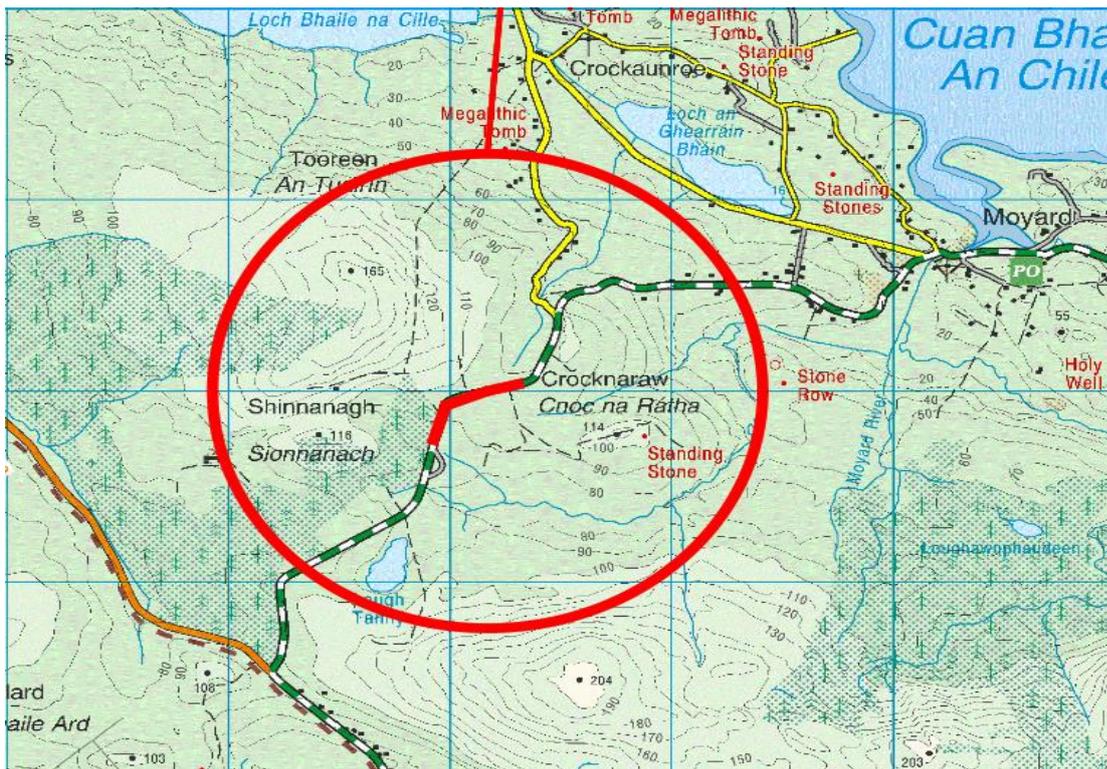
## N65 KILLIMOR TO RAMORE CROSS PAVEMENT SCHEME

Construction has commenced on site with works to be completed by the end of July 2023.



## N59 CNOCKNARAW PAVEMENT SCHEME

The scheme has been designed and tendered with construction due to be completed September 2023.



## N59 DERRYNACLEIGH PAVEMENT SCHEME

The scheme has been designed and tendered with construction due to be completed August 2023.



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#### GALWAY TO OUGHTERARD GREENWAY

Project Liaison officers have started meeting the affected landowners within the corridor. Peer Review responses being finalised and to be sent to TII peer review team and Deliverables for Phase 2 Gate are being updated and finalised.

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#### CLIFDEN TO RECESS GREENWAY

Under construction on section East of the village of Recess. Tender out for surfacing 2.5km section for TII Pavement Type A1. Engagement with a number of landowners ongoing.

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#### DERRYGIMLAGH TO KYLEMORE GREENWAY

AECOM currently progressing the Strategic Assessment Report and the options long list.

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#### AT - N67 KINVARA VILLAGE

Ecological Surveys ongoing with no significant constraints identified to date.

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#### AT - N63 ABBEYKNOCKMOY VILLAGE

The Stage 1 Road Safety Audit has been carried out on site with the report to be agreed.

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#### N59 OUGHTERARD BRIDGE SIGNALISATION

Design Report approved by TII. The Part 8 application will be submitted for consideration week ending 21 July 2023.

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#### N59 OUGHTERARD PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

Transport Infrastructure Ireland's Structures Section have accepted the Feasibility and Option Report prepared by GCC and are in the process of tendering for consultants to obtain development consent.

## FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT

### RETAINED FIRE SERVICE INDUSTRIAL ACTION

Since earlier this year SIPTU were in discussions with the LGMA re the implementation of the 13 recommendations of the *Retained Fire Services in Ireland - A Review of Recruitment and Retention and the Future Sustainability of Service Delivery Report*. On the 10 May, SIPTU withdrew from the negotiations and having previously balloted its members regarding industrial action, Notice was served on all Local Authorities that Industrial Action (in 3 phases) on the part of all retained fire fighters nationally would commence on 6th June.

On the 19 June, the Labour Court met with both parties and decided that it may be in a position to assist with the discussions/negotiations and until such time as the Labour Court could have a full hearing (26th June) and issue a recommendation. SIPTU agreed not to progress the industrial action any further.

The Labour Court issued its recommendation on the 10 June 2023. SIPTU is putting the recommendation to its members for ballot to either accept/reject. The ballot is taking place electronically from Monday 17 July 2023 to Wednesday 19 July. SIPTU have recommended to its members not to accept the Labour Court Recommendation. In anticipation of the recommendation being rejected by SIPTU members, SIPTU issued notification of strike action to all Chief Executives on the 12 July, with the action due to commence 12:01am on Wednesday the 26 July.

SIPTU have indicated that they will comply with the Voluntary Code of Practice “S.I. No. 1/1992 - Industrial Relations Act, 1990, Code of Practice on Dispute Procedures (Declaration) Order, 1992”, which will see a fire service response to “life at risk” calls. Galway Fire and Rescue Service in conjunction with the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) in the DHLGH have developed contingency plans for the event that such a strike goes ahead.

### NEW FIRE APPLIANCE

Earlier in July, Galway Fire and Rescue Service took delivery of a new Fire Appliance (Fire Engine). This appliance will be located in Galway City Fire Station with the appliance its replacing going to Athenry Fire Stati

LEO GALWAY PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTS TO SMALL BUSINESSES AND ENTREPRENEURS IN JUNE – JULY:

- 18 new mentoring assignments
- 45 business advisory (1-to-1) sessions held
- 8 Trading Online Vouchers approved
- 124 participants on 8 LEO Training courses

### SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

- Facebook reach so far this year (to June 27th): 61,424
- Instagram reach: 5,491
- Visitors to website: 8558 (1st Jan – 27th Jun). Over 78% are new visitors

### MINISTERIAL VISIT

Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail, Neale Richmond TD, visited Tuam on 16th June where he met with members of the Local Enterprise Office Galway team and two of their client companies. The Minister met with LEO staff to hear about their ongoing work and future plans for enterprise in Galway.

Minister Richmond visited the premises of LEO client Galway Homeopaths Ltd t/a GH Agri, an agricultural veterinary healthcare company and was given a tour of the facility by CEO Kevin McHugh. Established in 1989, GH Agri manufactures nutritional products for cattle, sheep and horses which are designed to enhance animal performance and build up their immune systems. Later the Minister travelled to another LEO client, Evo Precision Engineering, a manufacturing company that was established in 2022 and specialises in manufacturing medical devices and automation machines.

L-R: EOIN CONNAIRE (LEO), CIARAN CANNON TD, CAROLINE MCDONAGH (LEO), KEVIN MCHUGH (CEO, GH AGRI), MINISTER NEALE RICHMOND, VALERIE KELLY (LEO) AT CLIENT VISIT IN TUAM, CO. GALWAY.





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L-R: MINISTER NEALE RICHMOND, ROBERT GATELY (CEO, EVO PRECISION), VALERIE KELLY (LEO) AT CLIENT VISIT IN TUAM, CO. GALWAY.

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#### NETWORK GALWAY ANNUAL AWARDS

LEO Galway attended Network Galway's Annual Awards on June 16<sup>th</sup> in the Galmont Hotel. Winner of the LEO Galway sponsored award 'Emerging Businesswoman Category' was Lorraine Connell of Lorraine Connell Coaching. Highly commended in the 'Emerging Businesswoman Category' was Louise Lally of Louise Lally Training Academy.



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L-R: STEPHANIE COLOMBANI (LEO), LOUISE LALLY (WINNER), SUZANNE RYAN (PRESIDENT OF NETWORK GALWAY)

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## UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY- IDEAS LAB: START100 SHOWCASE

LEO Galway attended the University of Galway Start100 Showcase on 16<sup>th</sup> June. Start100 is the University of Galway's only student incubator programme. The programme is competitive with only 12 student teams selected to participate each year. Individuals or teams work for 6 weeks on an early-stage idea business idea and develop their skills and competences. Teams are matched with an expert mentor and take part in weekly workshops and meetings to develop their idea. LEO Galway is a contributor to the programme through the funding of the Start Your Own Business half-day workshop. Winners of the €5,000 prize fund on the day was the team LambCam – Shan Pereira, Maria Comas and Michelle O'Donnell – who developed software to help farmers monitor the behaviour of sheep during lambing season. One to Watch winner was Chloe Heffernan with her Glow by Chloe Cosmetics start-up business.



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OVERALL, WINNERS OF START100 PROGRAMME AWARD: TEAM LAMBCAM – SHAN PEREIRA, MARIA COMAS AND MICHELLE O'DONNELL

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## IDA CLIENT LAUNCH

LEO Galway attended the launch of IDA client - Liberty IT - on June 23rd in the Portershed. The launch was officially opened by Hildegard Naughton T.D & Mayor of Galway City, [Eddie Hoare](#) & [Mary Buckley](#) of IDA. Liberty IT will create 100 highly skilled jobs in Galway over the next 2 years led by [Darren Muldoon](#) & his team.



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L-R: JENNY MULLERY (UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY), DARREN MULDOON (LIBERTY IT) AND VALERIE KELLY (LEO)

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## FEMALE ENTREPRENEUR EVENT – EAST GALWAY

LEO Galway attended the Female Entrepreneur Networking Event in the Sliabh Aughty Centre, Kylebrack West, Loughrea on Jun 29<sup>th</sup>. The event was organized by TD Ciaran Cannon with the aim of bringing female entrepreneurs in East Galway together to hear about available supports and to network with one another. Keynote speaker was the Minister of State at Department of Finance Jennifer Carroll McNeill. Panel discussion was facilitated on the night by Councillor Karey McHugh and panel speakers included LEO Galway's a/Head of Enterprise Valerie Kelly, Teresa Roche (Kylemore Farmhouse Cheese), Elaine Donohue (BIA Innovator), Sheenagh McCarthy (McCarthy Solicitors) and Mary Smyth (Naomh Breandan Credit Union).



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L-R: TERESA ROCHE (KYLEMORE FARMHOUSE CHEESE), SHEENAGH MCCARTHY (MCCARTHY SOLICITORS), CLLR KAREY MCHUGH, MINISTER OF STATE JENNIFER CARROLL MCNEILL, ELAINE DONOHUE (BIA INNOVATOR), VALERIE KELLY (LEO), TD CIARAN CANNON.

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## LEO CLIENT LAUNCH

LEO Galway attended the launch of LEO Galway funded client – Ahascragh Distillery – on 1<sup>st</sup> July in Ahascragh, Co Galway, officially opened by Minister of State Anne Rabbitte. Gareth & Michelle McAllister, both originally from Dublin, bought and redeveloped the old Ahascragh mill, which processed grain into flour up to the 1950s, into Ireland's first zero emissions whiskey and gin distillery. The distillery is now open for guided tours as well as whiskey and gin tastings and corporate events. They also opened the Old Mill Shop & Café across the road from the Distillery serving both visitors to the distillery and the wider community in East Galway.

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L-R: MICHELLE MCALLISTER, GARETH MCALLISTER (CO-FOUNDERS) AND MINISTER OF STATE ANNE RABBITTE



## BIA INNOVATOR – LEO FUNDED TRAINING PROGRAMME

LEO Galway funded the food training programme - BootStrapping | How to flourish as a start-up - powerful, resourced, and informative 3 Days of Masterclasses at the BIA Innovator Campus. The Business Strategy Review and Retail Masterclasses were led, delivered, and curated by Michelle Butler from Orchid Marketing over 2 Days, with input from Julian Niblett and Hilary Leam of SeedRetail. All shared their expertise in business strategy and retail, highlighting effective strategies that the founders can apply to their business. Adrian Boswell from Selfridges provided valuable insights from a buyer's perspective, offering guidance on how to approach buyers and present their products effectively. Tadhg O'Donovan led the Foodservice Masterclass, with the support of Colin Greensmith of Sysco Ireland and Padraig O'Farrell of Carrigaline Farmhouse Cheese, this supported the founders in navigating the foodservice sector, and led a path on how to evolve, incorporate and succeed in this arm of their businesses. The class of 2023 were a group of passionate and diverse Female Founders who are making significant contributions to the food industry in Ireland.



PICTURED ABOVE NOEL LEAHY – LEO GALWAY CLIENT FEATURED IN GALWAY NOW MAGAZINE - SUMMER 2023 EDITION.



PICTURED ABOVE LEO GALWAY CLIENT - PAM FINN FEATURED IN GALWAY NOW MAGAZINE ABOUT HER DIRECTORIAL DEBUT – “JFK - THE THREE MILES” – SUMMER EDITION 2023



Pictured above a selection of images from the Network Galway Businesswoman of the Year Awards 2023 – Network Galway is sponsored by LEO Galway and Stephanie Colombani represents LEO Galway at official functions and all events including taking part as a judge in some of the interview panels for the Awards. Galway NOW summer edition 2023.

## URDF CALL 3

The Government have announced details of a €150 million fund to end long-term vacancy and dereliction in towns and cities under the URDF Call 3. Galway County Council have been awarded €2,000,000 to tackle problems of vacancy and dereliction within its URDF settlements of Tuam, Ballinasloe and Oranmore. The fund can transform locations across the county and promote vibrant communities in our urban centres. The third round of URDF funding will act as a dedicated revolving fund within each local authority so as to address the financial barrier and risk faced by local authorities in seeking to tackle long term vacant and derelict buildings and sites across URDF towns. Galway County Council have been allocated target by the DHLGH of 300 vacant and derelict properties to enter the Programme and 27 CPOs / Compulsory Acquisitions to commence in 2023 and this URDF allocated funding can be utilised to meet this target.

This third round of funding support under the URDF programme is not seeking to replicate or replace the various social housing programmes available to local authorities to tackle vacant and derelict buildings and sites. The URDF revolving fund should not therefore be seen as another social/affordable housing programme. The funding will be available to cover the acquisition costs of a property or site and also any civil or design works which may be required to de-risk or improve the site/building to make it more attractive for reuse, development by others or onward sale. The intention is that the fund would be replenished from the proceeds received from the end use/user, thereby allowing the local authority to put in place a rolling programme to tackle long term vacancy and dereliction without recourse to significant borrowing and the associated financial risk. This programme and funding allocation will enable Galway County Council to have a real and lasting impact activating the regeneration of our town centres.



REGEN TEAM MEMBERS JP O CARROLL, HAZEL FOX, RONAN CONWAY AND BRENT MOSTERT

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## ATHENRY:

*Public Realm design* : The Cross Street and Market Square enhancement design package which is being incorporated into the wider public realm is currently being finalised for the Part VIII package. This will form part of Phase 1 of the Athenry Public Realm Enhancement Scheme. Pre planning meeting with the major planning unit is being scheduled. The proposals are being continually coordinated to ensure alignment with the Local Area Plan and Local Transport Plan.

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## LOUGHREA TOWN HALL:

Aughey O Flaherty Architects are re engaged on the project following Departmental approval to move to procurement. Programmes are being developed and design elements are being agreed between GCC and the Architectural Team. The Fire Safety and Disability Access Certificate applications will run concurrent with the tender publication and assessment period. The pre-qualified contractors will be notified in advance of the tender publication which is scheduled for after the Builders holiday.

### Summary:

Aughey O Flaherty Architectural Consultants are working on updating tender documents pre submitting to GCC Regen for review.

Next milestone – Publish tender documents in Q4 of 2023

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## LOUGHREA LONG POINT SWIMMING AREA:

### *Project development measure*

Conceptual design has been advanced in line with the funding envelope. Consideration being given to other funding streams to advance design to planning readiness.





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## PORTUMNA COURTHOUSE

The Regeneration Team are currently reviewing the Draft Tender Documents for Portumna Courthouse. The target date set for publishing the tender is late August 2023 after the Builders holiday. The Fire Safety and Disability Access Certificate applications will run concurrent to the tender period.



An application for additional funding will be submitted to the DRCD once the main contract tender sum has been assessed and accepted.



Purchase of the snooker hall from the Town Hall is advancing through legal which will support the footprint of the proposed Regeneration works.

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## PORTUMNA

### *Public Realm & Wayfinding:*

Preliminary Design has been frozen. Elected members from the Portumna area have been invited to design briefing and site walk-over early next week. Following this briefing, further engagement is required with the Strategic Partnership Group (Waterways Ireland, Coilte, OPW, Failte Ireland).



GORT:

*Town Centre First Plan:*

Draft Town Centre First plan being advanced in preparation to bring before town team. The programme will require the adaptation of the Plan by the 6<sup>th</sup> of October.

Next Milestone – Plan to be completed in Q4 of 2023

*Public Realm:*

Following on from the third phase of Public Consultation on the conceptual design for Gort, held last month, design review is being undertaken with a view to advancing to environmental assessment screening. The screening will inform whether the scheme will be advanced under Part 8 or Part 10 planning.



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## GALWAY COUNTY SHOPFRONT DESIGN GUIDE:

Graphic Design, photography of exemplar shopfronts and hand-drawn illustrations 80% complete.  
First draft document due to be issued to Regen by end July 2023



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## GALWAY COUNTY TOWN AND VILLAGE DESIGN GUIDE:

Third iteration of draft document received for review by Regen last week. Once our comments have been incorporated by Scott Tallon Walker the draft will be circulated to the GCC Steering Group.

### PRE-PLANNING MEETINGS

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#### STRUCTURE OF MONTHLY GENERAL PRE-PLANNING MEETINGS:

Tuesday Wednesday Thursday

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#### TIME SLOTS:

1. 9:30am – 10:00am
2. 10:00am – 10:30am
3. 11:15am – 11:45am
4. 11:45am – 12:15pm
5. 12:15pm – 12:45pm (Councillor Slot)

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#### METHODS OF MEETINGS:

- Phone / MS Teams / Public Counter
- Public Counter for Councillor Slots or MS Teams

## OUTLINE OF MEETINGS SCHEDULED:

TYPE	Oranmore/Gort/Kinvara	Tuam/Headford/Corrandulla/Athenry	(Ballinasloe/Glenamaddy)	(Connemara)	(Loughrea/Portumna)	Total type
Businesses	0	1 – May 2 – June 2 - July	1 – June	1 – Apr/June 1 – July	1 – May	9
Housing Dev.	2 – June 1 – July	1 – Nov 2022	2 – May 3 – June	2 – May 1 – June	0	12
Quarries	0	0	1 - May	1 – May	0	2
Schools	0	0	0	0	0	0
Single Houses	2 - May 1 – June	1 - June	1 – June	10 – Mar 9 – Apr 3 – May 7 - June 2 - July	1 – Mar 2 – May 1 - June	40
Councillor Requests	0	1 – June (	1 –	1 – Mar	1	4
	6	8	9	38	6	67

## FORWARD PLANNING

### PUBLIC CONSULTATION DROP-IN SESSION ATHENRY DRAFT LOCAL AREA PLAN 2023-2029

Galway County Council hosted on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023 from 2.00pm to 7.00pm in the Raheen Woods Hotel, a very successful Public Consultation Drop-In Session on Athenry Draft Local Area Plan 2023-2029. The Consultation session was facilitated by the Forward Planning Staff and was attended by in excess of 60 people on the day. There was excellent engagement by all in attendance on the day.



### FORWARD PLANNING TEAM AT PUBLIC CONSULTATION

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## PUBLIC CONSULTATION WEBINAR – ATHENRY DRAFT LOCAL AREA PLAN 2023-2029

A Public Webinar event on the Athenry Draft Local Area Plan 2023-2029 on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023 from 6.00 – 7.00 p.m.

A total of 25 no. people registered for the webinar with good attendance and engagement. The webinar was facilitated by the Forward Planning Staff

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## SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED ON ATHENRY DRAFT LOCAL AREA PLAN 2023-2029

The Closing Date for submissions on the Athenry Draft Local Area Plan 2023-2029 was 4.00 p.m. on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023. **132** no. submissions were received during the submission period.

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## HERITAGE OFFICE

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### GALWAY COUNTY DIGITAL MAPPING PROJECT

Work continued this month with regards to Galway County Digital Mapping Project. The project is run by the Heritage Office in partnership with the GIS Section of Galway County Council. The project will be launched in Letterfrack on 14 August.

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### JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup> 2023

As part of the St Kerrills Festival, Gurteen, Galway Community Archaeologist was invited to speak about conservation works carried out under Community Monuments Funding. This was very well attended by the local community.



- Bernie Doherty MIAI
- [g.c.archaeology@gmail.com](mailto:g.c.archaeology@gmail.com)
- 086 1003888
- June 2023

**Community Monuments Fund**

An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta  
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage



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GALWAY COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGIST PRESENTED AT ST. KERRILL'S FESTIVAL, MITCHELL'S BAR, GURTEEN FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2023.

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## SITE VISIT TO SEANAFEISTEEN

Site visit to Seanafeisteen, Oughterard comprised a day trip to visit potential unrecorded archaeological sites. Natural outcrops and boulders were investigated but proved to be natural glacial deposits. Markings on stones were also shown to be natural.



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POTENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AT SEANAFEISTEEN VISITED JUNE 2023 WITH LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGIST BILL DALY AND A CONCERNED LOCAL.

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## SITE VISIT TO ROSSHILL GRAVEYARD

Rosshill Graveyard, Clonbur – Site visit and advice regarding graveyard maintenance and possible funding.



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SITE VISIT, ADVICE AND REPORT REGARDING GRAVE-MARKERS AND MAINTENANCE AT ROSSHILL GRAVEYARD, CLONBUR, A RECORDED MONUMENT.

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## GARDEN PARTY AT THE ÁRAS

Garden Party for Communities and Heritage at Áras an Uachtaráin attended by Bernie Doherty, Galway Community Archaeologist & Rosina Joyce, Galway County Council Biodiversity Officer



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ROSINA JOYCE & BERNIE DOHERTY

BERNIE DOHERTY WITH WOODLAWN HERITAGE GROUP AT AN ARAS

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## PROVISION OF ADVICE AND GUIDANCE TO HERITAGE INTEREST GROUPS

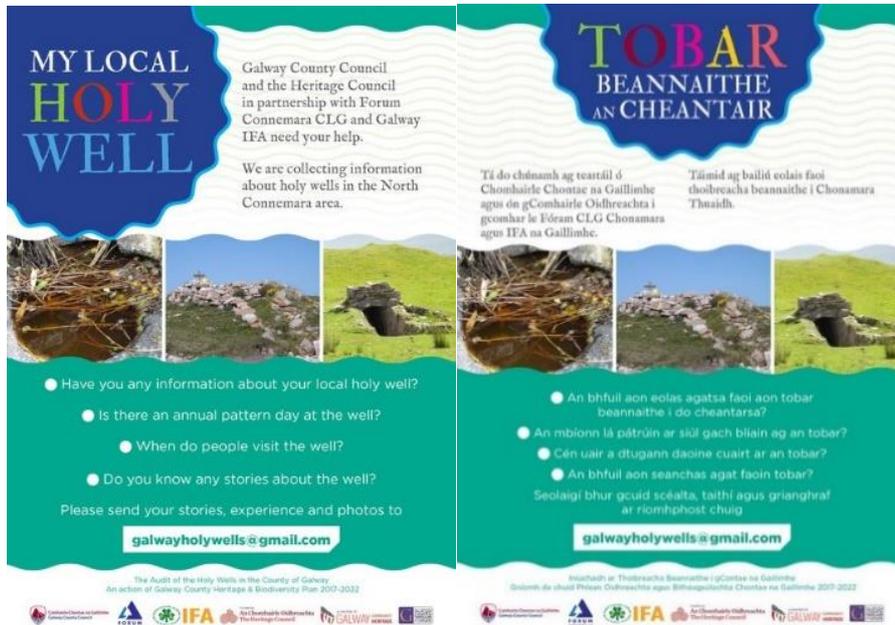
Heritage Officer held in person meetings with a heritage interest group in Nogra, Kinvara and Moylough Heritage Groups with regards to documenting their heritage. In addition to this advice and guidance was given to numerous heritage groups throughout the county on the phone and by email. Subject matter ranged from local history, townland research, genealogy, archaeology, conservation on documents, publications, development of local heritage amenities and graveyard mapping.

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## OTHER WORK INVOLVING THE HERITAGE OFFICER AND GALWAY COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGIST

- Community Monuments Fund administration and consultation
- Inishboffin repatriation of Human Remains
- Advice and Preparation for Heritage Week events.

Please see below a sample heritage week event:



The Galway County Heritage Office Facebook page has seen a reach of 7,175 accounts in the last month and an increase of 28 new page likes and followers.

## BIODIVERSITY

### LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION FUND PROJECTS

Work is ongoing with the Local Biodiversity Action Fund Projects. We are currently filming for the Connemara Catchment Blue Dot project, raising awareness of the High-Quality Water sites of Connemara. This is a collaborative project between the Local Authorities Water Programme and Galway County Council. Conor Ruane, Community Water Officer with the Local Authorities Water Programme is overseeing the production which will be launched early next year for World Wetlands Day.



ROSINA JOYCE BIODIVERSITY OFFICER AND CONOR RUANE COMMUNITY WATER OFFICER WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES WATER PROGRAMME FILMING AT FURBO BEACH AS PART OF THE CONNEMARA BLUE DOT PROJECT.

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## BARN OWLS BREEDING SUCCESS

Barn Owl Nest Boxes which were installed in January 2023, thanks to the support of Galway County Council and the Local Biodiversity Action Fund from the NPWS, were visited on the 20<sup>th</sup> June by the Biodiversity Officer and John Lusby, BirdWatch Ireland. Four healthy Barn Owl chicks were ringed on this visit and it was noted that this was one of the quickest uptakes of a Barn Owl nest box on record. Barn Owl populations for County Galway are displaying a positive trend and the provision of suitable nesting locations is providing positive outcomes for the success of the broods.



THE RINGING OF A HEALTHY COUNTY GALWAY BARN OWL CHICK AND A BARN OWL NEST BOX IN SOUTH GALWAY INSTALLED WITH THE SUPPORT OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND THE NATIONAL PARKS & WILDLIFE SERVICE (NPWS). PHOTO CREDIT: MARGAUX PIERREL (NPWS) AND JOHN LUSBY (BIRDWATCH IRELAND)

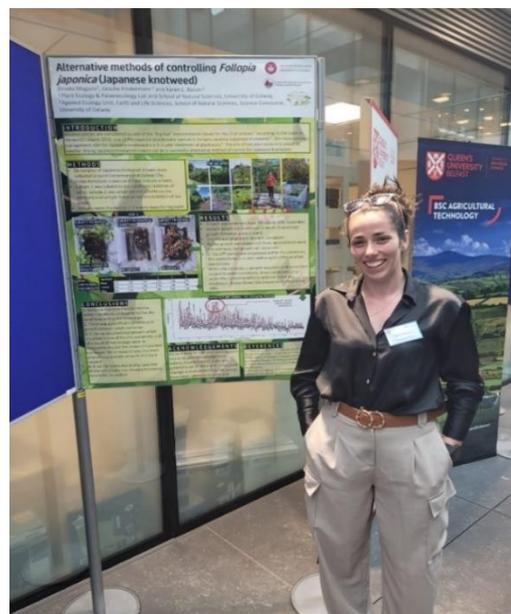
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## INVASIVE SPECIES

Galway County Council are providing assistance to PhD Candidate of University of Galway, Dineka Maguire on alternative methods of treatment of Japanese Knotweed. Study sites across the Connemara MD have been used for the trials and the initial results from experimental work carried out last year was presented IPSAM conference recently. The study continues this summer.

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DINEKA MAGUIRE FROM UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY PRESENTING A POSTER ON THE ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF CONTROLLING JAPANESE KNOTWEED AT THE IPSAM CONFERENCE AT QUEENS UNIVERSITY IN BELFAST



The Community Wardens are mapping Invasive Species across the county in response to the complaints relating to public land and this is coordinated through the Invasive Species Working Group of Patricia Delaney (Infrastructure & Operations Unit), Ita Gordon (Planning Section) and Rosina Joyce (Biodiversity Officer). Training will be provided to new Community Wardens in the coming weeks on Invasive Species identification and mapping.

## MEDIA AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The Biodiversity Officer was interviewed for Galway Bay FM news on her recent appointment and on the awarding of over €100,000 to Galway County Council for Biodiversity Projects through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund from the NPWS. The item ran on the main news bulletins throughout the day and was also featured on the Galway Bay FM News website.

The Biodiversity Officer was also interviewed for a feature on the *Great Outdoors* with Breandan O'Scanaill on Connemara Community Radio on the 13<sup>th</sup> July and discussed Galway County Council's biodiversity projects in Connemara and around the county.

Social media engagement was strong over the last month for the County Galway Biodiversity Office accounts.

- 11,892 reach on Facebook and 30 new page likes
- 331 reach on Instagram and 115 new profile followers

The Biodiversity Officer presented at the PPN's Biodiversity and Climate Info Webinar on the 27<sup>th</sup> June, and outlined the remit of the role to Community Groups throughout the county and gave an update on various projects along with opportunities for members of the public to engage with conservation and citizen science projects.

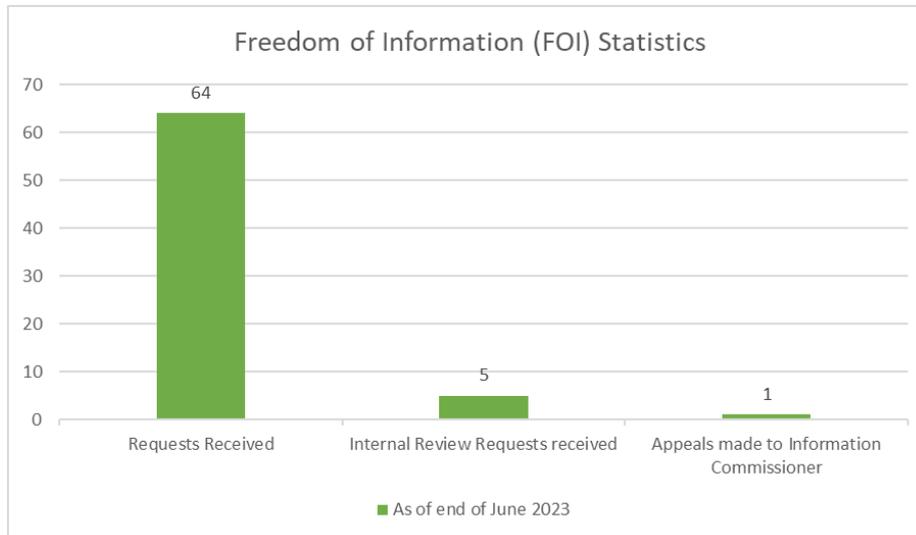
BirdWatch Ireland's Junior Members magazine *Bird Detectives* featured a two-page spread on the recent winning artwork from the Golden Wings Competition that was run by Galway County Council and the bird conservation group. BirdWatch Ireland has a membership of over 15,000 and this feature has highlighted the role that Galway County Council play in nature conservation on a national stage.



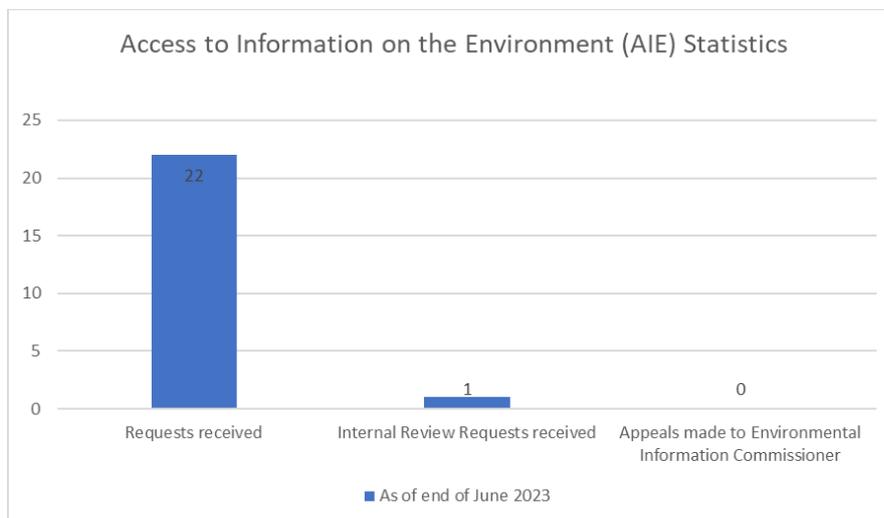
BIRD DETECTIVES  
MAGAZINE  
FEATURING THE  
WINNERS OF  
GOLDEN WINGS  
ART COMPETITION  
WHICH GALWAY  
COUNTY COUNCIL  
AND BIRDWATCH  
IRELAND  
ANNOUNCED  
DURING NATIONAL  
BIODIVERSITY WEEK.

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION & DATA PROTECTION: 2023 YEAR TO DATE STATISTICS TO 30.06.23

#### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



#### ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT



#### DATA PROTECTION

##### Data Access Requests / Third Party Access Request, e.g., Gardaí

- 6 Data Access Requests
- 1 Third Party Access Request, e.g., Gardaí

##### GDPR/Data Protection Training

- Online Induction Training & GDPR Staff Awareness Training issued to all new Staff
- Mid-Year Data Protection/GDPR Training assigned to all Staff online

## FACILITIES

Facilities Section installed two new solar energy compactor bins at Rinville Park as part of the litter management of the park.



## RINVILLE TOWER

Investigation works to the Ivy Growth at Rinville Tower at Rinville Park, Oranmore, that was completed in May 2023. Efforts will be made by the Facilities Section to address the ivy growth and prevent deterioration of this structure.



Figure 2 This is the most serious growth of vegetation.

Roof Maintenance works to the Courtyard buildings in Rinville Park, Oranmore completed in May 2023. Ongoing Landscape maintenance also taking place on a regular basis in the Rinville Park.




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## ROOF REPAIR WORK

Roof repair works were completed to the Athenry Library building, Westside Library building, Clifden Library building and Ballinasloe Old Library building by the Facilities Section.

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## GALWAY AIRPORT

The Facilities Section engaged with National Parks and Wildlife Services in relation to the significant number of Feral Pigeons that were occupying the two hangars at the old Galway Airport site. A Section 42 licence under the Wildlife Act 1976 – 2018 was granted to Galway County Council. The Feral Pigeon culling was completed in June 2023. Rectification works are underway to ensure safe operations of the 6no. Mega doors at these two Hangars.



The Facilities Section continue to inspect and maintain all the emergency lighting, fire alarm systems, electrical inspections, legionella monitoring, radon testing, PA Testing, VDU Assessments, fire extinguisher inspections, roof access systems, BMS heating systems to ensure a safe and workable environment for staff and members of the public.

## SOCIAL MEDIA REVIEW

1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE – 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2023

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



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



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



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

## OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY

**34k**

↑ **0.4% from 33k**  
**Fans & Followers**

**679**

↑ **13.9%**  
**Posts**

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## FACEBOOK

Over this period, Customer Services have posted 217 posts to Galway County Council's Facebook page, an increase of 26.9% in comparison to the previous month. Customer Services also utilised the 'story' function on Facebook this month sharing 13 stories with followers. Galway County Council's overall reach for the last month was 42,368.

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## AUDIENCE METRICS – FACEBOOK

Last month Galway County Council gained 79 Facebook followers, bringing the total followers as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, to 15,713.

Galway County Council's Audience ages range between 18 – 65+ with the main audience being those aged between 35 and 44, when this is broken down further 23.7% of this age group are women and 10.8% are men.

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

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## JUNE'S TOP THREE POSTS

 <p><b>Galway County Council</b> Jun 21, 11:01</p> <p>Galway County Council Blue Flag Beach Competition Winners 2023</p> <p><b>17.21 %</b> engagement rate</p>	 <p><b>Galway County Council</b> Jun 20, 10:28</p> <p>Yesterday, Galway County Councillors voted to elect the new Chathaoirleach Liam Carroll and Leas-Chathaoirleach Cllr Dr Evelyn Francis Parsons for 2023/2024 #gaillimh #galway</p> <p><b>13.1 %</b> engagement rate</p>	 <p><b>Galway County Council</b> Jun 23, 10:35</p> <p>Galway County Council #Archives we are preparing some recently conserved volumes of #Tuam Poor Law minutes (1843-1851) for digitisation in the coming months, to add to the Digital Archive #YourCouncilDay #DoLáSaChomhairle #lovelocalarchives. For</p> <p><b>11.9 %</b> engagement rate</p>
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## AUDIENCE METRICS – TWITTER

During this period on Twitter, Galway County Council posted a total of 176 tweets with 72k impressions, an increase of 24.4% compared to the previous period.

Galway County Council's account was 'mentioned' 267 times and a total of 18 new followers were gained in this period, bringing the total following to 16.436k.

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## AUDIENCE METRICS – INSTAGRAM

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

Galway County Council's Instagram Audience ages range between 18-65+, with 70.8% being female and 29.2% being male. Overall, the main audience; with 37.4% in total, again is those aged between 35 and 44 years old, a closer breakdown shows that this consists of 26.3% women and 11.1% men.

Over the last month Galway County Council have increased their followers by 5.6% bringing the total to 524.

## SCOIL SAMHRAIDH AN PHIARSAIGH 2023

Galway County Council has been organising the Pádraig Pearse Summer school in Ros Muc which will take place on the 27th and 28th July. It promises to be a fun event with a guided tour of the Pádraig Pearse cottage and heritage centre followed by talks, music and entertainment. The event has been promoted across all of Galway County Council's social media platforms for the month of July.



## LIBRARY SERVICES

### NATIONAL INITIATIVE: HEALTHY IRELAND AT YOUR LIBRARY CAMPAIGN HEALTH PROMOTION CONFERENCE, UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

This event was hosted in collaboration with the Department of Health, Health Service Executive and the Association for Health Promotion Ireland. It provided a platform to highlight cutting-edge research and innovative initiatives as well as expanding links between knowledge and action, and broadening connections among a diversity of researchers, policymakers and practitioners.

Galway Public Libraries was represented by staff member, Elizabeth Keane who presented on the topic 'Health Happens in Libraries: public library practices, challenges and opportunities. The presentation focused on the various initiatives Galway Libraries offer to the community including the Healthy Ireland at your Library, sensory services, JAM card initiatives, Autism awareness training and our projects such as play therapy and music therapy sessions in the community.

The conference was opened by Minister Hildegard Naughton, TD, Department of the Taoiseach and at the Department of Health with guest speaker Professor Breda Smyth, Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health emphasising the importance of community networks to ensure effective health care for all.



[2023-full-conference-booklet-Tuesday.pdf \(universityofgalway.ie\)](#)

## WESTSIDE ARTS FESTIVAL: 3<sup>RD</sup> TO 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY

[Westside Arts Festival 2023: simplebooklet.com](#) a digital copy of the festival programme.

Westside Library delivered another successful programme in conjunction with community partners. Since the establishment of the festival, the programme has increased in size and scope and has become a key strategic partner for the delivery of the city council's Arts strategy.



The Westside Arts Festival is a community-based event which aims to promote and celebrate the spirit and people of Westside through the arts and this year the central theme was 'Sunbeams and Stellar Dreams'. This festival has won the Pride of Place Award and the Mayoral Award for Galway City for two years.

Working with supporting organisations such as Westside Resource Centre, Youth Work Galway, TUSLA, Foróige, Age Action, Galway City Partnership, the Bridge Project and the Westside Community Organic Garden, the festival programme offered opportunities for young and old to explore and experience the different art mediums including a performance from the Brothers of Charity BUKA drama group and a musical performance from the Ukrainian community's choir 'Harmony' which showcased the fusion of Ukrainian and Irish culture. Audiences were invited to dance and join in the singing throughout the performance with the aim to build links between the old and new communities.

Workshops that showcased various techniques such as felting, patchworking, coding and film making provided opportunities for young and old to share their skills and experience in a fun and dynamic way. Confidence building workshops for Traveller Pride Week were facilitated by youth workers to encourage participants to showcase their culture and heritage and a newly formed Women's Club launched their first exhibition of photography after their recent completion of the GRETB smart phone photography course.

Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> of July is the Family Day at the Library and footfall through the doors exceeded 1,400 people. Events included a storytelling session from Patricia Forde, Laurate na nÓg; graphic designer Alan Nolan's workshop explored the world of superheroes and the use of illustration to tell the story; Yoga sessions, LEGO club, intergenerational bingo, flower arranging and badge making utilized the MakerSpace to full capacity. The day also included performances from Irish Youth Music Award participants Grace McQuaid; an upcoming band with Liam, Cian and Maya who played in the RDS on May 20<sup>th</sup> and concluded with Jazz artist John Conneely Inc. who is headlining the Galway International Arts Festival this year.

The festival continues to anchor the library at the heart of the community and builds on extensive links within the organisations to ensure that collaborative work continues throughout the year.



UKRAINIAN CHOIR 'HARMONY'



Laureate na nÓg – Patricia Forde

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## LAUNCH OF THE FAI BOOKLET

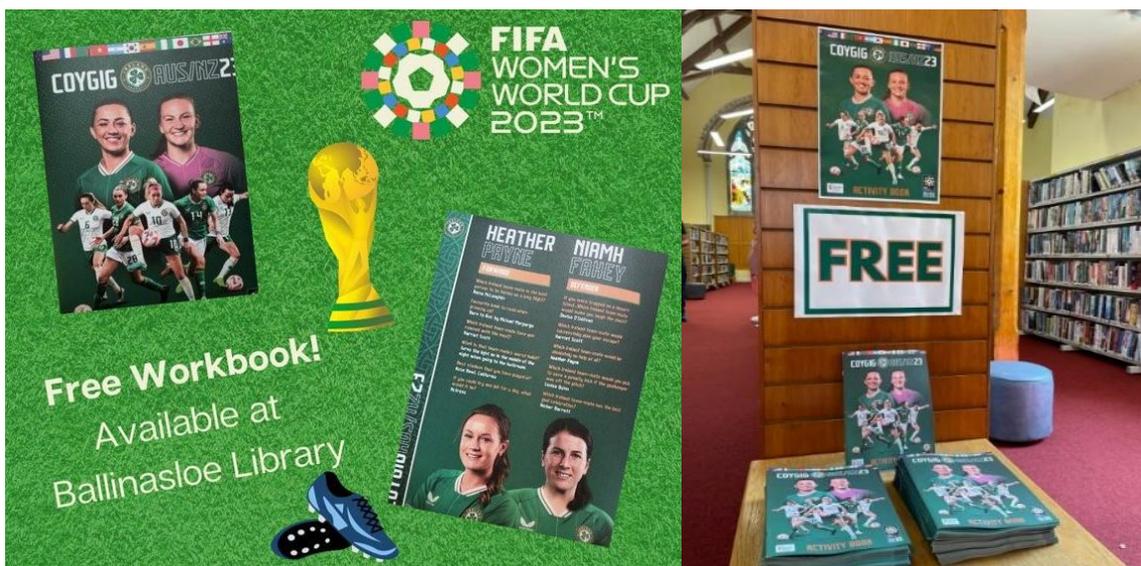
July saw the launch of the COYGIG Aus/Nz23 Activity Book in libraries across Ireland. This 28-page activity book is the result of a collaboration between the FAI and Libraries Ireland and focuses on helping children learn more about the Ireland team and the World Cup as well as encouraging their creativity and enhancing their skills across various subjects.

The book is available in Galway Libraries and was supported in Galway City library with a visit from former Irish International Maeve DeBurca who popped in to pick up some copies.



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## MAEVE DEBURCA – FORMER IRISH INTERNATIONAL SOCCER PLAYER





FUTURE SOCCER STAR AISLING KELLY

## GALWAY CITY LIBRARY

### DIY PRINTMAKING WORKSHOP

Well done to all the Galway Public Libraries staff got to try their hands at a DIY printmaking workshop with the creative guidance of our friends at Baboró. Everyone had lots of fun and we can't wait to see their creations.



### EXHIBITION: ARTIST SARAH LOUGHNANE

Galway City Library is delighted to host an exhibition of the beautiful abstract paintings of artist Sarah Loughnane. Sarah creates abstract pieces of art, taking inspiration from all aspects of her life: each piece is born from a specific moment or experience.



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## CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES ACROSS GALWAY

During July library staff are very busy with children's activities across the county.

From Storytimes to Jenga, Free play Lego, Mosaic workshops, Dog's Trust workshops, Stamping Art and much much more!

Keep an eye on the social media pages of Galway Public Libraries for details - @LibrariesGalway

## BALLINASLOE LIBRARY

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### ART OF READING BOOKCLUB - A NATIONAL INITIATIVE WITH THE ARTS COUNCIL OF IRELAND AND LIBRARIES IRELAND

On July 1<sup>st</sup> Ballinasloe Library hosted the Laureate for Irish Fiction, Colm Tóibín in conversation with Kevin Power author of the recently published 'White City'.

This event is part of the 'The Art of Reading Book Club' an element of Colm Tóibín's public programme in his role as Laureate. Libraries across Ireland were invited to pitch to be a host library for the event

and Ballinasloe with it's beautiful Church Gallery was privileged to be successful in their application. Each month the Book Club events are recorded and made available on the website of the The Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon and the Libraries Ireland YouTube channel.

Ballinasloe Library was delighted to welcome the Leas Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council, Cllr. Dr. Evelyn Parsons and County Librarian Jo Vahey to the event. This event was free of charge and was recorded in front of a packed house.



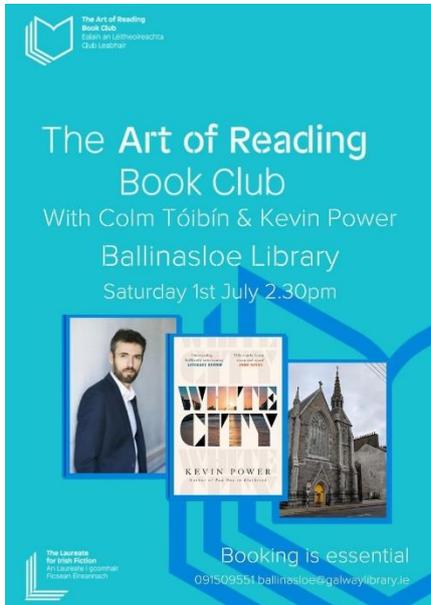
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GALWAY PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF BRID GREHAN, ABBIE MCGOWAN, SHARLEEN MCANDREW, LAUREATE FOR IRISH FICTION COLM TÓIBÍN, LEAS CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL CLLR. DR. EVELYN PARSONS, KEVIN POWER, ÚNA KELLY, GALWAY PUBLIC LIBRARIES.



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KEVIN POWER, COUNTY LIBRARIAN JO VAHEY, LAUREATE FOR IRISH FICTION COLM TÓIBÍN.



EXHIBITION "RENEWAL: GRENNAN MILL 1981".

Ballinasloe Library is delighted to host the exhibition "Renewal: Grennan Mill 1981". In 1981 the very first students took their places on a unique craft course, taught by working craftspeople in [Grennan Mill Craft School](#) Thomastown, Co Kilkenny.

More than forty years later, a number of those original students have put together this beautiful exhibition.

At the launch artists welcomed a large crowd to see how their creativity was inspired by those days at The Mill.



"Renewal" Ballinasloe Library July 5 - 22



40+ Years on, we invite you to  
**“Renewal”**  
 Wednesday 5th to Saturday 22nd July  
 at The Ballinasloe Library Gallery  
 Launch Saturday 8th July @ 3pm



*An Exhibition grown from Grennan Mill*

ORANMORE LIBRARY

Lot of fun with Lego Stamping, Storytime and Lego!



ORANMORE LIBRARY  
**STORY TIME**  
 FRIDAYS  
 12PM

Oranmore Library  
 Lego Stamping Art.  
 Saturday July 8th 10:30am - 11:30am  
 Booking Essential Age 5+  
 Ring: 091792117  
 Email: oranmore@galwaylibrary.ie  
 #summerstars

**FREE PLAY**  
**LEGO**  
 ORANMORE LIBRARY  
 10:00am to 11:00am  
 Saturday July 22nd

Suitable for children over 5  
 Must be accompanied  
 by an adult.

## EYRECOURT LIBRARY

### 1ST LIBRARY DAY SUMMER READING CLUB 2023

Our branch librarian, Laura in Eyrecourt library delivered an exciting programme of children's events to launch the summer reading club in the library on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June. This annual event includes crafts and LEGO workshops as well as storytelling sessions for the younger children. Pictured here is one very happy boy who was so excited to complete the Harry Potter theme LEGO set on his own!



## KILLIMOR LIBRARY

In East Galway our branch librarian Marie has been busy with both children's and adult activities this month!

The poster is divided into two main sections. The left section has a yellow background and features a blue sun-like splat graphic. It contains the following text: 'Killimor Library', 'Lego Stamping Art', 'Wednesday July 19th 2:15-3:15pm', 'Booking Essential Age 5+', 'Ring: 0909676062', and '#summerstars'. The right section has a black background with the text 'FÁILTE ROIMH CHUILE CHUMAS GAEILGE' at the top, followed by 'CIORCAL COMHRÁ' in large yellow letters. Below this is 'EVERY LEVEL OF IRISH WELCOME'. At the bottom, there is a circular inset photo of a group of people sitting in a circle on a rug. The text at the bottom of the right section reads: 'Leabharlann Chill Íomair H53 VE48', 'Déardaoin', '13/07/23', '5:30-6:30in', 'Killimor Library', 'H53 VE48', 'Thursday', and '13/07/23'.

**Killimor Library**  
**Lego Stamping Art**  
Wednesday July 19th 2:15-3:15pm  
Booking Essential Age 5+  
Ring: 0909676062  
#summerstars

**FÁILTE ROIMH CHUILE CHUMAS GAEILGE**

# CIORCAL COMHRÁ

EVERY LEVEL OF IRISH WELCOME

- Leabharlann Chill Íomair H53 VE48
- Déardaoin
- 13/07/23
- 5:30-6:30in

- Killimor Library
- H53 VE48
- Thursday
- 13/07/23

## LEABHARLANN INIS MÓR

During July a team of intrepid library employees descended on Leabharlann Inis Mór and created lovely new spaces for adults and children. Go raibh míle maith agaibh do Sharleen, Séan, John agus Pádraic.



11-year-old library member Liam Reilly recently completed 9,090-piece LEGO Titanic which was on display in Loughrea Library. Liam spent time in the library to chat to people about his epic 40-hour build. It was described as a must see for all LEGO fans.



LIAM REILLY RECENTLY COMPLETED A 9,090-PIECE LEGO TITANIC



## TUAM LIBRARY

In Tuam Library kids and adults have been testing their Jenga skills and parents have loved having library staff read stories for Storytime.



## SUMMER STARS

The national reading initiative Summer Stars has started in all Galway Libraries. Kids are loving their cool yellow bags and are all looking forward to completing the challenge and getting their rewards in the Autumn.



ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Drinking water refill station installed at Portumna bathing area. This forms part of the Anti-Dumping Initiative funding in 2022.

DRAFT LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN 2023-2025

Submissions received from the public consultation process have been included in the Draft Litter Management Plan 2023-2025 and it is now in the process of being presented to each MD for ratification.



SOCIAL MEDIA

Galway County Council are supporting the "Leave No Trace" programme with an ongoing social media campaign. We are also supporting social media campaigns on disposal of WEEE and material on bonfire night.





On Wednesday 21st June 2023 in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Galway, the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Councillor Liam Carroll presented the prizes to the winners of the Galway County Council Anti-Litter Poster Competition 2023 and the Blue Flag Beach Art Competition 2023.

Cathaoirleach Liam Carroll congratulated all the students who participated in the competition with over 760 applications received and he recognised the great support they receive from their parents and teachers, and the potential that the young people have shown. He said "The competitions provide the students with the opportunity to develop their learning experiences by showing their creativity through language and art and increasing their awareness and responsibility for the Environment. The students were asked to design and paint a picture depicting Blue Flag Beaches. As part of the Anti-Litter Poster Competition, they were asked to design a poster demonstrating the anti-litter theme. In an age of technology, he said it is wonderful that they get to use their artistic skills whenever possible."



The Chief Executive Liam Conneally was very impressed with the standard of the entries, and he stated "Here in Galway County, we want to continue to develop an inclusive county where every young person can have the opportunity to participate and reach their true potential. We will continue to strive at local level to meet the needs of young people and their families living here in County Galway."

Ms. Eileen Ruane, Director of Services, Environment Department said "The competition was a great opportunity to recognise the talents of all the marvellous young people who entered the competition and we could have some future artists and authors in our midst!".

**WELL DONE TO ALL!**



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## PRE-TENANCY PRESENTATION IN RELATION TO WASTE MANAGEMENT AND LITTER MANAGEMENT



In partnership with the Housing Section a presentation was given to tenants at a pre-tenancy meeting in Clifden. Waste Management obligations were outlined, along with advice on waste services available and litter management in the new estate.

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### WASTE MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT

Following on from inspections under the Waste Presentation Bye Laws, enforcement by way of Warning letters were sent to almost 30 householders in Tuam and Gort during June mainly regarding provision of brown bins and segregating appropriately.

Inspections were carried out by enforcement officers at a number of premises to check compliance with the PRI regulations including Plastic Bag Levy, WEEE, Batteries and Farm Plastics.

During the month of June 88 waste complaints were logged and 72 waste complaints were closed off by Community Wardens and Technical Staff.

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### WASTE MANAGEMENT NOTICES ISSUED

Three Warning letters, and 6 notices were issued during June under the Waste Management Act 1996.

During June six warning letters were issued under PRI legislation while 4 warning letters were issued under Food Waste Regulations to Commercial premises and one warning letter was sent to a garage regarding hazardous waste. 2 Summonses were also issued in June.

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## CLIMATE CHANGE

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### CLIMATE ACTION UNIT

The new Climate Unit has now been established within the Environment Section, dedicated to supporting and implementing climate action within Galway County Council and throughout the county.

- Tina Ryan, Climate Action Coordinator, manages the Unit focusing on the priorities for 2023 including the development of the Climate Action Plan, internal energy, ongoing projects and set up of the Community Climate Action Fund,

- David O’Loughlin, Energy Officer, is focused on optimising our internal energy consumption and efficiency. He works closely with the council-wide Energy Team to identify decarbonisation and energy efficiency opportunities and monitor progress towards our energy reduction goals.
- Rebecca Mooney, Climate Action Officer, started with GCC in late May. She is focused on developing our new Climate Action Plan and implementing actions. She will work with both internal and external stakeholders to implement climate action and sustainability initiatives.
- Denise Feeney, Community Climate Action Officer, started in the role in June. She has extensive experience working with communities in the county and will focus on supporting communities and businesses to identify climate actions and avail of funding.



MEMBERS OF NEW CLIMATE ACTION UNIT – DENISE FEENEY, REBECCA MOONEY, TINA RYAN

## CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

The Consultation Plan for the pre-draft stakeholder engagement and the draft Baseline Risk Assessment (KPMG) and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Assessment (Bable GmbH) were presented to the Climate and Biodiversity SPCE and to the Senior Management Team.

A meeting was held with KPMG to discuss issues raised at the SPC in relation to the draft Baseline Risk Assessment (KPMG) and they are including additional text within their document to highlight the issues raised.

As part of the pre-draft stakeholder engagement, a presentation was given to the Green Recovery Group of the SPC introducing the new unit and the plan. We also gave a presentation with the SAUTI Youth Group at the Mary Robbinson Climate Conference entitled “Meaningful Youth Engagement with Galway County Council on Climate Policy”. Regional workshops were held to develop draft actions for the Climate Action Plan including one concentrating on the Decarbonisation Zones. A Summary Document and Questionnaire have been developed and are currently being translated with a view to launching the stakeholder engagement questionnaire in late July.



On Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup> of July, the council were successful in securing vacant possession of a local authority dwellinghouse which had been the subject of illegal occupation and protracted legal proceedings over a significant period of time. The matter had initially come before the District Court by way of application pursuant to the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2014.

Although the council had been successful in securing an Order for Possession, the said Order was subsequently appealed to the Circuit Court by the illegal occupier. Again, the council were successful and ensured that the District Court Order was affirmed at Circuit. Efforts were then focussed on liaising with the Sheriff's Office of the Court Services, and subsequently an Garda Siochana to exercise the Warrant for Possession. The illegal occupier continued to refuse to vacate the property.

With the assistance of various stakeholders and agencies, including representatives from the Housing Section, the Court Services, the Court Messenger and an Garda Siochana, the council was finally able to secure vacant possession in a safe and incident-free manner.

This technical and logistical exercise also involved the strategic planning for the immediate demolition of the now derelict property and its adjoining dwelling, a vacant derelict local authority house, to ensure that further unlawful occupation would not take place. This will now pave the way for the redevelopment of the site, finalising the regeneration of the immediate area of the estate in question.

The first stage of the redevelopment has been completed with the two derelict properties having been demolished and the site has been secured.

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

- a. Roanmore
- b. Annagh Hill
- c. Gorteen
- d. Kiltullagh - Complete
- e. Castlelambert
- f. Cloonboo
- g. Lydican - Complete
- h. Garraun/Ardaun

#### 2. Restoration Maintenance/Improvement

##### a. Surface dressing - Ongoing

- i. Belville Cross/Hundred Acres - Complete
- ii. Parkcurry - Complete
- iii. Carnakelly South - Complete
- iv. Glennagloghaun/Cloonkeen - Complete
- v. Kilskeagh - Complete
- vi. Castleturvin - Complete
- vii. Gardenham - Complete
- viii. Moneymore
- ix. Maonbaun
- x. Annaghdown
- xi. Killoughter
- xii. Tiaquin demesne - Complete

##### b. Works completed by direct labour crews

- i. Farravaun - Complete
- ii. Gortbrack - Complete
- iii. Rockfield - Complete
- iv. Killoughter - Complete
- v. Ballygurraun – Complete
- vi. Clamperpark - Complete

##### c. Recycling Contract – Contract awarded with other MD's we are in negotiations with the preferred bidder to agree on a programme of works.

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

#### 3. Safety Improvement Works

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| a. Derrydonnell Beg Junction  | Preliminary Design Phase                         |
| b. Moyveela (Mother Hubbards) | SW/PG completed review                           |
| c. Oranbeg (Furey's Cross)    | Preliminary Design Phase                         |
| d. Cregmore Bridge            | Signs and road markings<br>then switch on Lights |

#### 4. Climate Change

- a. L6214 Clogher
- b. L7125 Ballydavid
- c. L3112 Gloves West - Complete
- d. L2117 Lisheenanoran - Ongoing
- e. L3117 Cormachugh

#### 5. Community Involvement Scheme

- a. CIS.86.21 L-31165 Curry Gurteen
- b. CIS.69.21 L-3112 Montpellier Athenry
- c. CIS.73.21 L-2119 Baunmore/ Gardenham – Design started RSA booked
- d. CIS.59.21 L-4101 Maree Road Oranmore – Meeting held with School and Priest
- e. CIS.32.21 L-7119 Mirah Turloughmore
- f. CIS.29.21 L-6202-1 Roanmore

#### 6. Local Improvement Schemes

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

#### 7. Other Items

- a. Belville Road realignment  
Issues resolving agreement Landowner  
Consultant completed Part 8 application  
information
- b. Hydrological study Clarin River  
Grade 1 engineer has said we  
will get a response in 2 weeks
- c. Lavally Drainage District  
AA screening Planned
- d. Athenry Pedestrian Bridge  
- Complete
- e. Dual carriageway Oranmore  
Re-surfacing planned this summer for  
section on Eastbound carriageway engaging  
with preferred bidder on Traffic  
management plan
- f. Coolarne Road Flooding Issue  
Drone survey completed; CCTV planned  
once water levels drop access through fields  
will be required once silage harvested
- g. Pedestrian crossing Monivea  
Evaluating Tenders received
- h. Pedestrian Crossing Library  
Evaluating Tenders received
- i. Raised table Bridge street  
Evaluating Tenders received
- j. Pedestrian Crossing Lidl Oranmore  
Cycling options included in Design, Road  
safety audit planned
- k. Pedestrian Crossing Maree rd.  
Contractor ordering materials
- l. Caheroyn Park Footpaths  
Footpath Bay repairs Ongoing
- m. Cross St/Bridge St Sealing  
Contractor on site Wednesday Morning at  
approx. 4am

FIGURES AND PICTURES



FIG.1 – KILLOUGHTER SURFACE DRESSING



FIG.2 – KILLOUGHTER SURFACE DRESSING



FIG.3 – SPEED REMINDERS ORANMORE



FIG.4 – ANNAGHDOWN FOOTPATH WORKS - ONGOING



FIG.5 – DRIVER FEEDBACK SIGN – MOANBAUN ATHENRY



FIG.6 – DRIVER FEEDBACK SIGN – MONIVEA



FIG.7 – CROSS STREET CARRIAGEWAY SEALING

#### BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

We have received confirmation from the TII of funding approval for footpaths in Mountbellew but also notice from the NTA that the Bus Stop in Ballinasloe is on hold.

Main works on site are in preparation of the roads for resurfacing with Roadstone & Colas due to start their contracts.

Active Travel Scheme progressing well in Williamstown & Kilkerrin, photos attached along with the Graveyard extension in Creagh.

Drainage works also ongoing.



KILKERRIN  
FOOTPATH WORKS  
ONGOING



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WILLIAMSTOWN FOOTPATH WORKS ONGOING



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CREAGH GRAVEYARD  
EXTENSION

SUCK DRAINAGE  
DISTRICT  
CHANNEL  
CLEANING



---

ROADS PROGRAMME

Restoration Improvement Grant 20% complete



Roads resurfacing completed on the R339 at Caltra following footpath construction

Restoration Maintenance Grant 15% complete



Surface dressing works completed at Keelouges

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#### ACTIVE TRAVEL



570m of footpath installation completed on the R364 at Kilkerrin along with drainage works and public lighting.



590m of footpath installation completed on the R360 at Williamstown along with wall building, drainage works and public lighting.

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## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEME



Safety works at Duneeda Junction, Ballinasloe. Setting back boundary walls to improve sight lines.



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## ENVIRONMENTAL

Ongoing cleanup by Wardens and Outdoor Staff



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DUNLO, BALLINASLOE



POOLBOY,  
BALLINASLOE

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## STAFF

Retirement of GO Gerry Daly after nearly 48 years' service.

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## BALLINASLOE FAIR & FESTIVAL UPDATE:

Pearse Doherty has been reappointed as festival organiser for the 2023 Festival. The Fair and Festival Committee have been working on their programme of activities. MD staff and events staff will coordinate other elements.

### **DRAFT PROGRAMME FOR**

### **BALLINASLOE FAIR & FESTIVAL 2023**

**Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup> – Sunday October 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday Oct 1<sup>st</sup>**: Ballinasloe Credit Union Horse of the Fair Competition

(Fair Green Area from 10a.m).

**Monday, Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>**: Foal Competitions.

**Thursday Oct 5<sup>th</sup>** : Night of fashion, food and fun in Shearwater Hotel.

**Friday Oct 6<sup>th</sup>**: Pre Fireworks Entertainment for children & families at Town Council Car Pk.

(7 – 8.30p.m.)

Supermac's Monster Fireworks Display – Marina basin – 8.30p.m.

Tug-O-War on Main Street. 9p.m.

**Saturday Oct 7<sup>th</sup>:** Mare & Foal Competitions – Fair Green from 11.30a.m.

Galway Sheep Breeder Comp. on Fair Green

Fair & Festival Soundstage in Town Centre from 12noon – 6.30p.m.

Free Concert- 8p.m. (Dunlo Street – top of Square)

(Band not confirmed as yet).

**Sunday Oct 8<sup>th</sup>:** **Family Day** in Town Centre & St Michael’s Square from 11a.m.

Food & Craft Fair

Street Vintage Display

Open Dog Show.

Kids Arts & Craft Competitions – Festival Marquee from 1p.m.

Kids Zone – top of the Square.

Street Entertainment: Stunt Bike Display from 1.30p.m.

#### **Equine Competitions on Fair Green:**

Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup>: Horse of the Fair Competitions – Fair Green Area

Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>: Foal Competitions

Saturday October 7<sup>th</sup>: Mare & Foal Competitions.

#### CONAMARA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

The July meeting of the Conamara Municipal District was held on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023 in Áras an Chontae. The Municipal District approved the Litter Management Plan 2023 – 2025 and received updates on a number of projects including the N59 Projects at (i) Claremont, (ii) Clifden to Maam Cross. (iii) Moycullen Bypass and (iv) Oughterard Bridge. The Municipal District Members were also briefed on the Galway to Clifden Greenway, the Verge Trimming Programme, Scoil Samhraidh an Phiarsaigh 2023 / Pádraig Pearse Summer School 2023 and changes to the Vacant Homes Refurbishment Grant relating to the islands. The Water Safety Awareness and Development Officer also provided a briefing and presentation on water safety awareness.

Following a request at the June Meeting of the Municipal District, an inter-agency meeting including Galway County Council, the Galway Fire and Rescue Service and An Garda Síochána was convened at County Hall on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The meeting was to facilitate inter-agency cooperation in relation to the Summer Ready Programme for the Conamara Municipal District with a particular focus on arrangements for the August Bank Holiday weekend. A number of joint actions were agreed both for 2023 and 2024.

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## UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES – JULY 2023:

- The Restoration Improvement Works and Restoration Maintenance Works have been tendered and a Most Economically Advantageous Tender identified. Work commenced in May and is ongoing, hopefully to be complete approx. end of August.
- The road works on the islands (DRCD funding) was tendered in February but due to higher-than-expected tenders the DRCD has asked the Council to proceed in a different manner – the works were retendered and have now been sanctioned to proceed by the DRCD. Works are due to commence in mid-August with a completion date target of mid-September 2023.
- The Strategic Infrastructure Scheme at the Causeways is progressing through design.
- An application has been made to the Department of Transport for a Strategic Infrastructure Scheme at Cuan na Loinge to address flooding of the main road into this area.
- Safety Improvement Works €115,000 (3 projects) have gone out for Tender.
- Climate Change Projects €150,000 (3 projects) have gone out for tender.
- Local Improvement Schemes (1 on Inis Bofin complete, 4 in Connemara North area mainland have been tendered and awarded to the contractor for completion shortly & 3 on Aran islands carried out by direct labour in August 2023)
- Main activities at moment for outdoor staff include road maintenance, town and village maintenance, preparation works for roads programme, ongoing roads programme works (surface dressing) & drainage works.
- Community Wardens – 3 positions, 1 vacant(advertised) - dealing with illegal dumping, parking enforcement, ring buoy inspections.
- Town and Village Maintenance – substantially done by direct staff.
- Piers & Harbours- Direct labour projects ongoing under Marine Infrastructure Scheme 2023 5 No. pier locations
- Operation & Maintenance of Public Beaches- Summer Ready- provision of public toilets, bins at a number of beaches for June, July & August.
- Active Travel Projects- 2023 Project ongoing at Carraroe

PIERS & HARBOURS- DIRECT LABOUR PROJECTS ONGOING UNDER MARINE INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME 2023



### Progress Briefing July 2023

#### Project Background

- *Client:* Galway County Council
- *Funding Agency:* OPW
- *Funding Amount:* €530,000
- *Engineering & Environmental Consultants:* Jacobs Engineering Ireland (JEI) Consulting Engineers appointed in October 2021 by GCC.

#### Summary of Progress Since Last Briefing in February 2023

- Ground Investigation final report completed and being considered as part of the ongoing options development.
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening in Q1 2023 concluded that a Statutory EIA is required due to likely significant effects of mitigation measures.
- Economic Assessment of options is ongoing.

#### Look Ahead

- Commence Statutory Environmental Impact Assessment.
- Completion of economic damages assessment.
- Determine emerging preferred option and development of final report.
- Present emerging preferred option to the Connemara Municipal District members.
- Prepare for the second Public Information Day to present options to the public for consultation.

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Current Provisional End Date (June 2023 Programme)</b>
Stage I	Scheme Development & Design	Q1 2024
Stage II	Planning	Q3 2024
Stage III	Detailed Design & Procurement of Work	Q2 2025
Stage IV	Construction	Q2 2026
Stage V	Handover	Q1 2027

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## LOUGHREA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

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### ROADS PROGRAMME – CURRENT STATUS:

- 15 of 21 (70%) bound Restoration Improvement Grant Roads now completed.
- 21 of 42 (50%) unbound Restoration Improvement Grant Roads now completed.
- 26 of 32 (81%) of the Restoration maintenance works now completed.

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## SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS COMPLETED

- **L4224 - Tullahill**  
Section 1: Restoration Improvement Grant of 600 Metres  
Works entailed milling out of 100mm of existing road surface and inlay of 60mm base course, and 40mm SMA (stone mastic asphalt) wearing course.  
  
Section 2: Surface Restoration Maintenance of 2.1 km
- **L4309 - Mullagh to Gurty Madden Rd.**  
Surface dressing on base course as part of the Loughrea M.D. R.I.G. Programme. Length of Works = 1500m
- **R348 – Ballyfa.** Surface Dressing on AC base course to address localized edge failures and safety concerns.
- **R351 - Aille to Grallagh** - Restoration maintenance on 1.8km of existing road surface and associated relining.

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## OTHER MINOR WORKS

- Seasonal planting at Loughrea Roundabouts
- Verge cutting on L-8583 at Doorus Kinvara to improve visibility
- Patching unit undertaking road repairs at the L-41014 at Renville Oranmore
- Road resurfacing was taking place along the L-8525 at Castletown, Gort
- Repairs to roof of Public Convenience at Fairgreen, Loughrea

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## WORKS BY JANE BAKER PROUDLY DISPLAYED IN

NATIONAL MAGAZINE **BULBS.IE**





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MAINTAINING LOUGHREA ROUNDABOUTS



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RUBBISH COLLECTED AT THE LONG POINT



REMOVAL OF WEEDS  
UNDER KEARY'S ARCH

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VERGE CUTTING ON L-8583

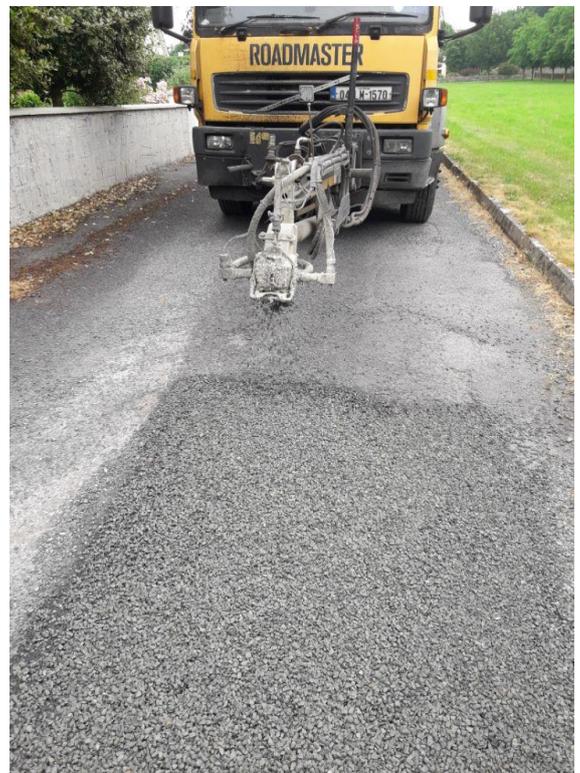
AT DOORUS KINVARA TO IMPROVE VISIBILITY



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PATCHING UNIT UNDERTAKING ROAD REPAIRS

AT THE L-41014 AT RENVILLE ORANMORE



## ROAD RESURFACING WHICH TOOK PLACE ALONG THE L-8525 AT CASTLETOWN, GORT



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## RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT GRANT ROADS

### TULLAHILL L4224

**Section 1:** Restoration Improvement Grant of 600 Metres

Works entailed milling out of 100mm of existing road surface and inlay of 60mm base course, and 40 mm SMA (stone mastic asphalt) wearing course.



**Section 2: Surface Restoration  
Maintenance of 2.1 km**



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**RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT GRANT ROADS**

**Aille to Grallagh R351**

Works entailed restoration maintenance on 1.8km of existing road surface and associated relining



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**ROAD IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAMME**

**L4309 Mullagh to Gurtymadden Road**

Surface dressing on base course, part of the Loughrea M.D. Road Programme

Length of Works = 1500m





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LACKEN, ABBEY VILLAGE

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION  
WORKS

ROCK ARMOUR OF BANK ROADSIDE



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DERRYSISKIL CULVERT

CULVERT RENEWAL PRIOR TO ROAD  
RECONSTRUCTION



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## BALLYSHRULE

SURFACE DRESSING COMPLETE, SWEEP  
AND RELINED!

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## R446 KILRICKLE TO CAPPATAGGLE

FUNDING UNDER  
FORMER NATIONAL  
ROAD WORKS INCLUDE  
OVERLAY TO  
INCORPORATE NEW  
LINING AND STUDS



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R446 KILRICKLE TO CAPPATAGGLE



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R348 BALLYFA





## ROADS PROGRAMME UPDATE

We currently have the following completed within the Roads programme for Tuam MD

- RI 70% complete – 24 of 49 roads
  - Harringtons have 8 of 16 schemes complete
  - Direct Labour has 16 of 25 complete
  - Colas has 8 schemes to do - recycling
- RM 90% complete – 23 of 26 roads
  - Colas have 11 of 11 schemes complete
  - Direct Labour has 12 of 15 complete
- DG 51% complete – 2 of 7 complete



## ROADS PROGRAMME PROJECTS STATUS

In recent times all crews have been concentrating on getting the roads listed on the 2023 Schedule of Tuam Municipal District Works (Roadworks Programme) prepared for remediation and resurfacing. A lot of time has been spent on drainage works, surface preparation works and hedge cutting/ boundary preparation. The roads programme commenced in May with a mix of Contract overlays and surface dressing ongoing as well as Galway County Council roads crews carrying out direct labour Surfacing works. The Department of Transport has recently allocated additional funding through the Road Improvement grants and the Tuam MD has received funding for 2 schemes – R347 Atherry Road and Frank Stockwell Road in Tuam town.

Tuam Roads programme 2023						10/07/2023
Programme	Works	Contractor	Area	Total Length m	Total complete m	% complete
RI	Overlay	Harringtons	Headford	2950	1002	34%
RI	Overlay	Harringtons	Tuam	3531	2609	74%
RI	Overlay	Harringtons	Dunmore	1802	800	44%
<b>RI</b>	<b>Overlay</b>	<b>Harringtons</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8283</b>	<b>4411</b>	<b>53%</b>
RI	Recycling	Colas	Headford	3808	0	0%
RI	Recycling	Colas	Tuam	780	0	0%
RI	Recycling	Colas	Dunmore	1404	0	0%
<b>RI</b>	<b>Recycling</b>	<b>Colas</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>5992</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
RI	Unbound	Direct Labour	Headford	6099	1305	21%
RI	Unbound	Direct Labour	Tuam	2454	2454	100%
RI	Unbound	Direct Labour	Dunmore	14839	9145	62%
<b>RI</b>	<b>Unbound</b>	<b>Direct Labour</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>23392</b>	<b>12904</b>	<b>55%</b>
RM	SD	Colas	Headford	5139	5139	100%
RM	SD	Colas	Tuam	1888	1888	100%
RM	SD	Colas	Dunmore	6207	6207	100%
<b>RM</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>Colas</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>13234</b>	<b>13234</b>	<b>100%</b>
RM	SD	Direct Labour	Headford	7695	5456	71%
RM	SD	Direct Labour	Tuam	4996	3204	64%
RM	SD	Direct Labour	Dunmore	3263	3263	100%
<b>RM</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>Direct Labour</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>15954</b>	<b>11923</b>	<b>75%</b>
DG	Unbound	Direct Labour	Headford	1201	1201	100%
DG	Unbound	Direct Labour	Tuam	1086	0	0%
DG	Unbound	Direct Labour	Dunmore	1676	820	49%
<b>DG</b>	<b>Unbound</b>	<b>Direct Labour</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3963</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>51%</b>
<b>RI RM DG</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>70818</b>	<b>44493</b>	<b>63%</b>

## ROADS PROGRAMME RI PROJECTS COMPLETED

24 Restoration Improvement Grant roads commenced

70% of the Restoration Improvement works have been completed to date

Works completed in June include:

L-6182	Kilgil	Headford	Harringtons
R328	Lissybroder	Dunmore	Harringtons
L-21416	St Josephs Park	Tuam	Harringtons
LP2130	Ballinaphuil	Tuam	Harringtons
R347	Athenry Rd	Tuam	Harringtons
R332	Dublin rd	Tuam	Harringtons



L-61321-0	Clooney	Headford	Direct labour works
L-21052-0	Ardrumkilla	Headford	Direct labour works
L-64122-0	Curraughtaun	Dunmore	Direct labour works
L-6474-0	Clooncun (B)	Dunmore	Direct labour works
L-6501-16	Laughill	Dunmore	Direct labour works
L-6425	Ballinlass	Dunmore	Direct labour works
L-6472	Killavogher	Dunmore	Direct labour works
L-2213-0	Rosmeran	Dunmore	Direct labour works
L-6184-31	Corbally South	Tuam	Direct labour works
L-7210-0	Brierfield	Tuam	Direct labour works
L-7203	Coolorta	Tuam	Direct labour works

## ROADS PROGRAMME RM PROJECTS COMPLETED

23 Restoration Maintenance Grant roads completed.

- 90% of the Restoration maintenance works have been completed to date.

Works completed in June include:

L-6117-39	Curramore
R-360	Curragh West
L-2208	Pollaturick
L-2207	Ballyroe
L-2214	Killclooney
L-2114-0	Togher
R-332	Dublin Rd
L-6166-15	Cloughanover
L-62161-	Annaghkeen
L-2101-40	Inishquin
L-6125-0	Culeen
L-6122-12	Ower
L-62172-0	Keekill
L-6494	Brookagh
L-7210	Brierfield
L-6160	Forty Acres



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#### ROADS PROGRAMME DG PROJECTS COMPLETED:

51% of the Discretionary Road Grants works completed to date



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#### SURFACE WORKS AT OWER HEADFORD

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#### SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS ONGOING WITHIN THE TUAM MD

As well as working on the Roads programme overlays and surface dressing our crews have been busy carrying out various other important schemes throughout the MD. Schemes ongoing and completed in the past month include:

- Village enhancement works Barnadearg
- Low Cost Safety Measure R333 Caherlistrane
- Community Employment works Tuam Town
- N83 drainage scheme
- Pedestrian facility works Caherlistrane
- LIS at Rosmearan
- LCS Scheme in Dalgin:
- Upgrade works of existing signage
- Resurfacing on the L6466 Ballagh



Town and Village Renewal Scheme was introduced in 2016 and is one of a number of measures designed to rejuvenate rural towns and villages throughout Ireland. The programme is funded under Project Ireland 2040 as part of “Our Rural Future – Ireland’s Rural Development Policy 2021-2025.” Town and Village Renewal Scheme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and administered through the Local Authorities.

In Barnadearg the Tuam roads crew have been carrying out works to improve the infrastructure in the village. They are currently installing footpaths, pedestrian crossings, traffic calming measures and drainage systems as part of the scheme. Once these civil works are completed a macadam overlay and anti-skid measures will be laid.



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#### LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME IN ROSMEARAN

First of 6 Local Improvement schemes funded in the Tuam MD was completed in the Dunmore Area by the Dunmore Roads crew. Grant aid under the Local Improvement Scheme from the Department of Rural and Community Development.

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## PRE WORKS SITE



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## LIS AT ROSMEARAN COMPLETED



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## LOW COST SAFETY MEASURES AT DALGIN NEAR MILLTOWN

Safety improvement works carried out by the Dunmore Roads crew setting back the fence and verge to improve the sightlines for motorists. One of three schemes funded this year in the Tuam MD by the Department of Transport.

PRE WORKS SITE



WORKS COMPLETED



## UPGRADE WORKS OF EXISTING SIGNAGE



## LOW COST SAFETY MEASURES SCHEME CAHERLISTRANE

Safety works carried out on the R333/ L2109 at Creavins bend. New statics signs, road markings, removal of ditch and foliage, dynamic warning signs were carried out by the Headford road crew and Colas Contracting. The second of three schemes funded this year in the Tuam MD by the Department of Transport.



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## REGIONAL ROAD LINEMARKING

COLAS Contracting offering an outstanding contracting service in Road Markings on the Regional Roads



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## LINE MARKINGS UPGRADE AT DUNMORE NATIONAL SCHOOL

Colas Contracting refreshing the existing road markings on the Regional Road outside the National School in Dunmore.



## PEDESTRIAN FACILITY SCHEME CAHERLISTRANE

Upgrade of infrastructure in Caherlistrane village which was funded partially from Councillors Notice of Motion. Works included extension of public lighting to GAA pitch, infill to paths, upgrade of parking bays and a pedestrian crossing. Works carried out by our Headford roads crew.



Funding has also been received this month by the Tuam MD for the Palace Grounds project under the Community Recognition Fund, which has received €68,000 funding, of which €38,800 must be drawn down by mid-October 2023, and the remaining €29,200 by mid-October 2024.

The funding allocated to the various elements of the project are.

- Upgrading and widening Walkways, boundary fencing with native hedging to be completed in Year 1
- Sensory Garden area – to be completed in Year 2, and other elements such as biodiversity signage, Fit Sticks Signage will be progressed also next year.

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## PALACE GROUNDS TUAM

Grass cutting by the Tuam Community Employment Scheme in the Palace Grounds.



BIODIVERSITY IN THE PALACE GROUNDS





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## SIG KILBANNON

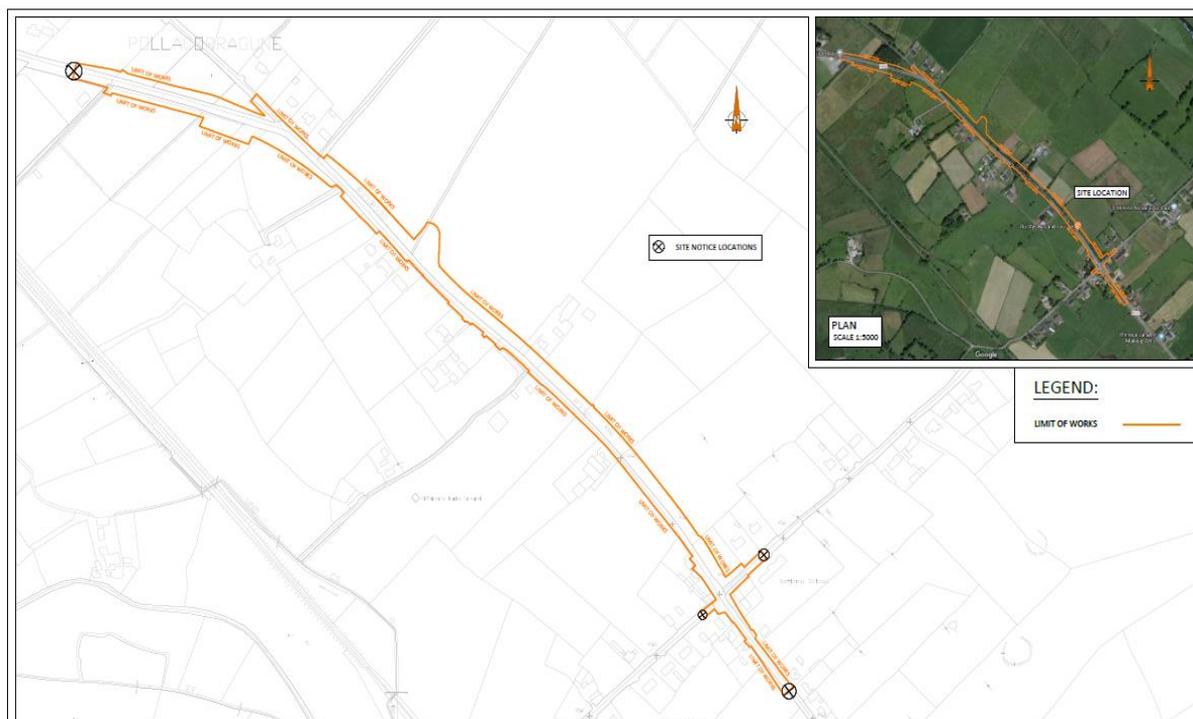
Tuam MD have reached agreement with the last of the landowners in respect of the Kilbannon realignment Scheme with more signed agreements expected next week. Further final documents have also been received from the design consultants. It is envisaged that all landowners will be signed by October with the scheme to be put to tender in Quarter 4. The scheme will involve the realignment of the R332 road north of Tuam in Kilbannon village and will incorporate a new carriageway, cycle and footways and traffic calming measures.

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## EXISTING R332



## PROPOSED SCHEME



## NEW APPOINTMENTS

Tuam MD welcomes the appointment of 3 new Community Wardens to the MD. The Community Wardens duties are broad ranging, covering environmental, housing and planning complaints, parking permits, parking as covered under any applicable bye-laws, Pay and Display cash collections, littering, Illegal dumping, illegal burning, dog fouling, playground inspections, Signage, Scaffolding and Hoarding Licences.

There was also the appointment of 1 General Operative to the Headford area roads crew.

## TII SCHEMES UPDATE.

Additional funding allocated from TII since the commencement of the Defects programme, HD28 programme, VRS programme, Retrofitting of fencing and the Capital Pavement schemes. Since it was rolled out in 2013 funding of over €16.6m has been sanctioned over this period. There has been a steady decrease in the number of defects on the National routes since the programme has commenced. This is due to the funding allocated and also the significant amount of overlays carried out by the NRPO across the network during this period.

Funding for 2023 is an additional €943,000 which is managed by the SEE and EE based in the Tuam office.

## TII ESTIMATED FUNDING 2023

FUNDING TYPE	AMOUNT
Additional Maintenance funding	€328,000
HD28	€400,000
Capital Pavement Schemes	€165,000
Fence Retrofit Programme	€50,000

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## SOME OF THE SCHEMES FUNDED INCLUDE

- Road resurfacing works – N67 – Dual Carriageway Oranmore, Co. Galway – tendered
- Drainage issues on the N67 Oranmore and N59



Mise, le meas,

Handwritten signature of Liam Conneally

**Chief Executive**

**Galway County Council**

**20<sup>th</sup> July 2023**