



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MANAGEMENT REPORT

**Nollaig 2023
December 2023**

COMMUNITY & RURAL DEVELOPMENT & CORPORATE SERVICES

COMMUNITY & RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

NATIONAL AGE FRIENDLY AWARD

The 'Healthy Islands' project picked up the National Age Friendly Active & Healthy Ageing Award at the National Age Friendly Awards which were held in Wexford on Thursday 30th November. The project was recognized for its efforts to promote health & wellbeing and enhance the knowledge of available services amongst residents of The Aran Islands (Inis Meáin, Inis Mór and Inis Oírr) and Inisbofin. Over 20 statutory agencies and community & voluntary services participated in the project which featured free activities and resources for more than 200 participating residents, including pulse and blood pressure checks, healthy cooking demonstration workshops, a community fun-run, yoga, relationship and sexual health education, citizen information advice, and exercise and fitness tips. The initiative, which was rolled out in April 2023, was delivered jointly by Galway County Council under the Healthy Galway Programme, and Galway Rural Development under the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP).



PICTURED AT THE AWARDS CEREMONY ARE HELEN MELIA, COMMUNITY SECTION; ALAN FARRELL DIRECTOR OF SERVICES; ANNE CASSIDY GALWAY RURAL DEVELOPMENT; CATHAOIRLEACH CLLR. LIAM CARROLL; MARY CRONIN GALWAY OLDER PERSONS COUNCIL; ANDREW MCBRIDE COMMUNITY SECTION.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

DIRECTORY OF SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Over 200 people attended the Information Day for Older People in Galway City and County which was held on Friday 24th November. The event included Information Stands from 15 agencies and speakers including Des Mulligan, Head of Older Persons Services in HSE and John Lonergan, Ex-Governor of Mountjoy Prison. The Directory of Services for Older People

in Galway City and County was formally launched, and the Directories will be available free of charge to older people across the City & County through Libraries, Day Centres, and all the agencies on the Age Friendly Alliance.



LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL; MARY MCGANN, AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME MANAGER – GALWAY COCO; DES MULLIGAN, HEAD OF OLDER PERSONS SERVICES – HSE; PATRICIA PHILBIN, INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF GALWAY CITY COUNCIL; THERESA DONOGHUE, AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME MANAGER – GALWAY CITY COUNCIL

At the event, Sgt. Michael Walsh, Garda Crime Prevention Officer, also welcomed the Property Marking Machine project which is being rolled out in partnership with Men's Sheds in Clarinbridge, Oranmore, Athenry, Loughrea, Ballygar, and Headford. The Property Marking Machine is currently based in Clarinbridge, and as it rotates across the Men's Sheds areas, it will be advertised locally so that all those with tools, equipment, vehicles, etc., which they wish to get permanently marked for security purposes, will be able to attend at the Men's Sheds premises during the advertised period.



LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE; LIAM CARROLL, CATHAOIRLEACH, MICHAEL WALSH, CRIME PREVENTION OFFICER; MARY MCGANN, AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME MANAGER, AND MEMBERS OF MEN'S SHEDS AT THE LAUNCH OF THE PROPERTY MARKING MACHINE PROJECT IN COLLABORATION WITH MEN'S SHEDS.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

The PPN Winter Plenary was held on 28th November in the Claregalway Hotel. PPN members heard updates from the PPN Secretariat and SPC representatives. Members approved the Workplan and Budget for 2024. Members also had the opportunity to hear from a variety of organisations. Guest speakers included Galway County Council's Community Climate Action Officer, Denise Feeney, Tracey Hannon of Clann Credo and Liz Wonnacott of Galway Volunteer Centre. Various organisations had information stands at the event.



L-R: Duana Tuite (PPN Support Worker), Mark Molloy, Environmental Awareness Officer), Tina Ryan, Denise Feeney (GCC Climate Action Team), Vincent Lyons (PPN Secretariat) and Mary Mullen (PPN Resource Worker) at the PPN Winter Plenary.

ACTING AS AN INFORMATION HUB:

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

BUILDING CAPACITY:

- Members Training - Growing Your Social Enterprise Tuesday, 5/12/2023 @ 7pm
- Climate Action Fund webinar with Aoife Munn 11/12/2023 @ 7pm
- Galway Commuter Coalition meeting 11/12/2023 @ 8pm

PROMOTING REPRESENTATION:

- PPN Representatives on SPC's and JPC gave reports/ updates to the plenary:
 1. Planning, Environment, Agriculture & Emergency Services – Mark Green
 2. Climate Change & Biodiversity SPC – Peter Butler
 3. Joint Policing Committee - Aodán Mac Donnacha
- Green Recovery Linkage Group members gave a presentation on the Rights of Nature movement.
- PPN workers shared details of local and national consultations with PPN members.

RURAL GRANT SCHEMES

CLÁR 2023 FUNDING

The CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) programme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and forms part of the Government's ambitious new five-year policy for rural Ireland, Our Rural Future. The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced on Friday, 1st December 2023 of almost €5 million in funding to support over 100 sports clubs in rural communities countrywide. The funding is being provided as part of Our Rural Future, the Government's strategic five-year rural development plan. The following groups from Co. Galway have been approved for funding:

- | | |
|--|---------|
| • East Galway United Community Development Group | €50,000 |
| • Portumna GAA Club | €50,000 |
| • Beagh GAA | €50,000 |
| • Killimor GAA Spectator Stand | €45,000 |
| • Tommy Larkins (Woodford) | €43,184 |
| • St Brendan's GAA, Ballygar | €50,000 |
| • Tynagh Abbey Duniry Hurling Club | €50,000 |

TOWN & VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME

The following projects have recently completed the drawdown of their funding under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme:

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| • Ballyglunin Railway Restoration Project | €100,000 @80% of Costs |
| • Barnaderg Village Enhancements | €91,661 @90% of Costs |

Ballyglunin Railway Station was established in 1860 under the Tuam-Athenry railway line. The significance of the local train station in the Irish emigrant journey is a theme best illustrated in the film The Quiet Man with iconic scenes featuring John Wayne and Maureen

O'Hara filmed on the platform at Ballyglunin in June 1951. Ballyglunin Community Development Company was set up in 2004 by a group of local volunteers to repurpose Ballyglunin Station as a vibrant resource for visitors and the community to enjoy. They were approved for a Town & Village Renewal Grant of €100,000 towards the refurbishment of the main Station House. Without this funding, this building and its original features were in danger of being lost forever. Ballyglunin Station is re-opening once again as a heritage site, visitor centre, award-winning biodiversity park, community hub and unique events venue.

The Tuam Municipal District lead on the implementation of Barnaderg Village Enhancements, upgrading safe pedestrian routes, pathways and access in the village area connecting the Church and community buildings. The project resulted in the installation of new street lighting, pedestrian crossings, footpaths, and street furniture to connect amenities and businesses in this rural village. The project arose out of community consultation when investment in the community playground and overall connectivity with safe and accessible movement between amenities became a key local issue.



PICTURED AT BALLYGLUNIN RAILWAY STATION ARE ÉIMEAR DOLAN, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, MARK GIBSON, AND JOYCE LAFFEY FROM BALLYGLUNIN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY AND TARA TAHENY, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OFFICER FROM DEPARTMENT OF RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Staff from Galway County Council Town and Village Renewal, AEC and Broadband Team attended the Connected Hubs www.connectedhubs.ie National Summit in Tullamore on November 22nd, 2023, organised by Western Development Commission and Department of Community and Rural Development. Staff attended as part of the co-funding of Hubs and BCP's under Town and Village Renewal Scheme.



L TO R: MARY RODGERS MANAGER PORTERSHED, GALWAY. MARTIN KELLY, GM INTERIM BIA INNOVATOR CAMPUS LTD. ÉIMEAR DOLAN, AO COMMUNITY & RURAL DEVELOPMENT, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, SINÉAD NÍ FHÁTHARTA, HEAD OF ENTERPRISE & EMPLOYMENT, ÚDARÁS NA GAELTACHTA, CAROL GIBBONS, DIVISIONAL MANAGER AND HEAD OF REGIONS & LOCAL ENTERPRISE IRELAND AT THE NATIONAL CONNECTED HUBS CONFERENCE, TULLAMORE NOVEMBER 22ND 2023.

Galway County Council is working with many local groups to help advance Hubs and linked with local groups on the day.



PICTURED AT THE NATIONAL HUBS SUMMIT 2023: L TO R: TERRY O'TOOLE CLIFDEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, ÉIMEAR DOLAN, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, LYN DONNELLY MANAGER BALLINASLOE AREA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LTD, BERNIE DONNELLAN GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, ANNE DE COURCY CLIFDEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

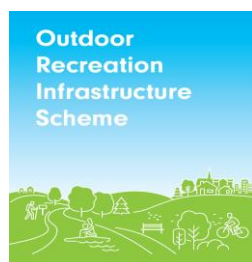
SHARED ISLAND

The Shared Island initiative was completed at the end of November 2023 and all recoupment claims with the Department met that deadline. The feasibility report as part of the project completion has until mid December for submission and this report will overview key findings from this important collaboration in terms of informing Galway County Councils role going forward from a food and agri tech perspective.

OUTDOOR RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME

OUTDOOR RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME 2023

Successful Project Development Measures - 2023



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT MEASURE:

Development Costs for Strategic Large-Scale Projects

Grant amounts: Up to €50,000

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY:

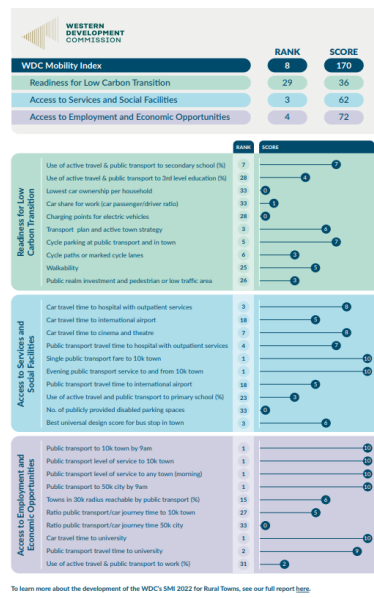
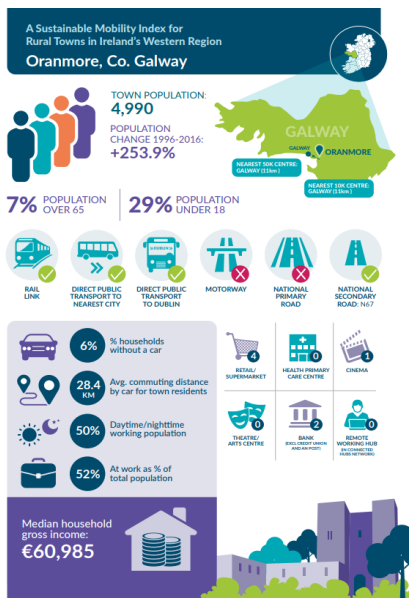
This Measure provides funding for the detailed development of projects which will enable them to reach a standard for application under Measure 2 or 3 of ORIS. Such work might encompass detailed design, preparation for the planning and/or procurement, appropriate assessment etc.

The overall aim for the investment under this Measure should be for the development of projects that are of a scale that may be funded under a future Measure 2 or Measure 3 application, or developed in two phases under such Measures i.e. projects with an expected delivery cost of less than €1 million (that are in line with the objectives and focus of this Scheme).

THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS WERE SUCCESSFUL UNDER THE 2023 SCHEME

PROJECT NO 1 RINVILLE PARK

Community/Partner name(s):	Project Name:	Project Description (less than 30 words):	Funding Secured
OPW – Galway City Council, others to be determined as part of the plan	Rinville Forest Park Masterplan	Rinville Forest Masterplan- To Develop a Major Tourism Attraction, Building on the Unique Heritage of the park for Galway County and the Western Region.	€49,950.00



Oranmore town is now located within the Metropolitan area of County Galway.

It is located 7km to the east of the city centre at the inner shoreline of Galway Bay.

It has grown considerably in recent years. With Convenient access to the motorway and rail networks it also has attractive attributes

that have contributed to the significant growth of Oranmore into a Metropolitan Town in recent years.

This project aligns with the Wild Atlantic Way, Proposed Dublin Galway Greenway and the growing need for recreation in this area.



Vision
The vision is to;

- Develop a major tourism attraction building on the unique heritage of the park for County Galway and the Western region.
- The proposed project will attract both international and domestic visitors and continue to provide an amenity for the local community.
- The project must be commercially and financially viable and environmentally sustainable.

Overall aims

- Develop a major tourism attraction for County Galway.
- Attract visitors and thus provide socio economic benefits for the local and wider community.
- Enhance and build on the unique features of Rinville Park.
- Create an innovative experience for County Galway.
- Create an experience for all age / social groups and encourage interaction of groups where appropriate.

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Over the coming years it will be imperative to ensure that growth in this town is sustainable, sequential and plan led. This will facilitate the development of an enhanced and vibrant town in Metropolitan County Galway.

OPPORTUNITIES



- Greater integration between Burren Lowlands and the Burren and Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience Development Plan.
- Wider integration of tourism into public realm, regeneration, and transport plans for Gort, Kinvara, Oranmore, Clarinbridge and Craughwell.

- Athlone-Galway cycleway project, including industry and community activation in advance of, during and post construction.

This project will contribute to the Health and Wellbeing of the Local Community and surrounding areas.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT MEASURE – NO 2. BALLINASLOE OUTDOOR RECREATION PARK

Community/Partner name(s):	Project Name:	Project Description (less than 30 words):	Amount of ORIS funding requested
Ballinasloe Town Centre Business Group, Galway Rural Development, Lawpro, OPW, National Cycleway project Team, IWAI Suck Branch. Others to be determined as part of the Plan	Ballinasloe Outdoor Recreation Park	To carry out a Master Plan/Feasibility Study exploring the options for the development of a public park in Ballinasloe that reflects good practice in line with Proper Planning and Sustainable Development.	€49,950.00

Located in Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, with further opportunities through the Proposed Galway Dublin Greenway and Potential for projects from Just Transition Funding.

Explore Recreation and Leisure Opportunities for Community Health and Well-being:

Such as accessible water recreational area for water sports, water aerobics, SUP, kayaking, and water therapy to cater for different interests and preferences, ensuring a broader range of recreational opportunities for individuals of all ages and abilities.

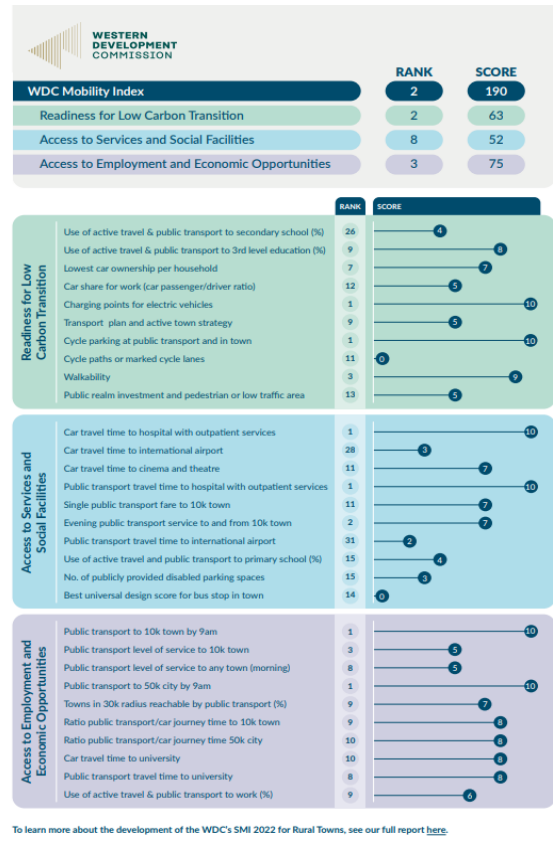
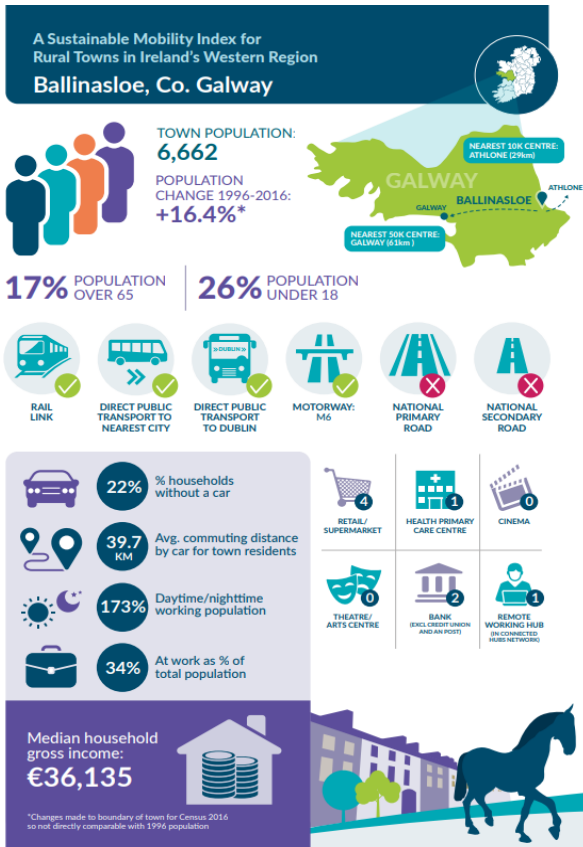


OPPORTUNITIES

- Beara Breifne Way Tourism Masterplan: Experience development and connectivity along the Suck Valley section of the Hymany Way, including industry and community activation.
- East Galway EcoPark – (Project Development 2022)
- Athlone-Galway cycleway project, including industry and community activation in advance of, during and post construction.
- Potential to integrate tourism into current and future public realm, regeneration and transport plans for Ballygar, Glenamaddy, Mountbellew, Milltown, Dunmore and Moylough.
- Built heritage assets, e.g. in Athenry
- BIA Innovator Campus in Athenry.
- Universal access development in Ballinasloe.
- Repurposing of Bord na Móna land for recreation and sustainable projects.
- Opportunities presented by Just Transition Fund

THE BALLINASLOE LOCAL AREA PLAN 2022 – 2028 IS ACCOMPANIED BY A LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

This LTP has extended this process to the town of Ballinasloe and the resulting strategy set out how the transport needs of the town and its visitors can be met in a manner which reflects and builds upon the wider measures set out in the GCTPS, and the policies within the County Development Plan 2022-2028 (CDP).



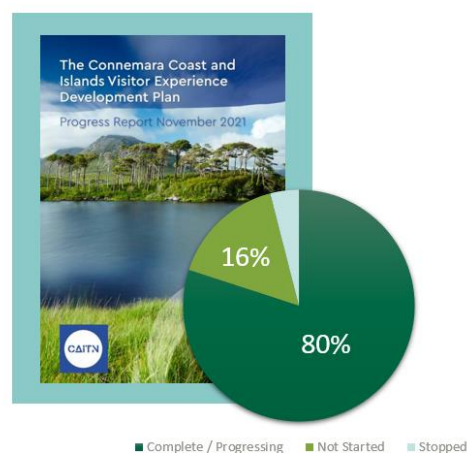
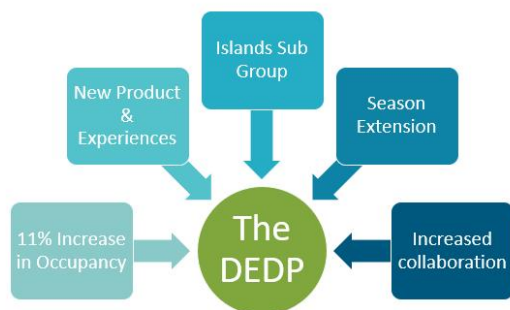
PROJECT 3: LINN TAOIDE ARAINN – ISLANDS APPLICATION

Community/Partner name(s):	Project Name:	Project Description (less than 30 words):	Amount of ORIS funding requested
Comharchumann Forbartha Arann Community, Local Water Safety/Swimming Committee, Local Swimmers, Club Seoltoireachta Arann (Sailing Club). Others to be determined	Linn Taoide Arainn	Feasibility Study for Provision of tidal pool on Arainn along the seashore that will offer recreational opportunities for the island community as well as visitors to the island and provide a habitat for marine life.	35,847.45

This Project Aligns with the Connemara Visitor Experience Development Plan, and Wild Atlantic Way, and will provide additional attraction for the Islands in line with recently launched "Our Living Islands" Strategy and Galway County Development Plan.

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

Progress to date ...



ARTS OFFICE

AIR ON THE EDGE

Galway County Artist Noelle Gallagher completed her month long residency in at Brogårdens Kulturvæksthus in [Ringkøbing-Skjern Kommune](#) in Denmark.

NOELLE GALLAGHER is a visual artist based in Galway, Ireland. A graduate of painting (ATU 2011), she has since expanded her practice to include moving image, photography and printmaking techniques. Her residency was supported through the Arts Office supported Air on the Edge International Residency.

Read more: <https://www.airontheedge.com/artists>

SCHOOL MOBILE PROJECT

Galway Schools Library Service has been given a vibrant and joyous cheerful look by



illustrator, artist, and children's book author Chris Judge. The once cool, grey exterior of the mobile library has become a wonderland of creativity; an updated look to inspire a love of reading and to reflect the inner world of Galway County's children. This project was led by Galway County

Arts Office in collaboration with Galway Public Libraries Schools section, Clontuskert NS and Scoil An Chroí Naofa, Ballinasloe with funding support from Galway County Council and The Arts Council.

As a starting point for the artwork, Judge visited students at Clontuskert National School and Scoil An Chroí Naofa, Ballinasloe National School to ask for their help with the design.



GALWAY SCHOOLS LIBRARY VAN FEATURING ITS NEW MAKE-OVER

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT FOR VISUAL ARTISTS

Galway County Council Arts Office, Galway City Council Arts Office and Galway Culture Company have been working with Visual Artists Ireland on a programme of professional development events for visual artists in Galway.



Two separate events were held for visual artists: 21 November; Unlocking the Power of Social Media webinar with Mary McGraw was held online and on the 24th November a networking event in Outset Gallery in Galway.

SOCIAL MEDIA FOR ARTISTS WORKSHOP



Networking event provided an opportunity for artists discuss and hear about local and national opportunities with representations from Galway and Irish visual arts spaces.

ARTIST/CURATORS MEET IN OUTSET GALLERY



RUTH MULHERN, GALWAY CITY ARTS OFFICER, EMER FERRAN, VAI AND SHARON O'GRADY GALWAY COUNTY ARTS OFFICER AT THE NETWORKING EVENT

Arts Officer Sharon O'Grady travelled to Ringkobing, Denmark to take part in 2-day intensive project design days at Brogården with our international partners from Serbia, Netherlands, Denmark and Finland. The skeleton has been created for a new EU application focusing on concrete cultural and health projects and training for professional artists in rural areas. This Erasmus+ application will be submitted in March 2024. This successful partnership has already completed one Erasmus+ project in 2022.

CULTURE UP 2.0 ERASMUS+ APPLICATION



ARTISTS TAKING PART IN WORKSHOP IN TUAM – 28 NOVEMBER

CREATIVE SCHOOLS BRIDGING WORKSHOP - TUAM

Galway County Arts Office supported a Creative Schools Bridging Workshop for Artists & Creative Practitioners in Tuam on furthering their potential to work in schools.

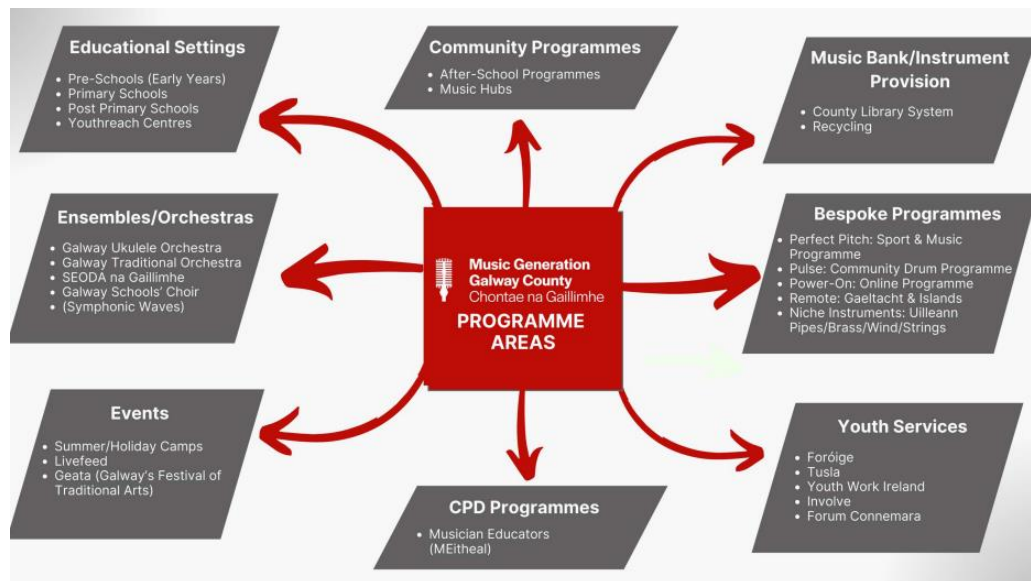
This professional development workshop was designed to support artists who wish to expand their creative practice to include working in schools and educational contexts. It is especially suited to those emerging into this field, with little or no experience. The focus will be on preparing artists to get school ready, understanding the basic requirements for working in this context.

Workshop included practical tips such as planning, costing and communicating workshops and best practice guidelines such as drafting memorandums of understanding and including the voice of young people. Key principles underpinning the Creative Schools programme (Creative Habits of Mind and Voice of Children and Young People) will be referenced in support of artist professional development. This workshop was presented by Joanna McGlynn, Regional Coordinator for Creative Schools (Galway / Mayo / Roscommon).

MUSIC GENERATION

Galway County LMEP meeting took place in Athenry on 7th December. Members of the advisory group include representatives from: GRETB, Galway County Council, Galway Rural Development, Foróige, Tusla, FORUM Connemara CLG, Ealaíon na Gaeltachta Teo, Western

Traveller & Intercultural Development, Youth Work Ireland, Galway, University of Galway, and Galway Culture Company.



At present 4711 children and Young people are taking part in the programmes in 2023. These music education programmes take part in the schools’ settings, Music Hubs and Community and Youth settings.

New programme developments for 2024 include: New Music Hubs Expansion across the County Brass, Strings & Wind promotion of niche instruments, Livefeed, performance opportunities for Young People at GEATA Irish Traditional Arts initiative/festival.

TOURISM

November has been a thriving month for staff working in the tourism function in Galway County Council, firstly with the appointing of a new Tourism Officer ‘John Neary’. John has previously worked with Failte Ireland and has great experience in the tourism field, his timely arrival coincides with the adoption of the first Tourism Strategy for County Galway. This Strategy provides a roadmap that will guide staff to drive tourism to its maximum potential across the entire county.

ADOPTION OF THE TOURISM STRATEGY 2023-2031



The Elected Members of Galway County Council unanimously adopted the first ever tourism strategy for County Galway at the November plenary meeting.

The County Galway Tourism Strategy 2023-2031 sets out to spread the benefits of Galway's growing tourism economy across the wider county, promote sustainable tourism development, and support existing

and create new jobs across the sector. The tourism plan also is targeting a 10% increase in overall visitor spend by 2030 with a particular focus on attracting visitors who stay longer and spend more in Galway's towns and villages.

Environmental screening was concluded, the NIS along with the SEA and the Tourism Strategy were issued to the statutory environmental authorities for comment on 26th September 2023 to 7th November 2023. No amendments were made following the statutory consultation period.

The Implementation Plan on the strategy will be published in 2024, this will seek to stimulate tourism development throughout Galway, enhancing it in areas that are already strong and nurturing it in areas that are less mature from a tourism perspective with a commitment to delivering economic, social, cultural, and environmental benefits to diverse locations and communities.



The County Galway Tourism Strategy 2023-2031 will be formally launched in early 2024.

LIFE ON MACHAIR VISITOR MANAGEMENT PLANS WORKSHOP



The Tourism Officer attended and participated at the Life on Machair visitor management workshop. The LIFE of Machair project team and Failte Ireland have coordinated a series of workshops for locals, tourism businesses, service

providers and members of local authorities to participate and collectively for all key stakeholders to raise awareness and discuss the sensitivities of Machair systems. The focus of the workshops will be to develop ways to reduce the impacts of recreation activities on the Machair systems. Galway County Council looks forward to continuing to work together with our tourism partners to realise our shared vision for Tourism development.

ADVERTISING

Continuing to invest in a County based marketing spread with **'This is Galway'**. The November edition in relation to Maigh Cuilinn, a feature & map for the area has had a great response from the local businesses in Maigh Cuilinn who took part in the feature and Wildlands.

This edition which focused on the lovely Maigh Cuilinn area has already resulted in increased footfall to the area and continues to attract new visitors. The local businesses have also reported that they have welcomed in an increasing number of guests since the publication and cited the feature as being the main cause of this. Through its accurate detailing of the area's gorgeous must-visit spots and local businesses, the feature beautifully captures the unique charm and appeal of Maigh Cuilinn. This spotlight on Maigh Cuilinn reflects Galway County Council's commitment to promoting and celebrating the richness of Galway's communities, and it continues to contribute to the overall success and positive reception of our local areas.

Here is some feedback received from Wildlands on the edition: -

"A thank you from us at Wildlands for 'This is Galway' and Galway County Council's support on the recent spread on visiting Maigh Cuilinn. As someone with a background in destination development and tourism I noticed these articles I think around summertime and was drawn to them immediately. With the bypass opening and Maigh Cuilinn business group trying to draw focus on the area it was the perfect opportunity to get the message out there on what Maigh Cuilinn has to offer. You guys were a pleasure to deal with and with the support provided I was delighted to see a real wide range of businesses supporting the article. I noted that we received a lot of positive feedback from our followers and supporters who read the article and commented on our social posts. I do hope there are more opportunities to work together in a large group format in the future. It's key to getting a clear message out there that Galway has the best of the best when it comes to reasons to visit, to work and to live" - General Manager Wildlands

COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANTS UPDATE

Festivals & Events - County Galway 2023			
APRIL	JULY	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
13th-16th Clifden Traditional Music Festival	1st-2nd 14th Annual Garden Festival, Clongeakey	1st-3rd Carna Walking Festival	10th-15th Three Rings
28th-1st Connemara Mountain Walking Festival	11-16th Galway Film Fleadh	2nd Clarinbridge Market Day	13th-22nd Babord International Arts Festival for Children
28th-30th Wild West Musical Festival	28th-30th South Galway Bay Music Festival	3rd Talpealntas Chols Fharraige Teo	13th-22nd Glenamaddy Theatre Festival
29th-30th Connemara Isles Wellness Retreat	28th-6th Clonberne Festival 2023	7th-10th Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds	21st-30th Connemara Sea Week
	29th-6th Cashel Together	8th-10th Cleggan Fringe Festival	27th-30th Cregge Harvest Festival
	30th Mountbellew Vintage Annual Show	14th-17th Shorelines Arts Festival 2023	27th-29th Kiltanna Festival
	20th-23rd Williamstown Summer Festival	14th-17th Shorelines Arts Festival 2023	29th Halloween on the Green
MAY	AUGUST	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
5th-7th Féile Joe Einnú 2023	3rd-8th Ballyger Carnival	22nd-24th Bia Bóinne Food Festival	12th-24th Galway Science & Technology Festival
19th-21st Galway Comhaltas (Galway County Board of Comhaltas)	4th-13th Dunmore Annual Festival	22nd Culture Night 2023	25th Howl of the Moon
24th-28th Ballinasloe Tourist Sample Weekend	4th-13th The Women who sub All Saints, Corbuz	28th-1st Three Rings	
	11th-13th Clonbur August Summer Festival		DECEMBER
	12th-14th Cruinnú na mBád		9th Christmas Walk in the Woods Mountbellew
	15th-18th Connemara Pony Festival		
	19th Féile Lunasa An Cheathrú Rua		
	24th-27th The Dessie O' Halloran Music Weekend		
	26th-27th Féile Báid Seoil Inis Meáin		
	26th-27th Féile na Sliabhóir		
	26th-28th Féile an tSruháin		
JUNE		OCTOBER	
2nd-4th Headfest		1st-8th Ballinasloe Horse Fair	
5th Féile An Spidéal		3rd-8th Three Rings	
18th Kikerrin Festival		3rd Headford Community Arts Festival	
		3rd-8th Féile Chols Fharraige	
		6th-8th Elgie Cara Beag	
		6th-7th Cúirt Cheoil na mBán	

Community Support Scheme Grants will be fully drawn down by end of November/early December.

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

PUBLIC ART

OPW/GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL MURAL TUAM

The Office of Public Works and Galway County Council unite to brighten the streets with art inspired by local youths and designed by Shane O'Malley. A new mural, developed by artist Shane O'Malley and inspired by young people involved in the local Youthreach programme, is being installed on the wall of the newly developed Department of Social Protection (DSP) Centre at the Old Library on Shop Street in Tuam this week.

Funding for the mural was provided as part of the Per Cent for Arts scheme, a government initiative whereby 1% of the cost of any publicly funded capital, infrastructural and building development can be allocated to the commissioning of a work of art.

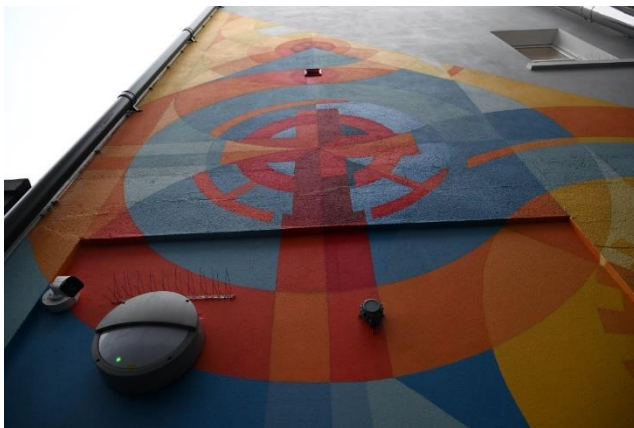
Following a competitive tendering process, Galway City resident Shane O'Malley was successful and started his development of the mural, inspired and informed in conjunction with young people involved in Youthreach. Shane's vibrant use of colour stems from his background in graffiti. This project was managed directly by the Galway County Arts Office.



ARTIST SHANE O'MALLEY AND KARL WARD PICTURED IN TUAM TO MARK THE COMPLETION OF A NEW MURAL BY THE ARTIST. THE OPW AND THE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL ENGAGED LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE YOUTHREACH PROGRAMME TO DEVELOP THE MURAL WITH THE ARTIST.



PICTURE INCLUDES: OPW PUBLIC ART TEAM, OPW ARCHITECT LORA AUGHTY, ARTIST SHANE O'MALLEY AND FAMILY, JOANNE MC GLYNN FACILITATOR AND YOUTHREACH MEMBERS AND SHARON O'GRADY, GALWAY COUNTY ARTS OFFICER.



TULCA FESTIVAL OF VISUAL ARTS

The highly successful TULCA Festival of Visual Arts took place across the City and County in late November. Under Creative Ireland funding, a screening took place in Ballinasloe Library of the film, 'Abandoned Goods'. This short film explores the artwork created by the patients of the Netherne psychiatric hospital in South London. One of these artists was Ballinasloe born J.J. Beegan. The screening was then followed by a talk from Prof. Claire Wills who has studied the lives of people living in institutions such as Netherne, and specifically studied J.J. Beegan.



BIDDY EARLY FOLK OPERA – KINVARA COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

This event was highly anticipated as the people of Kinvara came together to create an original piece of Opera, uniquely tied to the area. Over the past several months, the Kinvara Community Orchestra have put in a trojan amount of work to breathe new life into the enigmatic story of Biddy Early, a woman who has captured the minds and imaginations of the people of South Galway and Clare for nearly 200 years. The orchestration is in the style of Irish Traditional music with a heavy influence of ballads and airs. The folk opera was performed over the course of two sold out nights on December 2nd and 3rd. The project

received funding from Galway County Council under the Creative Ireland bursary programme.



CONTEMPO IN RESIDENCE

For the months of October, November, and December, Galway Music Residency (GMR) ran their 'ConTempo in Residence' programme, which was funded through the Creativity in Older Years programme, a strain of additional Creative Ireland funding secured by Galway County Council. The programme involved GMR musicians, along with members of ConTempo quartet visiting a number of long-term care facilities around Galway County. The types of music were chosen in consultation with the residents of the involved facilities to ensure that a variety of tastes were catered to. The feedback from the sessions has been resoundingly positive as residents of these care facilities have been able to engage with the GMR musicians on a weekly basis for the last 2 months, truly embodying the spirit of creativity at any age.

GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

DIRECTORY OF SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE LAUNCH

Galway Sports Partnerships Sports Inclusion Disability Officer attend the launch of the Directory of services for Older People. This was a great event with over 200 people in attendance. Galway Sports Partnership had an information stand and had an opportunity to show case all the programmes and supports we offer to this cohort.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLENARY MEETING

Galway Sports Partnership attended the PPN Plenary meeting on 28th November in the Claregalway Hotel. This was a great networking opportunity for Galway Sports Partnership who hosted an information stand and highlighted existing and future programmes for Galway Sports Partnership.

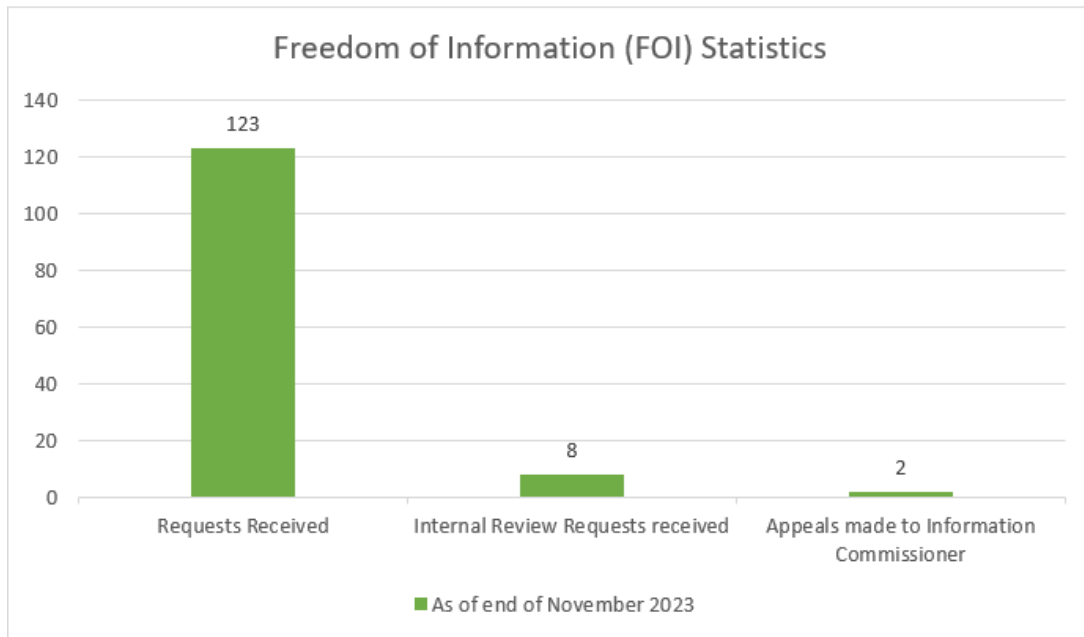
ACTIVE DISABILITY IRELAND NATIONAL SEMINAR

This event was to support International Day of People with Disabilities and to also provide a launchpad for Active Disability Ireland's first ever youth forum, giving a voice to young people with disabilities to ask organisations to do all they can to ensure they have a choice and opportunities that they deserve. This seminar was attended by key individuals and stakeholders from sport, health, community and disability sectors who took part in discussions about the importance of creating opportunities for people with disabilities to get involved in sport and physical activities and to understand the impact that small changes can have on making these opportunities a reality.

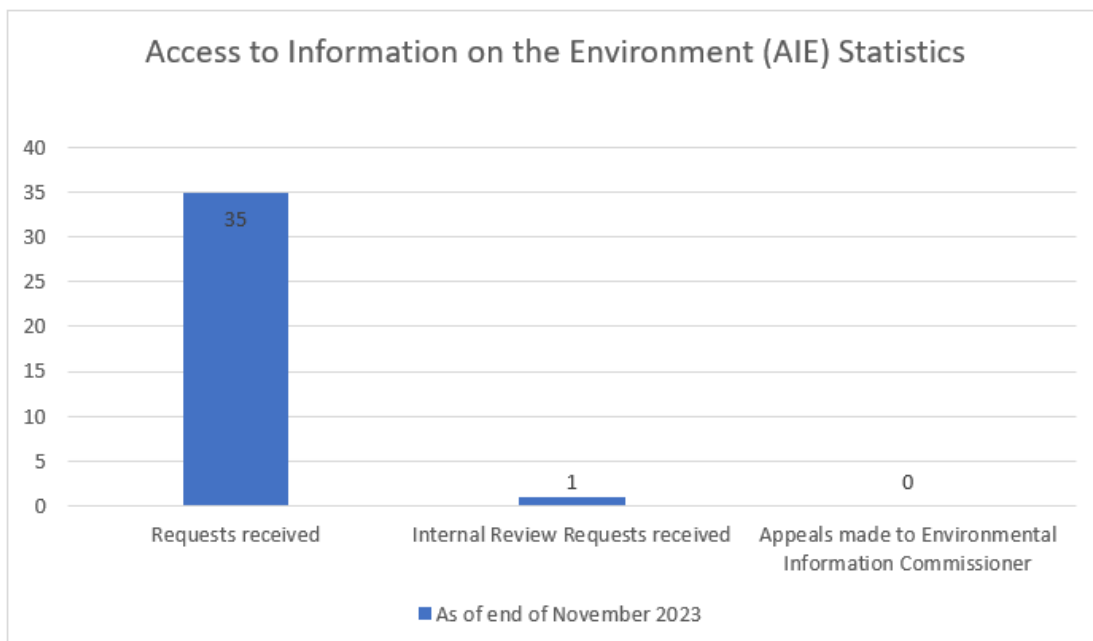


2023 YEAR TO DATE STATISTICS TO 30.11.23

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT



DATA PROTECTION

- **18 Data Access Requests**

 - 14 Data Subject Access Requests -

 - 4 Third Party Access Request, e.g., Gardaí

- **GDPR/Data Protection Training**

 - Online Induction Training & GDPR Staff Awareness Training issued to all new staff

SOCIAL MEDIA

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



www.twitter.com/galwaycoco



www.instagram.com/galwaycountycouncil

OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY

- We are up to 34,506 followers and fans, from 34,208 last month. This is showing an increase of 0.9%.
- We posted 364 times, which is down from 564 last month, so a decrease of 35.5% (due to staff shortage in customer services)

FACEBOOK

Over this period, Customer Services have posted 126 posts to Galway County Council's Facebook page, which is down 35.1% from the previous month. Galway County Council's overall reach for the last month was 40,595, an increase of 25.7% compared to the previous month.

AUDIENCE METRICS – FACEBOOK

Last month Galway County Council gained 136 new Facebook followers, bringing the total followers as of November 30th, 2023, to 16,090.

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 23.6% of this age group are women and 10.7% are men.

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

NOVEMBER'S TOP THREE POSTS

f Top posts



Galway County Council
Nov 12, 16:21

Foláireamh Aimsire Rabhadh Gaoithe - Stádas Dearg, i bhfeidhm ó 03:00am - 05.00am Dé Luain 13/11/2023. Don eolas is deirneanaí téigh chuig www.met.ie/warnings #TugaigAire #StoirmDebi


31 reactions



Galway County Council
Nov 12, 18:00

Do nithe maidir leis an drochaimsir, cosúil le crainn tite, tuilte, srl, déan teagmháil le: Uimh. Theagmhála (taobh amuigh de ghnáthuireanta): 091 509069 For severe weather-related issues, such as fallen trees, flooding etc.

25 reactions



Galway County Council
Nov 13, 02:00

Weather Alert - Orange/Red While the orange warning remains in place for County Galway 02:00-10:00 13/11/23, it has been upgraded to a red warning for East Galway from 03:00 - 10:00 on Monday, 13/11/23. For the

18 reactions


AUDIENCE METRICS – X (PREVIOUSLY TWITTER)

During this period on X, Galway County Council posted a total of 114 tweets with 67k impressions.

Galway County Council's account gained a total of 52 new followers in this period, bringing the total following to 16,563.

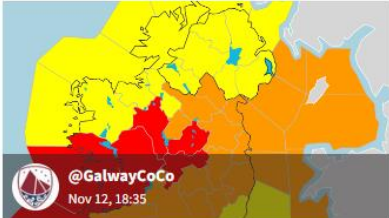
NOVEMBER'S TOP THREE POSTS

t Top tweets




Date for the diaries - 2nd November 2023 #gaillimh #galway
<https://twitter.com/GalwayCoCo/status/1719716247644864717/photo/1>

12.5% engagement rate



Galway County Council's Severe Weather Management Team and the Local Coordination Group have both met this afternoon in relation to Storm Debi. Galway County Council are advising the public not to undertake any

12.35% engagement rate



<https://twitter.com/GalwayCoCo/status/1720788107245563965/photo/1>

8.33% engagement rate


AUDIENCE METRICS – INSTAGRAM

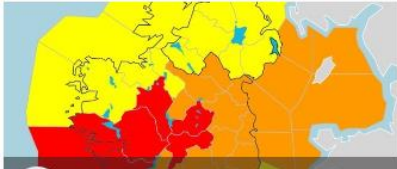
Galway County Council’s Instagram page has a similar audience base to the Council’s Facebook page.

Galway County Council’s Instagram Audience ages range between 18-65+, with 69% being female and 31% being male. Overall, the main audience, with 35.6% in total, again is those aged between 35 and 44 years old, a closer breakdown shows that this consists of 25.1% women and 10.5% men.

Over the last month Galway County Council have increased their followers by 9.6% bringing the total to 798. The overall reach for this period increased by 2% compared to the previous period.

NOVEMBER’S TOP THREE POSTS

 **Top posts**



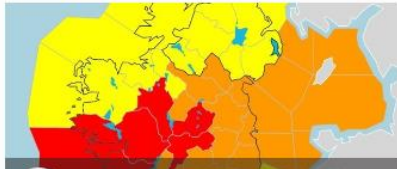
galwaycountycouncil
Nov 12, 16:22

Foláireamh Aimsire Rabhadh Gaoithe - Stádas Dearg. i bhfeidhm ó 03:00am - 05.00am Dé Luain 13/11/2023. Don eolas is deireanaí téigh chuig www.met.ie/warnings #TugaigAire #StoirmDebi

28 likes



galwaycountycouncil
Nov 28, 10:00



galwaycountycouncil
Nov 12, 16:22

AUDIENCE METRICS – LINKEDIN


During this period on LinkedIn, Galway County Council’s account gained 52 new followers, bringing the total following to 1,537.

Galway County Council shared 21 posts with 2.7k impressions this month.

NOVEMBER'S TOP THREE POSTS

Top posts


Galway County Council
Nov 15, 18:35



Vacancy - Executive Planner Closing Date: 4pm Thursday, 9th November 2023. <https://lnkd.in/egv7TwkQ> #jobfair #gaillimh #galway

3 reactions

Now Hiring



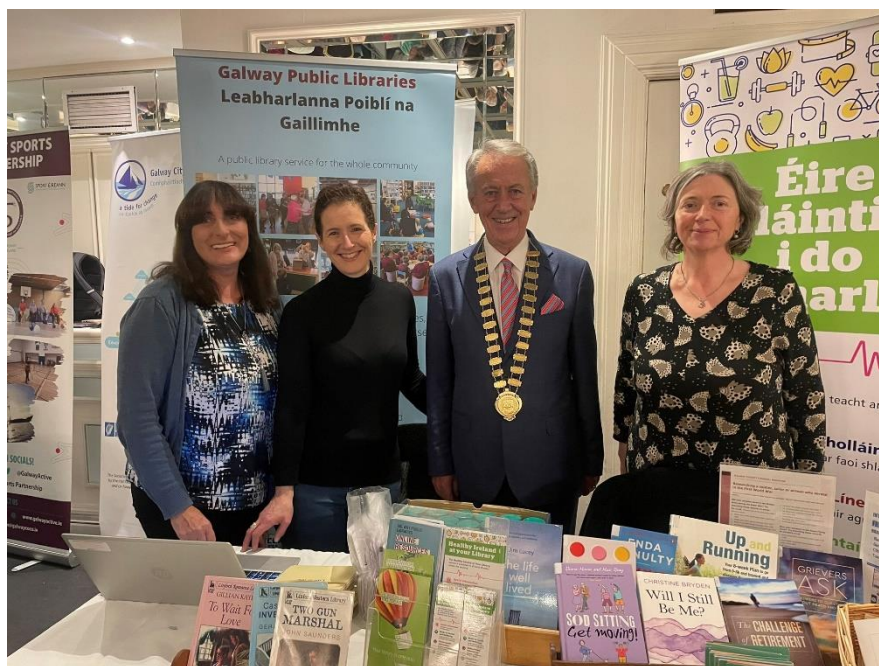
Vacancy - Retained Fire Fighter - Mountbellew Closing Date: Rolling call process <https://ow.ly/Tu2P50QaXN5> #jobfair #gaillimh #galway

1 reaction

AUDIENCE METRICS – YOUTUBE

Galway County Council's YouTube channel has 26 subscribers, audience age ranges between 35-54, with the main audience being those aged between 35-44 years old, a total of 69.9%. Overall, 59.8% of Galway County Council's YouTube subscribers are male and 40.2% are female.

LIBRARY SERVICES



Library staff were delighted to host a stand at the Age Friendly Galway and the Older People's Council information event in the Hardiman Hotel in Galway. Attendees were very engaged with lots of enquiries about online services, eBook facilities and the events and workshops suitable for older people that happen

regularly in our libraries. Interest in the mobile library service was particularly high as many of the attendees were from rural locations and they were delighted to hear about the mobile libraries service links with rural communities.

GALWAY'S GREAT READ 2023 – AROUND THE HOUSE AND MIND THE DRESSER

Galway's Great Read is an annual programme of events, organised by Galway Public Libraries during November. Its purpose is to promote our literary heritage, history and our unique culture, and foster an appreciation for its diversity and richness. Each year Galway's Great Read commemorates a literary figure, historical event or literary genre through readings, poetry, exhibitions, talks and reminiscences of life in Galway and Ireland during a specific period.

This year our project is called Around the House and Mind the Dresser!

The aim of Around the House and Mind the Dresser was to highlight the rich musical and song writing traditions of North and East Galway; to explore the various storytelling voices of South Connemara and our Islands; to re-ignite in our older audiences' memories of times past and to inspire our younger generations to value and participate in this exploration of our Culture.



Friday 24th November 2.30pm
– Ballinasloe Library

Saturday 25th November
2.30pm – Tuam Library

On the Night is a new book which tells the story of some of Ireland's greatest céilí bands. Written by Sligo native and well-known fiddle player, Philip Duffy, the publication brings to life the story of the musicians behind the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann Senior Céilí Band Competition over a seventy-

year period. This talk focused on the musicians that played on The Aughrim Slopes Céilí Band (1953), The Leitrim Céilí Bands (1959 and 1962) and The Williamstown Girls Céilí Band (1952).

THE CONLON FAMILY, MILLTOWN; THEIR MUSIC, THEIR STORY A TALK BY ÁINE SHERIDAN



As part of Galway's Great Read there were two full houses in Dunmore and Tuam libraries for a talk and presentation by Áine Sheridan on 'The Conlon Family, Milltown: their music..their story'. The presentation was focused on P.J Conlon and the Conlon music legacy. Regarded as an accordion player supreme, P.J was born in Milltown in 1892. He was among the first musicians in the USA to record traditional Irish music commercially.

Charlie Harris was delighted to showcase his vintage accordion.

PICTURED ARE CLAIRE KEVILLE, ÁINE SHERIDAN, LINDA MORRIS (DUNMORE LIBRARY) AND CLLR. JOE SHERIDAN.



There was lots of foot tapping and happy faces when renowned accordion player Charlie Harris was joined by Claire Keville to play some of the Conlon families favourite tunes. Audience members joined in the chat with lost of nearly forgotten stories of the family and of music in the Milltown area.

An exhibition accompanied the talk and is currently on view in Dunmore Library.

BALLINASLOE LIBRARY

SOAPBOX

The Regional Final for the EU Direct Soapbox Competition was held at Ballinasloe Library on November 15th.

The topic for Soapbox 2023 was *'There's no such thing as a vote that doesn't matter' (Barack Obama). In today's turbulent times, it is more important than ever to build a better future by voting in the EU parliament elections'*

There were 2 age categories 16 and under and 17 and over. Participants were invited to speak for 3 minutes for or against the topic.

This year the standard was particularly high, and the winners were Niamh Butler, Clontuskert NS in the u16 category and Siobhán Fitzgerald in the 17 and over category. Niamh and Siobhan were awarded an iPad and a chance to take part in the National final. Runners up received One4All vouchers.

The National Final was held in the Royal College of Physicians in Dublin on November 24th. Transport was provided for our regional winners and their supporters by Forde Travel, and they were accompanied by EU Direct Ballinasloe Staff member, Aoife O'Kelly. Whilst Galway did not produce a winner this year Niamh was applauded for her strong performance and for being the youngest contestant at just 11 years of age.



<https://youtu.be/Z2oCJuzh0Z0>

ORANMORE LIBRARY



Oranmore Public Library hosted an evening poetry recital, featuring the debut reading of a sequence of poems titled "Art of a Nation 1923."

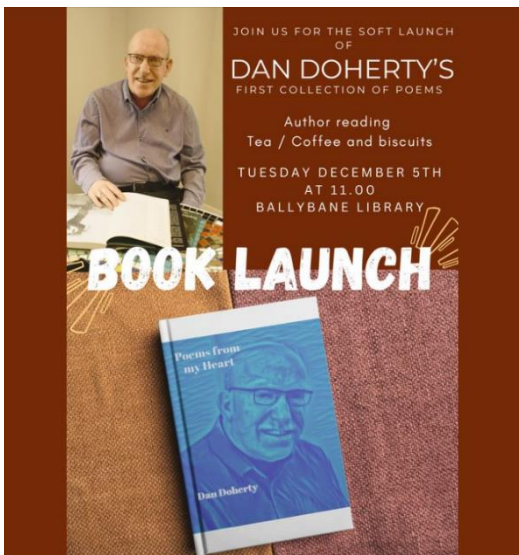
The participants wrote the poems over 3 hour-long workshops in the library, along with facilitator and poet-in-residence Geraldine Mills, in response to Irish artists and literary figures who were creating work in 1923. This event was part of the Decade of Centenaries

Project: Respond, Reflect, Rejoice: 1923 Through the lens of our literary and artistic creatives.

BALLYBANE LIBRARY

Saturday 25th November Ballybane Library

Healthy Ireland Event – Let's Talk about Feet, with podiatrist Marie Hegarty



Galway City & County Librarian Jo Vahey attended the launch of Dan Doherty's book launch in Ballybane Library which was supported by the Creative Ireland City Team and staff of Ballybane Library. Dan is a member of the newly formed poetry group that was set up by

Zara, who is a staff member in Ballybane Library after feedback from community meetings held in the library. This is Dan's first publication.

GALWAY CITY LIBRARY



THURSDAY 30TH NOVEMBER. GALWAY CITY LIBRARY

A great night was had by all at the Bilingual Storytelling with renowned seanacháí Eddie Lenihan for an enchanting bilingual night of folklore and traditional Irish music, in company with Fleadh Ceoil na hÉireann champions Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, Lackagh branch.



Two interesting and varied author talks were very well received by library friends this autumn.

The first was a talk on Marine Biodiversity from Tony O'Callaghan of Seasearch Ireland and Derek Bolton of Diving Ireland. The second talk featured Dr. Micheline Sheehy Skeffington and Rose Foley speaking about their new book *Micheline's Three Conditions*.

Children and teen events included a launch event for **One Author, One Galway** with author Catherine Doyle, Christmas craft time and school visits.



TUAM LIBRARY



As part of the National Initiative 'Family Time At Your Library' Tuam Library hosted Christmas Craft Sessions on Saturday to add to the festive celebrations.

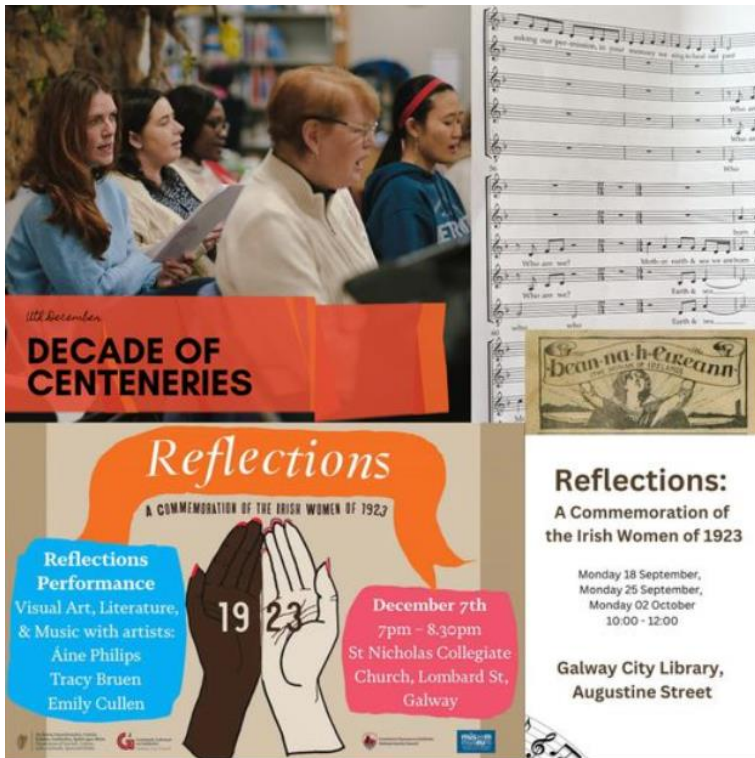
DECADE OF CENTENERIES: REFLECTIONS



Thursday 7th of December – Shop Street and St Nicholas' Collegiate Church.

Reflections: In Commemoration of the Irish Women of 1923

Music from Tracy Bruen and choir, poetry from Dr Emily Cullen and the women she has been working with in Westside Library. View the stunning banners created by Aine Philips and the women of the east side of Galway City. This event was the culmination of months of work in the three city branches.



WESTSIDE LIBRARY

November was, like every other month in Westside Library, very busy and varied with 28 events and 595 people attending. Highlights included:

See and Learn Packs launched in Westside Library

Galway Public Libraries in collaboration with Down Syndrome Ireland Galway Branch were delighted to announce that we now have multiple copies of See and Learn, visual learning packs available in Oughterard, Tuam and Westside Libraries.



PICTURED STAFF MEMBERS RUTH BROWNE AND MELIOSA MCINTYRE WITH THE PACKS.



Westside Library is delighted to host a number of Storytelling sessions in Irish for the younger kids.

For the teenagers a



Talk from Sylvia Nolan, a drama teacher, director and mental health advocate, on her experience of returning to education as a mature student.

Followed by a talk from Nuala from the Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, on what's available through the GRETB and their Guidance Service.

College Awareness Week Talk was held in association with Sylvia Nolan and Nuala from GRETB. Sylvia and Nuala spoke to our DEIS School's parents as part of their ongoing wellness course.



Beethoven Unveiled, guided listening experience with Galway Music residency. We hosted 60 people in our auditorium for this classical music event, with music from the Contempo Quartet. This is the first in a series of free classical events that we plan on having in Westside Library over the next year!

LAUNCH OF THE ALEEN CUST WORKBOOK

The Schools Library service is delighted to part of the team who will bring the marvellous life of Ireland's first veterinary surgeon to children across Galway. At the launch event in Gort, County Librarian Jo Vahey promised that every child in 5th and 6th class would receive a copy of the booklet. They will be delivered by Marie, Sharleen and Padriac in our bring and colourful schools library van.



Pictured the presentation of 'Ever and Always the Marvellous Story of Aleen Cust 'Britain and Ireland's First Female Vet' bi-lingual workbook to Jo Vahey, Acting County Librarian by Cathaoirleach, Liam Carroll.



LEABHARLANN NA CEATHRÚN RUA

Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua was delighted to host a very special event as part of the fortieth anniversary celebrations of Oireachtas na Samhna being held in An Cheathrú Rua (1983 - 2023). The library event was titled "Fiach Focal: Saibhreas na nAmhrán" and it focused on the richness of the Irish Language, especially the meaning of certain words and to their usage in old Irish songs.

Two speakers were in attendance, Áine Ní Chonghaile & Máire Feiritéar. A capacity crowd of 49 people were entertained and educated, and the event was such a success that there are plans to make it a regular occurrence.

Special thanks to Mairéad Uí Chathaín for hosting and to photographer Seán O Mainnin for the use of the photograph.



HOUSING & UKRAINE RESPONSE

HOUSING

HOUSING ADAPTATION GRANTS FOR OLDER PEOPLE AND PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

There are three grants available for older people and people with disabilities to help make their home safer and easier to get around. The grants are:

1. Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability
2. Mobility Aids Grant
3. Housing Aid for Older People Grant

The person for whom the grant is for must:

- Have the grant application approved before the work starts on the home
- Live in the home when the work is completed
- Have their tax affairs in order
- Have tax clearance from Revenue if the grant is for more than €10,000
- Show that the Local Property Tax for the home is in order

HOUSING ADAPTATION GRANT FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

This grant is for people with a physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual disability. It is for big changes you need to make to your home. The maximum grant payable is €30,000 or 95% of the total cost of the work approved by the Council. It does not cover the VAT cost of the work.

MOBILITY AIDS GRANT

This grant is for older people and/or people with a disability who find it hard to move around their home due to mobility issues. The maximum grant payable is €6,000 or the total cost of the work approved by the Council. It does not cover the VAT cost of the work.

HOUSING AID FOR OLDER PEOPLE GRANT

This grant is for people 66 years old or more to do essential repairs, so that they can continue to live in their own home. The maximum grant payable is €8,000 or 95% of the total cost of the work approved by the Council. The grant can go towards the total cost of the work including the VAT.

On 28th April 2023 the Department of Housing issued correspondence advising Galway County Council of the combined capital allocation of €3,383,187 for the payment of the Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability scheme for private homes in 2023. This is composed of €2,706,550 (80%) exchequer funding and €676,637 (20%) matching local authority funding.

2023 ACTIVITY TO DATE

To date in 2023 the following grants have been issued:

Grant Type	Amount Paid	No of Grants Issued	Average Payment
Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability	€1,181,635	99	€11,936
Mobility Aid Grant	€652,433	129	€5,058
Housing Aid for Older People	€1,823,721	314	€5,808
TOTAL	€3,657,789	542	€22,802

This is an increase of 33% on the total number of applications processed in 2022 of 408 and an increase of 23% on total payments made in 2022 of €2,980,883.

Due to the unprecedented increase in housing grant applications in 2023 and following a request from Galway County Council the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage increased the combined allocation to €3,655,000. The Exchequer is providing an increased allocation of €217,450 (80%) and the Council required to allocate an additional €54,362 (20%) from its own resources.

The Council has requested that the Department approve funding of the balance of its contribution to a maximum of €415,000 through Internal Capital Receipts. Internal Capital Receipts consists of the proceeds of the sale of Council houses and can only be allocated with the permission of the Department. We have been advised that from 2024 the provision of matching funds for private house grants from ICRs will not be permitted. Funding made for any payments in excess of the combined allocation of €3,655,000 will be allocated from 2024 budget. The Council has agreed a budget of matching funds for private house grants of €750,000 in 2024.

SOCIAL WORK

DESIGNATED CHILD PROTECTION LIAISON OFFICER

Kieran Keon, Senior Social Worker holds the Child Protection Officer role for Galway County Council. Social Workers have a key role in safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

- This involves reviewing concerns from all Galway County Council staff regarding concerns of child abuse, providing advice to Galway County Council staff and liaising with Tusla if appropriate.
- Review of policies in partnership with Corporate Services.
- Responding to retrospective disclosures of abuse.
- Tusla have the statutory responsibility in responding and assessing concerns regarding child protection. (Ref. Child Protection policy).
- Galway County Council must be compliant with Childrens First legislation and Galway County Council's own Child Protection policy.



BACKGROUND

Galway County Council published their Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability 2021-2026 in November 2021. One of the recommendations in this was for the intellectual disability sector to consider setting up a housing coordinator/project similar to the HSE Mental Health Housing Coordinator project/role. SMT from Ability West and the Brothers of Charity who are members of the Galway County Council HDSG took this on and sought funding under a joint proposal seeking funding from HSE Disability services.

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

PURPOSE

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

PROGRESS

The Housing Coordinator (G7) has been employed by Ability West; a Social Work Team Leader grade post has been employed by the Brothers of Charity. They are both based together in a new office space in Galway. The Senior (Principal Social Worker) from Galway County Council was on the interview panel for the Social Work Team Leader post. The coordinator will represent the project on the Galway County Council Intellectual Disability subgroup (of the Housing Disability Steering Group).

PROCESS (AS IT PERTAINS TO GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL)

Living My Life Demonstration Housing Project



Project Background Information

As service providers, Ability West and BOCISI West, working in partnership with the Proactive Carers Group, sought support to develop a Rights-Based approach to housing, supporting person-centred supports, community inclusion and enablement. The proposal sought to secure a multi-annual budget to enable Ability West and BOCISI West to implement a Demonstration Project, which would involve a proactive model of access to housing for persons with an intellectual disability over a 5-year period (2022-2027). The project aims to deliver 32 places over the 5-year period, which will be informed through a planning and consultation process that involves the prospective resident and their key stakeholders.

A feasibility study and individual case studies are proposed to analyse the capital and running costs, management structures and service outcomes throughout the initial demonstration phase. If successful, this model may provide solutions to national objectives such as unmet social needs, increasing housing waiting lists, and objectives in the HSE Corporate Plan under the objective of 'Reimagining Disability Services'.

The project team has begun work with the 32 project participants and over the next five years will prepare them for supported independent living by building on their life skills, assisting them to find socially valued roles in their community etc. Looking at the blocks and barriers they identify to us and finding ways to help navigate around this so they can become integrated into the communities in which they live.

The Living My Life project is so much more than housing it's about creating more inclusive, sustainable communities and allowing the people we support to flourish and live self-directed lives.

Unit 5, Towpark House, Towpark Centre, Tuam Road, Galway H91 CK1



- It is envisaged to provide individuals with housing via LA and AHB, depending on the needs of the client, proximity to natural supports and services.
- Supports for the clients regarding their individual needs, will come from natural supports, the ID sector (Ability West or the Brothers of Charity) and funded by the HSE.
- For clients seeking housing in the Galway City catchment area, the 'Living My Life' Housing Project staff will liaise with Galway City Council.
- The project is not a LA led project, its collaborative. The posts are funded and managed by the HSE and the above-named disability service providers.
- Galway County Council will be liaising with these staff and the project under the

existing Housing Disability Steering Group (HDSG) structures via the Galway County Council 'Intellectual Disability subgroup'.

- Potential clients will be supported to be applicants on the housing list and will be considered under the Galway County Council Disability Strategy and in line with the Allocations Scheme for LA housing, an AHB nomination, HAP etc.

The following information was provided at the project launch by Olive Keane, Coordinator of the Project:

CAPITAL BUILD PROGRAMME

EISCIR RIADA, DUNLO, BALLINASLOE:

Galway County Council partnered with Cluid Housing Association to deliver 78 new homes within this development which consists of various unit types ranging from detached, semi-detached, terrace and duplex units in various sizes to suit the needs of families on Galway County Council waiting list. Included within the development is 3 purpose-built bungalows for persons with mobility impairments.

The final phase of the advance purchase of 32 new homes at Eiscir Riada occurred early in December and allocations of these units began in early September. It is anticipated the majority of these units will be allocated prior to Christmas.



A mix of different funding mechanisms from Advance Purchase Agreements, Part V Acquisitions and Capital Assistance.



TOBAR MHUIRE, AHASCRAUGH

Following on from the very successful redevelopment of Gilmartin Road, Tuam planning permission was granted by An Bord Pleanála for the redevelopment of Bridge Court, Ahascragh. The redevelopment consisted of the demolition of 10 existing units, the deep retrofit of 6 existing units and the construction of 12 new units. Following a competitive tender process, C&N Higgins Construction Ltd were awarded the contract in April 2022.



Due to the scale of the redevelopment and the change in eircode / property numbers the development was renamed by the Place Names Committee as Tobar Mhuire.



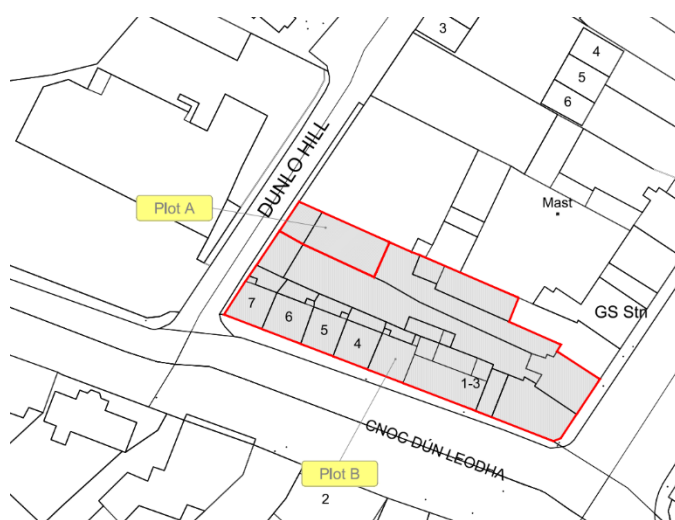
The development consists of a variety of unit types from bungalows detached, semi detached and terrace units in a range of sizes from a 1 bed unit to a four bed unit.



ACQUISITION OF SITE FOR ADDITIONAL UNITS AT DUNLO HILL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

The Housing Department successfully secured Part 8 permission for development of a 13-unit housing development plus community centre at Dunlo Hill, Ballinasloe. It is a regeneration project of existing buildings backing onto a courtyard – comprising 7 terraces, a protected structure on the corner (RPS 2730) and an adjacent 3 storey townhouse. All these buildings are owned by Galway County Council and cover an area of 1,172 sqm (Plot B).

Further to a formal request, the Office of Public Works have agreed in principle to dispose of a site (Plot A) comprising 121 sq.m. in the courtyard of the proposed development.



MAP SHOWING FOLIOS – PLOT A OWNED BY THE O.P.W. AND PLOT B OWNED BY GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

TENANT (INCREMENTAL) PURCHASE SCHEME 2016

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

Specifically, the changes are as follows –

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

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

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

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

As a result of the above changes there has been a substantial increase in the number of Tenant Purchase applications from Tenants who are in receipt of the Old Age Pension. A total of 21 valid applications were received in 2023, 47 Offers were issued, and 16 sales were finalised, with approximately 10 more properties at an advanced stage under the Scheme.

INFRASTRUCTURE & OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE & FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

INFRASTRUCTURE & OPERATIONS

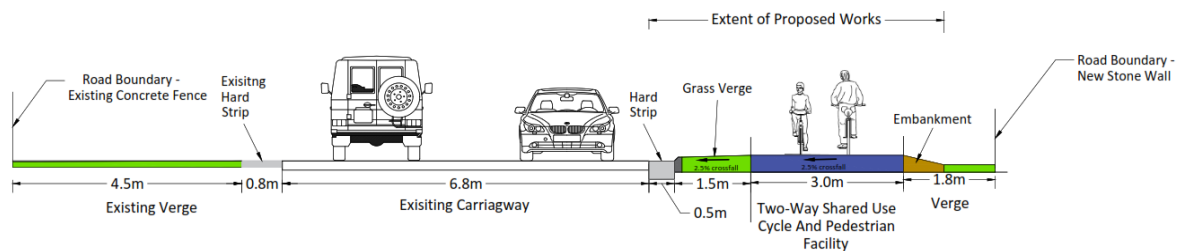
NRPO UPDATE 2023

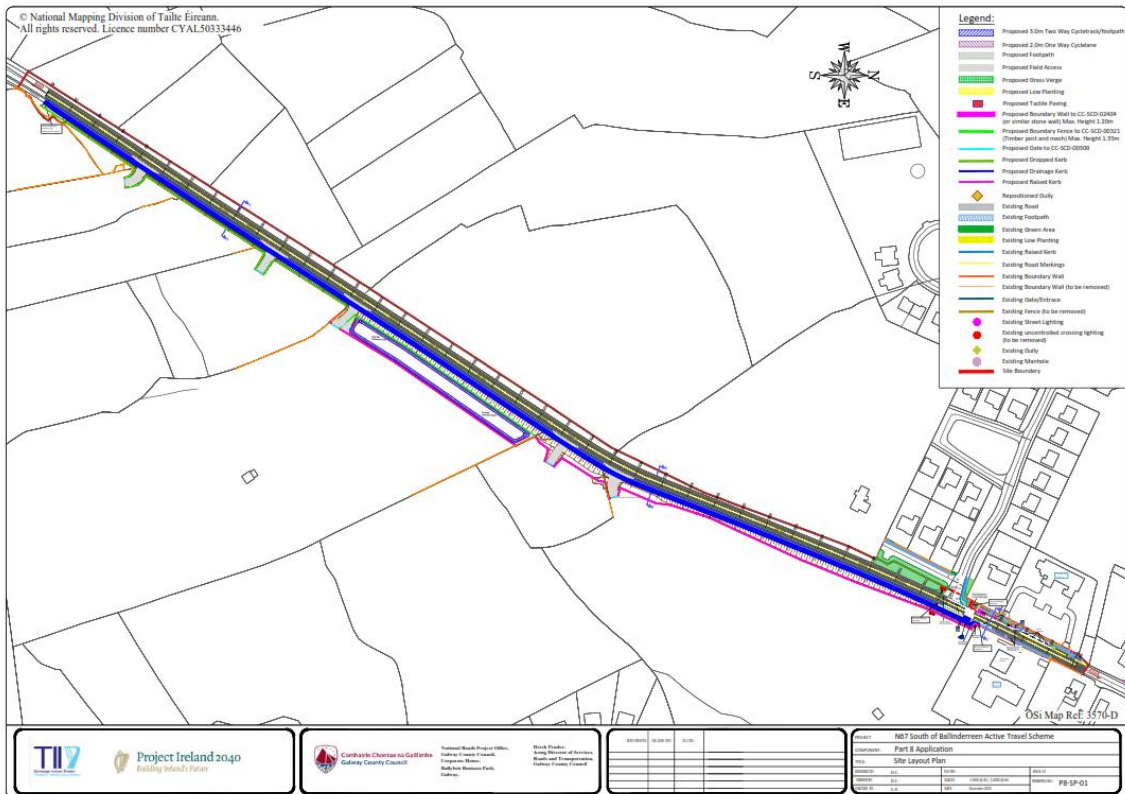
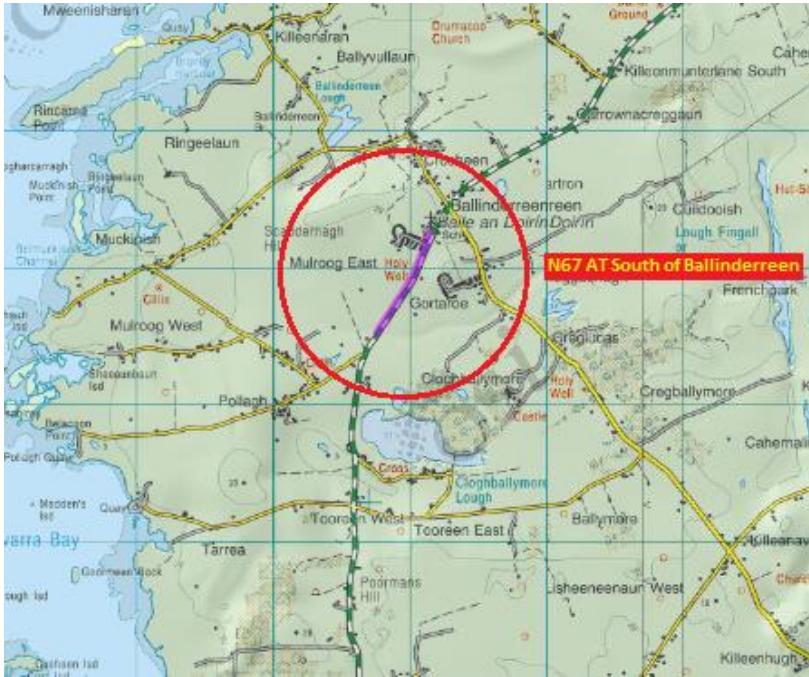
N6 GALWAY CITY RING ROAD

A request for further information has been received from An Bord Pleanála. Work is ongoing to respond as thoroughly and quickly as possible to the request which will involve updating the application including the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

AT - N67 SOUTH OF BALLINDERREEN

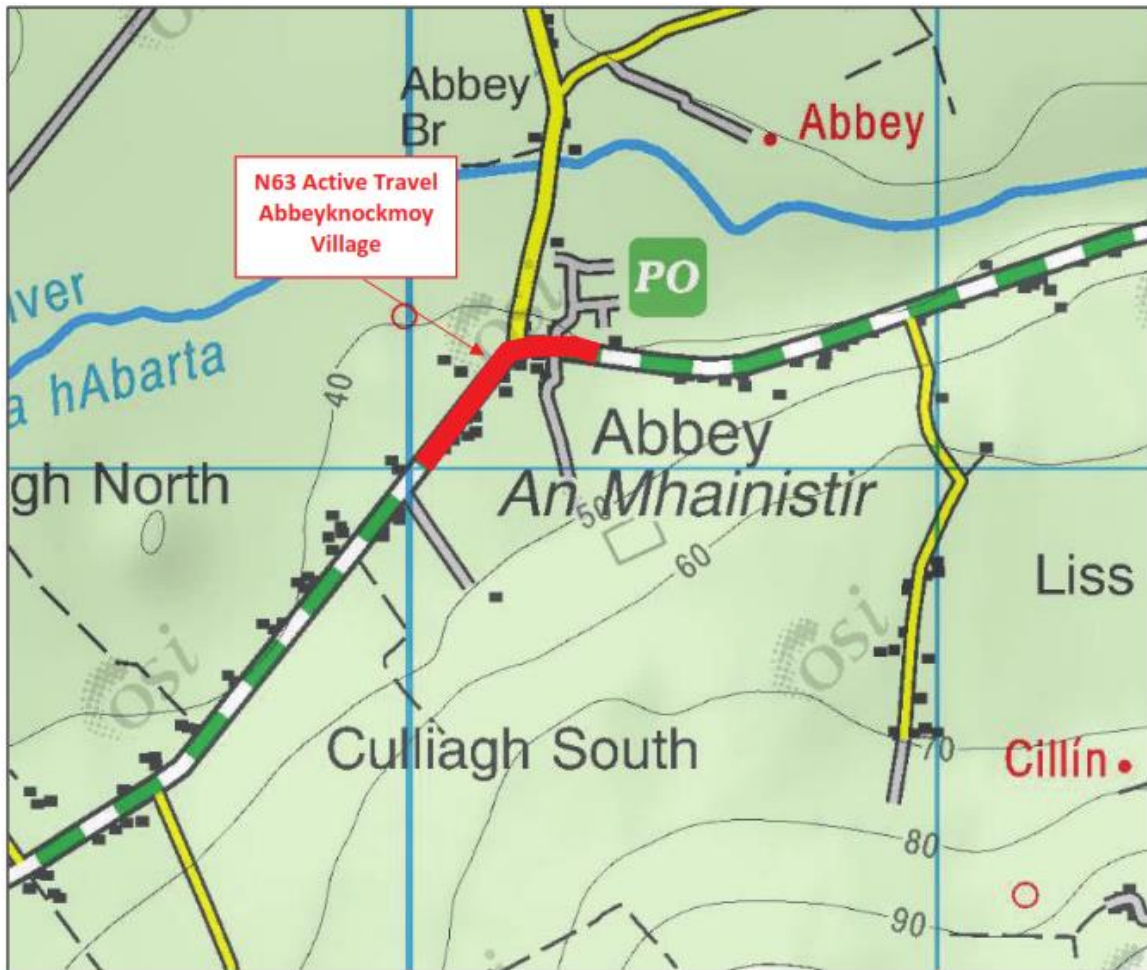
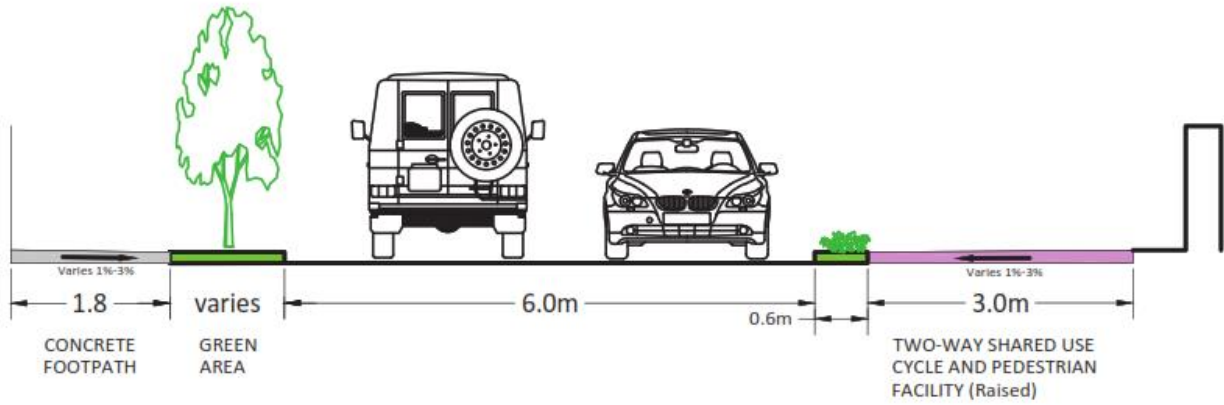
A Part 8 planning application for a proposed Active Travel scheme south of Ballinderreen Village including improved facilities for cyclists and pedestrians has been made and is open for submissions from the public.

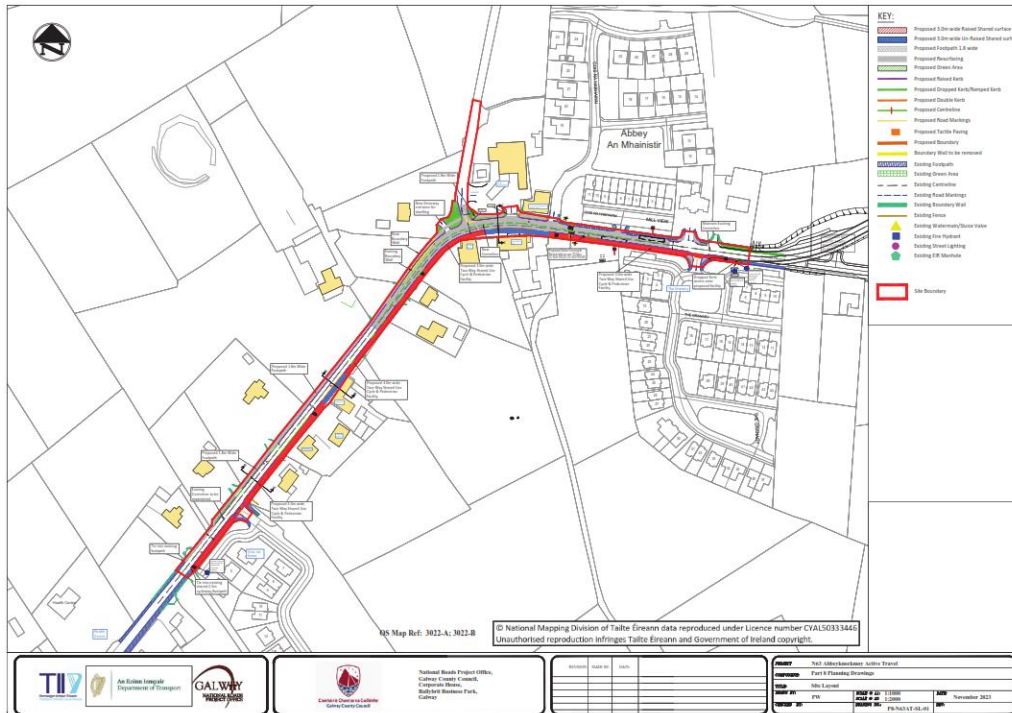




AT - N63 ABBEYKNOCKMOY VILLAGE

A Part 8 planning application for a proposed Active Travel scheme in Abbeyknockmoy Village including improved facilities for cyclists and pedestrians has been made and is open for submissions from the public.





GALWAY TO CURRAGHMORE

Scope and Pre-Appraisal Phase is concluding with the Project Outline Document being issued for approval. Following TII approval work on the Concept and Feasibility Phase will commence in January 2024 and will conclude in June 2024 with a draft Feasibility Report.

N83 CLAREGALWAY

The design of the pavement and traffic-calming works is currently ongoing along with the procurement of a contractor for the drainage works. The construction of the drainage attenuation pond will commence in Q1 2024, and the main construction contract will be tendered in Q2 2024 with the works to be completed Q4 2024.

N59 MAIGH CUILINN BYPASS

The N59 Maigh Cuilinn Bypass was officially opened by an Taoiseach Leo Varadkar on Monday 11 December 2023.

The completion of the bypass will ease the longstanding traffic congestion issues in Maigh Cuilinn and reduces travel times from Galway City to Clifden by 20 minutes during peak periods.

The bypass will significantly reduce traffic volumes, in particular heavy goods vehicles that pass through Maigh Cuilinn every day. It will bring many benefits to the local community, including reduced noise and air pollution and greater accessibility throughout the village to

enhance economic opportunities for local business. The scheme also ensures the West of Ireland, including Connemara in particular, becomes much more accessible and marketable as a tourism destination.







ACTIVE TRAVEL PROGRAMME - ACTIVE TRAVEL FOOTPATH AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS



gcsgreenschools • Following

gcsgreenschools Edited • 9h
 Thanks to @srts_ire and @galwaycountycouncil for attending a meeting in our school to make safe routes to school #saferoutestoschool #srts #galwaycountycouncil @greenschoolsire @antaisce

No comments yet.
 Start the conversation.

The Active Travel team at Galway County Council, now comprising four members including the newly joined Executive Engineer, Donna Gibbons, has been actively engaging with various schools as part of the Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

initiative. Paula Higgins and Sheelagh Murray from the team recently participated in a meeting at Gort Community School to discuss the school's Outline Delivery Plan, details of which are available on the school's Instagram page.

Further meetings have been conducted with other schools participating in the second round of the SRTS initiative, including Ballinderreen National School, St. Brendan's National School in Loughrea, and Scoil Sailearna in Indreabhán.

In terms of financial updates, the Active Travel team has recently submitted a claim exceeding €960k to the National Transport Authority (NTA). The cumulative claim for 2023 now amounts to €2,211,544.07.

TAKING IN CHARGE

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

TABLE A – TAKING IN CHARGE

Estates Taken in Charge	12
Estates pending Ratification of Minutes	2
Estates for consideration at next MD meeting	2
Bond Release (Estates not Taken in Charge)	2*
Total	18

* Bond monies to issue by end of December

In addition to the above, the following is position@ 31/12/2023:

Estates – advertised for Taking in Charge	1
Estates – Works Complete – Pending Uisce Éireann and/or GCC Water Services agreement	3
Estates – TIC Led Estates – Works in Hand A further 40 estates are at various stages of Taking in Charge process.	17
Estates – Developer led Estates – List of Remedials issued awaiting notification of completion	37

The taking in charge of an estate is a process and at times can be quite protracted. I wish to thank and acknowledge the Taking in Charge team for their work to date.

BRIDGE REHABILITATION WORKS PROGRAMME

There are two funding streams available to carry out works of repair and maintenance on bridges – the Bridge Rehabilitation Works Programme and the Discretionary Grant.

Galway County Council were allocated a total of €630,000 under the Bridge Rehabilitation Works scheme for 2023. The bridges identified and individual funding allocated are listed in the table below. Along with providing for rehabilitation works, the allocations are also used to fund design work which will facilitate a works request and allocation in subsequent years.

BRIDGE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME	
Location	Funding Allocated
GC/BR/23/001 L-6143 Mahanagh Bridge 1	€20,000
GC/BR/23/002 L-3117 Cormacuagh (Clogh)	€20,000
GC/BR/23/003 L-8229 Derrygarraiff	€20,000
GC/BR/23/004 L-85141 Derreen Bridge 4	€20,000
GC/BR/23/005 R-336 Waterfall Bridge	€20,000
GC/BR/23/006 L-87902 Mountain Park Bridge	€20,000
GC/BR/23/007 R-345 Cornamona Bridge	€20,000
GC/BR/23/009 L-12010 Formweel, Shannapheasteen	€100,000
GC/BR/23/010 R-348 Suck Bridge, Ballinasloe	€150,000
GC/BR/23/011 L-51374 Derrynavglau, Ballinafad	€140,000
GC/BR/23/012 L-50101 Tirneevin, Gort	€30,000
GC/BR/23/019 R-363 Ballinamore Bridge	€70,000

Some reallocation of funding was agreed with the Department of Transport during the year to mitigate delays to progress in particular locations owing to prolonged planning periods. Over the full year, rehabilitation works were completed at 6 no. bridges, designs at 7 no. bridges and revegetation was undertaken at 20 locations. The entire €630,000 allocation has been utilised.

There was also significant activity funded under the Discretionary Grant Programme. Galway County Council were in receipt of €395,000. This funded works at 12 no. bridges and emergency repairs at 9 other bridges.

The type and variety works undertaken across then two funding programmes include; full realignment where geometry is deficient and which might include new foundations/abutments, deck widening or replacement, parapet replacement or repair, repointing of masonry arch bridges, skirt repair or replacement to prevent or remediate scour erosion, installation of warning signage.

Application has been submitted to the Department of Transport for funding to the tune of €815,000 under the 2023 Bridge Rehabilitation Programme. The proposal covers a total of 14 different locations. The Discretionary Grant provision for 2024 will be similar to that in 2023 facilitating a matching work output.

Pictures below show the before and after condition at a variety of locations where bridge works were undertaken in 2023:

SUCK (WEST) BRIDGE, BALLINASLOE – NATIONAL MONUMENT





DERRYNAVGLAUN





TIRNEEVIN





CLOONMOYLAN





WATER SERVICES

CAPITAL PROGRAMME

ATHENRY WASTEWATER NETWORK

Coffey Construction commenced works in January 2023 and the contract is expected to be completed in Q3 2024. To date, approx. 80% of the network has been completed.

The works consist of:

- Approx. 3.9km of gravity sewer, which includes 3 no. railway crossings and 4 no. river crossings.
- Decommissioning of the existing Caheroyn PS.
- New pumping station at Pairc na hAbhainn.
- Approx. 460m of rising main.
- Project will facilitate decommissioning of 9 no. DPIs.

BALLYGAR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

New planning application to be submitted before year end. Land and wayleave acquisition is advanced and going through legal at present. Site investigation was carried out in 2017 and some additional investigation will be carried out by Irish Drilling and will be completed before the end of 2023. Project is likely to go to tender in Q1 2024, and depending on progress, may be bundled with Mountbellew WWTP. Construction is expected to commence in 2025.

MOUNTBELLEW WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

New planning application to be submitted before year end. Land and wayleave acquisition is complete and site investigation is complete. Project is likely to go to tender in Q1 2024, and depending on progress, may be bundled with Ballygar WWTP. Construction is expected to commence in 2025.

AN SPIDÉAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Wastewater Treatment Plant has been fully commissioned and results to date have shown that the plant is operating and providing an effluent well within its ELVs. An Spidéal is one of the 39 priority areas identified by the EPA where Uisce Éireann must progress new



treatment to prevent wastewater discharges negatively impacting bathing water quality. The plant is 1,000 P.E design capacity, providing secondary treatment via Rotating Biological Contactors (RBCs).

The 12- month contractor (Coffey) operate phase has commenced.

The official opening for the plant took place on Friday, 24th November 2023.

AN SPIDÉAL WWTP SITE OVERVIEW



OFFICIAL OPENING OF AN SPIDÉAL WWTP, 24TH NOVEMBER 2023

AHASCRAUGH WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Flows have been diverted to the new WWTP since 27th October. There are some remedial works to be carried out on the Primary and Final Settlement Tanks, and it is envisaged that this will be completed before Christmas. Process proving will be completed in January, 2024. In the meantime, the effluent quality will be monitored. The first test results received show that the plant is providing an effluent well within the required ELVs.

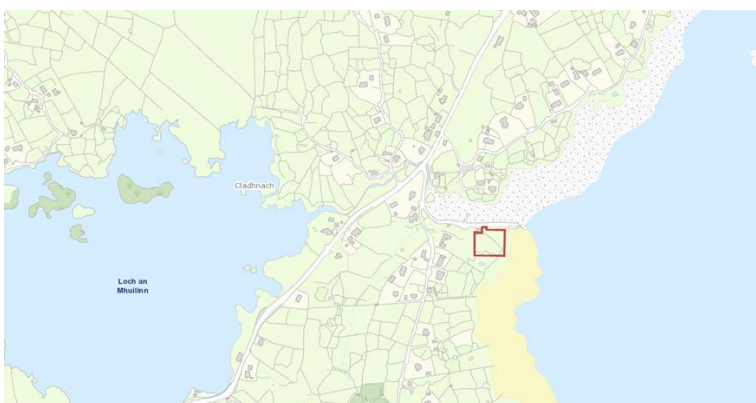
The new plant at Ahascragh is 470 P.E. capacity and provides secondary treatment via RBCs.

CLOCH NA RÓN (ROUNDSTONE) WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

The judicial review of the CPO for the preferred site is ongoing, and the hearing may progress early next year. In the meantime, Irish Drilling are due to commence site investigation on the foreshore for the terminal pumping station, (which will be required in any case), in early December.

AN CHEATHRÚ RUA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Similar to Cloch na Rón (Roundstone), the preferred site for An Cheathrú Rua WWTP has been tied up with judicial reviews. Uisce Éireann have made the decision to appoint a new consulting engineer to restart the project, including the preparation of a new site selection report. Tenders have been assessed and approved and the consulting engineers will be appointed before the end of the year.



Similar to Cloch na Rón (Roundstone), the preferred site for An Cheathrú Rua WWTP has been tied up with judicial reviews. Uisce Éireann have made the decision to appoint a new consulting engineer to restart the project, including the preparation of a new site selection report. Tenders have been assessed and approved and the consulting engineers will be appointed before the end of the year.

AN CHEATHRÚ RUA WWTP PREFERRED SITE

EYRECOURT

Budget approval has been granted to progress the planning and design of a new wastewater treatment plant at Eyrecourt. The options being progressed are for secondary treatment by either installing RBCs or an ICW. Both options will require a new greenfield site. The existing discharge (Eyrecourt Stream) is no longer viable, so it is proposed to pump the treated effluent via approx. 5.5km of rising main, to a new outfall on the River Shannon.

GREATER GALWAY STRATEGIC DRAINAGE STUDY

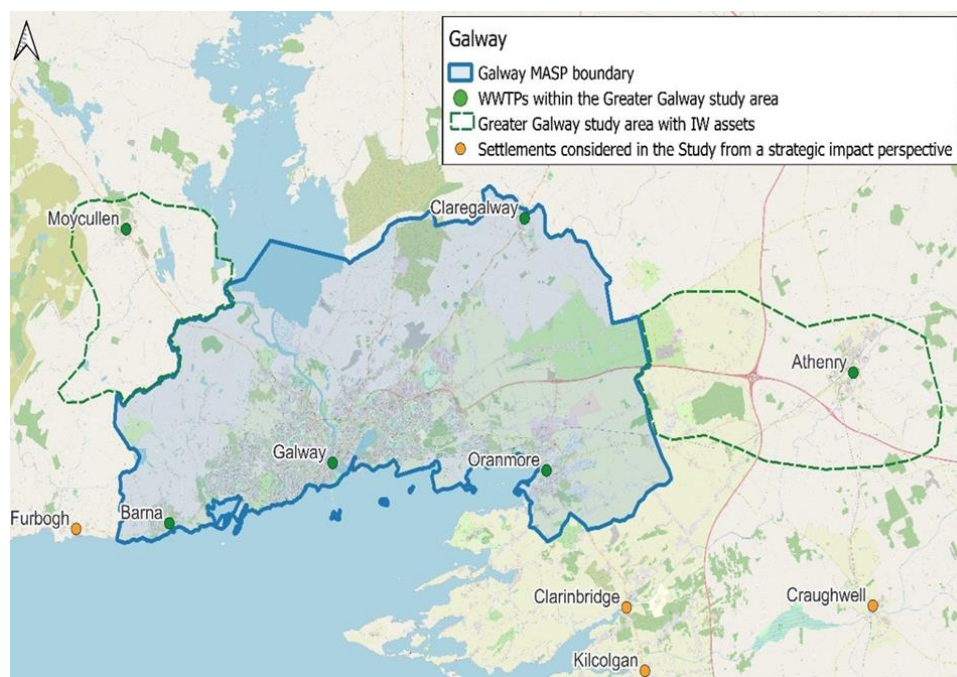
Ryan Hanley Stantec delivered an Inception Report for the project in July of this year. They are currently in the process of data gathering which will be followed by a gap analysis to identify what's needed to prepare the required existing infrastructure condition reports.

The study area covers the Galway MASP catchment, (which includes Claregalway), Maigh Cuilinn, and Athenry and the existing unsewered agglomerations of Na Forbacha, Craughwell, Clarinbridge and Kilcolgan. The existing infrastructure consists of 10 networks and 4 WWTPs with an estimated current capacity of 190,000 P.E.

The final Strategic Drainage Study Report will consist of the following deliverables:

- Communications Strategy & Plan
- Data Collection Review & Gap Analysis
- Population & Land Use Report
- Hydraulic & Marine Modelling Reports
- Optioneering Reports
- SEA Report

A programme of 24 months, (June 2025), has been specified for the Galway report.



GREATER
GALWAY
STRATEGIC
DRAINAGE
STUDY
CATCHMENT

MEASURE A8 APPROVAL UNDER THE MULTI-ANNUAL RURAL WATER PROGRAMME (INSTALLATION OF FOUL SEWER NETWORKS & WASTEWATER TREATMENT) UPDATE:

CRAUGHWELL & CLARINBRIDGE

The Council received notification today that our submission for Craughwell & Clarinbridge have been approved for funding.

The Rural Water Programme submitted two proposals for funding to install wastewater collection networks and either 2 wastewater Treatment Plants or rising main pumping to Galway City network via Oranmore.

Our preferred option was to install 2 networks in each village and pump sewage from Craughwell to Clarinbridge and onto Oranmore for forward pumping to Galway City at Wellpark.

Village	Length of Network (metres)	Rising Main (km)	Design pe	Current Populations	Capital Costs €M
Craughwell	3369	11	3900	769	€ 11.9M
Clarinbridge	2400	7.8	2000	384	€10.0M

It should be noted that the Council’s (Local) Contribution set out by the Department will be 15% as follows:

Village	Council (Local) Contribution €M
Craughwell	€ 1.785M
Clarinbridge	€ 1.5M

FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

OPERATIONS

The information below is based on November data from West Regional Control Centre (WRCC). Galway Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) had 153 turnouts to 127 Incidents. That is a decrease of 30 incidents on 157 the previous month. 49 were fire incidents, 72 were special service incidents (road traffic collision (RTC), Automatic Fire Alarms (AFA’s), flooding, storm damage, etc.) and 6 were standby in station. Of those incidents, 38.84% were attended by Fire Service resources within 10 minutes of alert, 41.32% were attended between 10 and 20 minutes and 19.83% were attended in over 20 minutes. The average turnout time for the Full-time station in Galway City was 2.49 minutes and for county retained stations was 5.40 minutes.

PREVENTION

The information in the following section is based of November stats. The fire Authority received 22 Fire Safety Certificate applications and issued decisions on 25 applications. 10 Disability Access Certificate applications were received, and decisions made on 5 applications. A total of 4 new licenses were issued and 35 inspections were conducted.

MAJOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The West Region Major Emergency Management Steering Group (WRMEMSG) met on the 11th December and the West Region Major Emergency Management Working Group (WRMEMWG) met on the 12th December. On the 28th November the Aer Arann and Island Response Plan were exercised by the Principal Response Agencies (PRA's) in Galway. The exercise scenario was an Aer Arann aircraft crash on Inis Mór and the setting up of the On-site Co-ordination Centre at Indreabhán Airport. 5 personnel from GCC participated in the exercise as well as Inis Mór and An Cheathrú Rua Fire Brigades. There is an Interagency motorway Road Traffic Collision (RTC) exercise planned for the 7th December. Galway County Council holds Major Emergency Committee meetings on a bi-monthly basis with one being held on the 14th December.

TRAINING

During the Month of November personnel from GFRS participated in the following training. 3 senior officers attended the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) run Senior Fire Officers Seminar. 1 retained Station Officer completed the NDFEM Effective Decision-Making course. 1 retained junior officer completed the NDFEM Fire Station Trainer Course. 12 retained recruit fire fighters attended the 2-week Using Breathing Apparatus Course in Bray, Co. Wicklow. 17 Retained and 11 full time fire fighters attended Breathing Apparatus refresher training in Bray. 2 retained fire fighters underwent Class C vehicle driver training. In total in November the fire service completed 189 man-days of training at an approximate cost of €142,400.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

ATHENRY FIRE STATION

Construction of the New Fire Station in Athenry is well underway with the project approximately 70% complete and the building is now fully enclosed.

LOUGHREA FIRE STATION

The proposal for the new fire station in Loughrea is currently going through the Part 8 Planning process.

GRANT AID FROM THE NDFEM

Over the course of 2023, the Fire Service applied to the NDFEM for Grant Aid to procure, replace or upgrade elements of equipment and vehicles that had either gone beyond serviceable life or was uneconomically viable to repair. In December the Fire Service processed and submitted claims to the NDFEM to the value of €612,975.00 which should be recouped before year end.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DIRECTORATE TEAM BUILDING DAY

The Economic Development and Planning Directorate Team Building Day took place on November 23rd in the Claregalway Hotel, facilitated by Director of Service Liam Hanrahan. The day included presentations from Forward Planning; Planning Enforcement; Town Regen; Heritage, Conservation & Biodiversity and the Local Enterprise Office. All staff within the Directorate attended and future sessions are planned on the Planning & Development Act, Municipal District led approach and professional and technical aspects of the work of the Directorate.



PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

A total of 239 Planning Enforcement complaints were received to date 4th December 2023. A total of 106 Warning Letters were served to the 4th December 2023 and 65 Enforcement Notices. A total of 165 files have been closed.

There are 1,244 files at various stages of investigation.

ACTIVE COMPLAINTS BY MD

Athenry/Oranmore	202
Ballinasloe	88
Connemara	483
Loughrea	247
Tuam	224

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

A total of 1,918 planning applications were received ytd 4th December 2023. The breakdown between e-files 75% and paper files 25%. Looking at trends for the past week the split between e-files 89% and paper files 11% showing a definite move towards e-planning.

SPC JOINT MEETING GALWAY COUNTY & CITY COUNCIL



A joint meeting of Galway City & County Councils SPC's was held in the Galway County Council Chamber on the 1st December 2023. This meeting was convened to discuss matters of

mutual interest to both Councils. Among the topics discussed were Galway Airport Masterplan, Galway Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (GMATS) & updates on the City and County Development Plans.

FORWARD PLANNING

LOUGHREA DRAFT LOCAL AREA PLAN 2024-2030

Public Consultation Drop-In Session took place on Tuesday 5th December 2023 from 2.30 - 7.30 pm in Loughrea Hotel & Spa.

There was a huge turn-out with over 200 persons in attendance.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE GALWAY

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

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

TRAINING COURSES & PROGRAMMES:

SHORT TRAINING COURSES

To assist the small business community in meeting the challenges of the business world, LEO Galway provides a wide range of high-quality training supports which are tailored to meet specific business requirements. Our Winter Schedule of Short Training Courses is now up and running.

WINTER & SPRING SCHEDULE

2nd December	Website & Online Marketing 1:1 workshops
2024 - January 20 th	Website & Online Marketing, 1:1 workshops

START YOUR OWN BUSINESS PROGRAMME (SYOB)

LEO Galway runs SYOB programmes monthly with up to 14 participants on each programme. Next upcoming programme will commence in January 2024.

LEAN LAUNCH

This programme commenced on November 14th in City Hall with 15 businesses participating.

GREEN FOR BUSINESS & ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANT

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

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

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION EVENING

Galway City Council are organising energy awareness evenings in Galway City. LEO Galway had a stand on 28th November and will be attending on 5th December and 12th December to give information regarding our Green for Business support.

The events are:

- Westside Community Centre, Tuesday 28th November, 18.30-20.30
- Knocknacarra Community Centre, Tuesday 5th December, 18.30-20.30
- Renmore Community Centre, Tuesday 12th December, 18.30-20.30

GALWAY EXECUTIVE SKILLSNET - BIG BANG EVENT

This free business event, organised by Galway Executive Skillsnet, is taking place on Dec 12th 8am – 12pm in the Galmont Hotel for business owners and leaders. Speakers will include:

- David Meade – Business, Mindset and Entertainment Speaker
- Susan Hayes Culleton – “The Positive Economist”

- Ellen Glynn – speaking of her harrowing experience stranded on a paddle board overnight on Galway Bay.
- Cillian McDaid – Bank Manager, All Star and Galway Footballer
- Jacinta Greene – Head of HR, Supermacs and one of the most experienced HR and L&D professionals in the West.

SHOWCASE 2024

Ireland is globally renowned for its craft and design and the Showcase trade fair is the international launchpad for so many Irish makers to achieve this recognition. With more than 380 exhibitors at the show across Fashion, Jewellery and Home & Gift, the three-day (21st – 23rd Jan) trade fair expects to welcome more than 4,000 registered trade buyers from Ireland and UK, Europe, Japan and the UAE. The Local Enterprise Network has 105 stands and LEO Galway has six clients taking part.

These include:

- Sketchico,
- Wild Atlantic Wicks
- Orla Culligan Ceramics
- Fiona Concannon Art
- Irish Socksociety
- Galway Fairytales

LEO Galway is working with these clients in advance to ensure the clients are fully prepared in terms of visual merchandising, pricing, and supply chain logistics to maximise this opportunity with international buyers.

PAST EVENTS

Enterprise Nation – show me the money event

This in-person enterprise event was organised by Enterprise Nation and held in University of Galway on November 23rd. A free event for businesses to gain tips on how to access finance, connect with funders, learn from panel discussions, and key speakers. LEO Galway attended and had a stand at the event providing information to attendees on LEO financial supports.



LEO GALWAY TEAM.

SALES AND EXPORT ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME

LEO Galway commenced the accelerator programme in conjunction with LEO Mayo and LEO Roscommon. The programme assists business owners to identify, target and convert new sales opportunities for their business. An information session was held on Friday the 17th November at 10am in the Clayton Hotel, where business owners will hear about the programme content, delivery and expected outputs/results. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions to the programme facilitator and LEO Galway at this information session.

There are 2 distinct strands to the Programme, namely:

- Strand A - focuses on helping businesses to grow new business in the Irish market.
- Strand B - focuses on helping businesses to grow new business in EITHER the UK market or mainland Europe.

PORTERSHED – BUSINESS ADVISORY CLINIC

LEO Galway organised 1:1 meetings with clients from the Portershed on Nov 7th to discuss the LEO supports available to small businesses.

LOCAL FOOD AND CRAFT GIFT FAIR



PICTURED L-R: CAROL KELLY, CAROL KELLY ARTWORK; GRAINNE MULLINS, GRA CHOCOLATES AND EOIN CONNAIRE, LEO GALWAY.

The Local Food & Craft Gift Fair 2023 took place on Sat 2nd December and Sunday 3rd December at the Blackbox Theatre, Dyke Road, Galway. The annual Fair had 58 stands this year and showcased the best of Galway's artists, designers, crafters, and artisan food and drink producers. The Fair is always a great opportunity for Galway shoppers to find gifts before Christmas and to support the small businesses in Galway by shopping local and spending local.

SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

- Facebook reach November: 15,022
- Instagram reach November: 1,760
- X reach November: 9,000
- EUR25 in paid adverts garnered: in reach: 6,559 and impressions: 14,456

REGENERATION SCHEMES

ATHENRY

The Cross Street and Market Square enhancement design package which is being incorporated into the wider public realm is now open for submissions as part of the Part8 process and will remain open until January 12, 2024. This will form part of Phase 1 of the Athenry Public Realm Enhancement Scheme which will form part of a CAT 1 application to be submitted prior to the 8th of February 2024

The Town Regeneration officer is preparing a Tender for consultant services to deliver County Galway's second Town Centre First Plan for Athenry. The tender should be published in early 2024, with the establishment of a formal Town Team in accordance with the Town Centre First policy, commencing in the new year to help support delivery of the plan and the projects/proposals which emerge from the consultation process.

LOUGHREA TOWN HALL

Construction Tender Documents are finalised for the Town Hall. These are due to be published on the etender platform with appointment of contractors expected Q1 2024 and with a view to construction commencing on site in Q2 2024. Representations are being made to the Department to ensure that approval to proceed with the Tender process is secured.

CLIFDEN

The Design team are continuing to finalise the planning application with expected submission to An Bord Pleanála before the end of the year. Permissions from affected property owners are to be pursued as part of the Planning process.

Consideration is being given to dealing with some properties in the town that are vacant with a view to having them brought back into proper use.

Works on Destination Towns initiatives have advanced through the Procurement process and Contractors O Malley Tarmacadam have been appointed to the Greenway Readiness works at the Ardbear Bridge and NUARK are to carry out improvement Works at the Pavillion at the Coach Station.

PORTUMNA COURTHOUSE

Letter of intent to issue to the preferred Tender for the Construction Works as part of the next steps in the procurement process. Contractor anticipated to be on site early in 2024.

PORTUMNA

The Regeneration Team alongside Coillte held a public engagement evening in the Irish



Workhouse Centre on Tuesday, October 24th, the evening was very well attended by the local community and the overall response to GCC's proposals for the public realm were very positive. The public consultation closed on the 21st of November, with 10 formal submissions received. The project is now at detailed design stage with the proposals due to be lodged for Part VIII planning in Q1 of 2024.



MEMBERS OF THE PORTUMNA STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP MET WITH THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The acquisition of the Abbey Street property is going through the final stage of the Conveyance process and the future plans for this site are being advanced.

The Streetscape Enhancement Scheme is approaching completion.

GORT

The Town Regeneration Officer (TRO) has been working closely with the Gort Town Team finalising the content of the pilot Town Centre First (TCF) plan for Gort. The plan is now completed with a formal launch of the final plan on Thursday 14th December, 13.30-15.30 in the Gort Town Hall for the local community to attend. The plan has outlined 12 key themes, each theme having approximately 2 projects identified as short-, medium- or long-term proposals. The TRO has assisted in preparing the first funding application since the completion of the TCF plan, which is a TVRS application for streetscape enhancement for Gort, with an expected announcement of funding awards in March 2024.

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

TUAM

The Regeneration team is preparing for the funding call for a Category 1 application under the RRDF. A call for applications was announced on 10th November, with a closing date for Cat1 applications of the 8th February 2024. The team are working towards resubmitting an application for the Tuam Town Hall which already has part VIII planning in place. The team has prepared a Part VIII planning application for the redevelopment of the Shambles to a covered outdoor space to allow a local market and civic amenity space for outdoor events. The application was lodged Friday 8th December.



THE PROPOSED
COVERED OUTDOOR
MARKET AND EVENT
SPACE FOR THE
SHAMBLES, TUAM



ARTIST'S IMPRESSION
OF THE PROPOSED
CANOPY FOR THE
COVERED OUTDOOR
SPACE AT THE
SHAMBLES

URDF

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

HERITAGE OFFICE

PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL TIDY TOWN'S HERITAGE AWARD TO WILLIAMSTOWN HERITAGE GROUP AND WILLIAMSTOWN TIDY TOWNS



The presentation of the National Tidy Town Heritage Award was presented to Williamstown Heritage Group and Williamstown Tidy Towns on Sunday 26th November at Templetogether Mill, Williamstown.

For an outstanding 20 years, Williamstown Heritage Group and Williamstown Tidy Towns have been at the forefront of preserving, conserving, and enhancing Williamstown's rich heritage. Their commitment to fundraising, conducting detailed specialist studies, and developing and conserving iconic landmarks such as the Templetogether Mill and the Mills House, as well as creating a wildlife and biodiversity friendly garden is truly commendable. These historical structures and biodiversity garden hold deep significance in the community and give a great sense of pride and identity to the area.

The transformation of the disused Templetogether Mill into a focal point for the local community is particularly remarkable. It not only enhances the aesthetics of the area but also serves as a reminder of our industrial heritage, providing a link between the past and present. The Heritage Group's efforts in creating a biodiversity garden further contribute to the preservation of our natural environment, promoting sustainability, and supporting local ecosystems.



It is important to acknowledge the significant role the local community has played in supporting Williamstown Heritage Group and Williamstown Tidy Towns throughout these endeavours. Their collective effort and unwavering support have been vital in bringing these projects to fruition. Moreover, the funding and support received from various agencies such as Galway County Council, The Heritage Council and Galway Rural Development has been instrumental in aiding the Group's accomplishments.



National Heritage Award presented at Templetogether

CITED for a National Heritage Award in this year's SuperValu Tidy Towns competition, the Development of Templetogether Area committee received their prestigious accolade at a special function at Templetogether on Sunday.

The joint presentation of the Award was carried out by Cllr Liam Carroll (Cathaoirleach Galway Council), Cllr Declan Geraghty (Cathaoirleach Ballinasloe Municipal District) and Lorcán Scott (Wildlife Officer, the Heritage Council).

In response to the presentation, Chairman of Williamstown Tidy Town Noel

Finnegan and MC Leo Finnegan, representing Williamstown Heritage Society, also addressed the gathering.

In addition to those mentioned above, others who spoke were Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer Galway County Council, Michael Fitzmaurice, T.D., Senators Aisling Dolan and Eugene Murphy, and Councillors Evelyn Parsons, Leas-Cathaoirleach Galway County Council, and Cllrs Peter Keaveney, and Michael Connolly.

A large crowd was also in attendance on the day. **For more, see Local Notes.**



VISITING Blacksmith Ben Burke, Foxford, with Templetogether stalwart Lal Finnegan at the awards.

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AT CHAMBERS IRELAND EXCELLENCE IN LOCAL AUTHORITIES AWARDS CROWNE PLAZA DUBLIN AIRPORT.



LEFT TO RIGHT:
KENNY DEERING,
GALWAY CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE,
CLLR LIAM CARROLL,
CATHAOIRLEACH OF
THE COUNTY OF
GALWAY, BARRY
DOYLE, GIS LEAD,
MARIE MANNION,
HERITAGE OFFICER,
BRÍDÍN FEENEY, GIS
SUPPORT & DAVID
NOLAN,
CONSULTANT.

The Digital Mapping of Galway Graveyards Project was shortlisted for Best in Heritage & Built Environment, national recognition for excellence in providing our communities with technology and skills in recording their heritage.

ST KERRILL'S ABBEY, CLOONKEENKERRILL COMMUNITY MONUMENT FUND PROJECT



Gurteen Community Council were successful in their application for Community Monuments Funding 2023. Following on from the preparation of a conservation management plan 2021, and an initial phase of capital works in 2022, The community were delighted to see works progress further in stabilising the structure that has been iconic in this rural landscape of East Galway.

FRANCISCAN THIRD ORDER

The ruined church was a friary founded in 1435 for the Franciscan Third Order by the O’Kelly and Mulkerrill families, who had long associations with the site. It is named after St. Kerrill, a fifth century missionary and follower of St Patrick who is thought to have been born in the area. By the medieval period, it is likely to have been the site of a stone parish church. Today, its immediate setting is much like shown on the nineteenth century maps, albeit there have been two phases of graveyard extension and several new dwellings constructed.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

In 2021, through Community Monuments Funding, a conservation and management plan for the ecclesiastical site was commissioned by the Gurteen Community Council, in which the multidisciplinary team identified the priority works to conserve the church ruins.

CONSERVATION WORKS



Repairs were carried out using lime mortars and specialist masonry repair techniques by Galway Stone Design. Stones left in the adjacent field following the collapse of the east gable almost forty years ago were catalogued and set aside or re-used where possible. The

finely carved stone windows to the west and south of the church were cleared of ivy and infill stone, stabilised, and repaired. Works were carried out under Ministerial Consent under the management of 7 Architects, monitored by Project Archaeologist Dominic Delany and specialist contractors Galway Stone Design.

3D PHOTOGRAMMETRY

Photogrammetry was carried out by Gary Dempsey, Digital Heritage Age. Here you can study the window in detail. This was recorded prior to reconstruction works.

The Community Monuments Fund is administered through the Heritage Office of Galway County Council on behalf of the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local

Government and Heritage. Galway Community Archaeology Project is funded by Galway County Council & The Heritage Council.

For more information please see:

<https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/new-contributions/st-kerrills-abbey-cloonkeenkerrill-2?fbclid=IwAR2zCR7PnpRBo4ye6jcKOhTkGsyrMlIlyimIKAiMlVDJiIMBLwgQk4Pfpjo>

NOVEMBER 2023 GALWAY HERITAGE OFFICE FACEBOOK PAGE

Audience ⓘ

See audience report

Facebook Page likes ⓘ
2,313

Facebook followers ⓘ
3,006

New Facebook Page likes ⓘ

5 ↑ 66.7%

Image	Text	Buttons	Type	Date	Reactions	Comments
	Galway County Heritage Office	Boost post	Post	Mon Nov 27, 9:36am	789	22
	Galway County Heritage Office	Boost unavailable	Post	Fri Nov 24, 3:07pm	299	5
	Galway County Heritage Office	Boost post	Post	Fri Nov 24, 1:40pm	1.7K	62
	Galway County Heritage Office	Boost post	Post	Thu Nov 23, 4:37pm	2.3K	24

TOP POST FOR NOVEMBER

Galway County Heritage Office
Published by Bernie Doherty · November 24 at 1:40 PM · 🌐

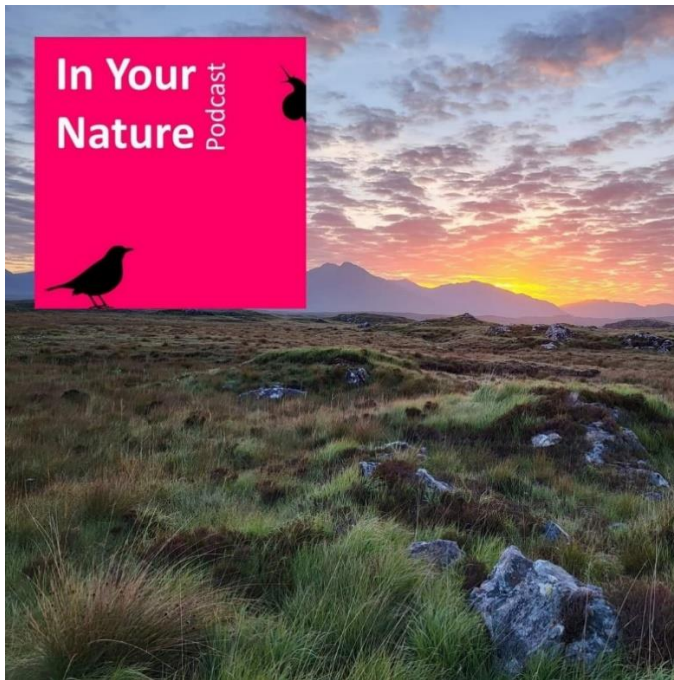
Galway County Council at #ChambersIreland Excellence in Local Authorities Awards Crowne Plaza Dublin Airport. Digital Mapping of Galway Graveyards was shortlisted for Best in Heritage & Built Environment, national recognition for excellence in providing our communities with technology and skills in recording their heritage. Galway Bay Fm News Connemara Community Radio Loughrea Community Radio 102.9fm Kinvara Community Radio Connacht Tribune - Galway City Tribune The Tuam He... See more

Post Insights ⓘ

Total Insights
See more details about your post. >

Post Impressions ⓘ	Post reach ⓘ	Engagement ⓘ
1,811	1,691	198

IN YOUR NATURE PODCAST – CONNEMARA EPISODE



The work and outputs of Galway County Council’s Connemara Bogs Study as part of the Local Biodiversity Action Fund 2023 & 2023 was featured in a full feature episode of In You Nature Podcast. This podcast is one of the most popular Nature/Environmental podcasts in Ireland and is hosted by Niall Hatch of BirdWatch Ireland and Ricky Whelan Biodiversity Officer with Offaly County Council. This episode featured John Lusby discussing the wonderful birdlife found in the bogs of Connemara and focusing particularly on the Golden Plover and Kestrel.



UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY MSc FIELD TRIP AND WORKSHOP

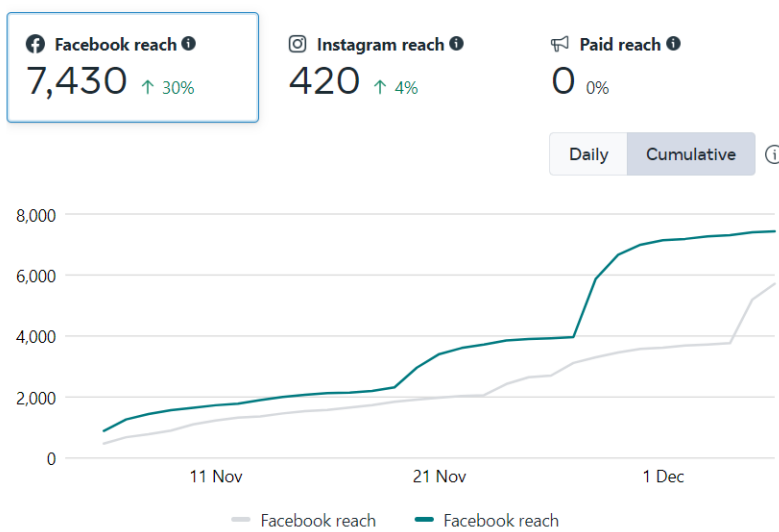
The Biodiversity Officer lead a fieldtrip and workshop with MSc students from the Applied Ecology Unit of University of Galway on the 21st November. The workshop looked at the

management of Invasive Alien Species in ecologically sensitive areas as well as the role of the local authority in the management, protection, and restoration of biodiversity.

FUNDING

This past month has seen the returns submitted for two funding streams, the Local Biodiversity Action Fund, awarded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Heritage Stewardship Fund, awarded by the Heritage Council. This has provided support for 13 different biodiversity projects around the county with a total spend approaching €150,000.

SOCIAL MEDIA



There has been an increase in engagement and reach in both the Facebook and Instagram accounts for the Galway County Biodiversity Office pages in the past month. The Facebook page has had an increase of 15 new likes and 35 new followers and 48 new followers on Instagram.

Discovery

🌐 Post reach	6,905
👥 Post engagement	1,732
👍 New Page likes	15
👤 New Page followers	35

CLIMATE ACTION UNIT

The Draft Local Authority Climate Action Plan was published on the 10th of November. The public are invited to submit observations and recommendations via our consultation portal <https://www.galway.ie/ClimateAction> or in writing until the 11th of December. Galway



County Council will be opening the Community Climate Action Fund in December. The following public information events and interviews were held to support consultation on the draft Climate Action Plan and provide information on the upcoming Community Climate Action Fund:

Ballinasloe Library, Tuesday November 14th

Clifden Library, Thursday November 16th

Tuam Library, Saturday November 18th

Loughrea Library, Wednesday November 22nd

PPN Plenary, Claregalway, Tuesday November 28th

Comhairle na nOg, Salthill, Thursday November 28th

“Kinvara Reporting” on Kinvara Radio, Saturday 25th

<https://www.mixcloud.com/seamusgallagher/interview-denise-feeney-re-galway-co-co-climate-action-fund-on-kinvarafm-on-sat-25th-nov-2023/>



The Community Climate Action Fund will be launched on the 6th of December. Further public information events will take place in December and January to support local communities to make applications:

- An Cromptán, An Cheathrú Rua, GFI Launch, Thursday December 7th, 14:00 – 16:00
- Online Climate Action Fund Webinar, December 11th, 19.00-20.30
- Claregalway Hotel, January 13th, 2024, 1 day workshop on the Climate Action Fund Themes with Aoife Munn, Environment Consultant and Horticulturist.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

SCHOOL VISITS

ST. JARLATH'S COLLEGE, TUAM



As part of Geography Week 2023 in the school, The Environmental Awareness Officer gave a presentation to 3rd years in St. Jarlath's College, Tuam on the the issues of climate change and sustainability.

BRIERFIELD NATIONAL SCHOOL

The Environmental Awareness Officer gave a presentation to the Green Schools Committee and the Green Schools Co-Ordinator on the theme of water conservation and water protection as they progress their Green Flag Programme.



VISIT TO SHABRA PLASTICS, CO. MONAGHAN



The Environmental Awareness Officer visited Shabra Plastic in Co. Monaghan with colleagues from across the Connacht Ulster Waste Region. Shabra Plastics takes HDPE and PET bottles from our waste recycling bins and converts them into waste collection bags, food trays and plastic pellets for resale.

Check out <https://youtu.be/iGdAiBfOBlg> to find out how this is done and why it is so important to segregate our waste properly at home and in work. These are Irish products made from Irish waste plastic.

GALWAY COUNTY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK PLENARY



The Environmental Awareness Officer attended the Galway County PPN Plenary in November. He managed the information stand on waste management, and food waste management. The Community Climate Action Officer and Climate Action Coordinator were also in attendance to provide information on the draft Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 and the upcoming Community Climate Action Fund.

SOCIAL MEDIA

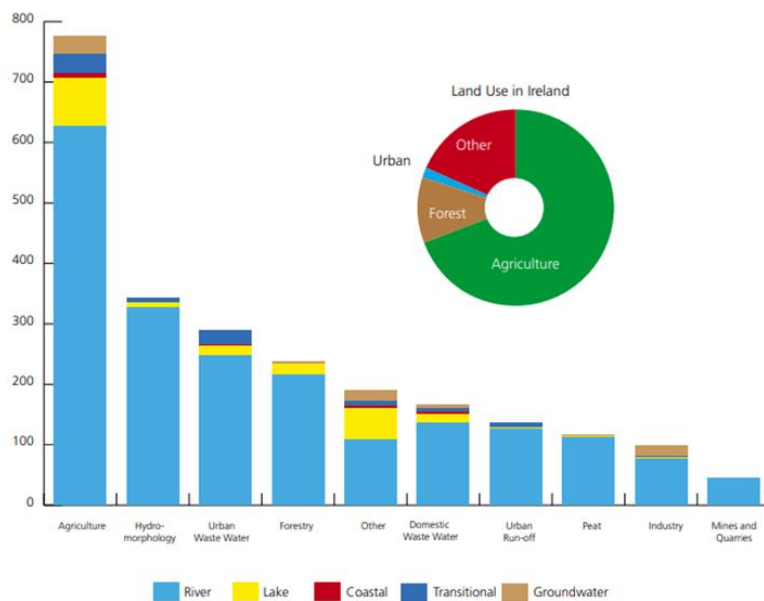




Social media campaigns for Electrical goods and Deposit /Return scheme.

CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL INSPECTIONS PROGRAMME



A training day for local authority staff undertaking inspections under the National Agricultural Inspections Programme was held in the Teagasc Gurteen College in Roscrea on the 2nd of November. Three technical staff from the water quality team attended. Areas covered included desk-based preparation of inspections, discussion on elements for free draining soils, inspection of dairy facilities and inspections of

farms on poorly draining soils.

BLUE FLAG AND GREEN COAST BEACHES

Applications for 6 Blue Flag and 6 Green Coast beaches were submitted to An Taisce in November. Updated beach management plans were included for each Green Coast beach by Clean-Coast groups as part of the applications. Also included in the applications for the Blue Flag and Green Coast Beaches were water quality results for 2023, updated posters and

waste management plans. As part of the overall submission, proposed educational activities for 2024 were outlined.



AN TRA MOR BEACH POSTER



BATHING PLACE, PORTUMNA

DRINKING WATER

On the 24th of November the Boil Water Notice that had been in place on the Kinvara Public Water Supply since the 9th of October was lifted. This also includes Corranroo Group Water Scheme.

SEPTIC TANK AND AGRICULTURAL INSPECTIONS

Approximately 35 Septic tank inspections under the National Inspection Plan were carried out during the month in the Clarinbridge area. Inspections were focused on areas with a higher risk to the environment and human health. These are risk zones 1 and 2 under the programme. This catchment is an area for action in the river basin management plan and drains to an important designated Shellfish area.

Agricultural inspections were carried out in Tuam, Williamstown and Moylough areas with a view to closing out complaints received in relation to farming activity. Some non-compliances with the Good Agricultural Practice Regulations were identified and these will be followed up with the necessary enforcement.



Example of non-compliance with Good Agriculture Practice Regulations: uncontrolled effluent flowing out into waterlogged field

WASTE MANAGEMENT ENFORCEMENT

Notices and directions were issued by the Environment staff during November relating to various waste offences and issues.

Retailers were inspected for their obligations under the EU Packaging Regs 2014. All 'major producers' are now required to become a member of Repak.

The planned environmental monitoring inspections are on target to be completed by the end of the year.

MULTI AGENCY WASTE ENFORCEMENT CHECKPOINTS



Checkpoints were carried out with members of the Connaught Ulster Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority and the Gardaí. These checkpoints were carried out in Maigh Cuilinn and Na Forbacha. Maigh Cuilinn was selected as we are aware there is a lot of unauthorised disposals of construction and waste in the area. The site in Na Forbacha was selected as it is a highly visible location.

Nothing illegal was detected during these checkpoints but we were able to check a number of authorised waste collectors for compliance with the conditions of their waste collection permits.

In our experience these checkpoints are valuable even if there are no detections of illegal activity. It increases awareness amongst hauliers that we are actively checking for compliance with waste collection permits.



AIR POLLUTION

SOLID FUEL REGULATIONS

The Solid Fuel project progressed in November where 10 coal samples were purchased from various locations around the county. The samples have been sent to Arigna Fuels and are currently being tested for compliance with the Air Pollution Act 1987 (Solid Fuels)

Regulations 2022. Any non-compliant samples will have a B sample of the same product sent to the UK for further testing prior to any enforcement action.

TRAINING

NEMIS Working Group (National Environmental Data Management Information System)

One member of staff attended an in-person meeting with the NEMIS working group to discuss phase 2 of the project. This working group is made up of staff from the LGMA, the software developers working on the project and other members of the local authorities. Phase 2 of the project involves the roll out of a complaints / inspection recording system and a mobile application.

The aim of the project is to ensure that all environmental inspections carried out by LA staff are recorded in the NEMIS system. This will thus remove the need to compile monthly and annual returns.

Later in the month members of the development team visited our offices in CenterPoint and met with members of the technical and administrative team that are responsible for dealing with complaint management and inspections / reporting within the Environment Section.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

ATHENRY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

ROADS PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT – DEC 2023

1. **Restoration Improvement – Contractor on Site**
 - a. Roanmore – Contractor Delay
 - b. Annagh Hill - Contractor Delay
 - c. Gorteen - Complete
 - d. Kiltullagh - Complete
 - e. Castlelambert - Complete
 - f. Cloonboo - Complete
 - g. Lydican - Complete
 - h. Garraun/Ardaun – Complete
 - i. Baunmore – Complete
 - j. Cullairbaun – Complete
 - k. Monivea – Planned
2. **Restoration Maintenance/Improvement**
 - a. **Surface dressing** - Complete
 - 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 - Complete
- ix. Maonbaun - Complete
- x. Annaghdown - Complete
- xi. Killoughter - Complete
- xii. Tiaquin demesne – Complete
- xiii. Ballinloughaun - 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 Complete

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

3. Safety Improvement Works

- | | |
|--|--|
| a. Derrydonnell Beg Junction design report | Preliminary Design Review complete
Road safety audit planned. |
| b. Moyveela (Mother Hubbards) | Works complete. |
| c. Oranbeg (Furey’s Cross) audit planned. | Preliminary Design Phase Road safety |
| d. Cregmore Bridge | Lights switched on – Working well |

4. Climate Change

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

5. Community Involvement Scheme

- a. CIS.86.21 L-31165 Curry Gurteen

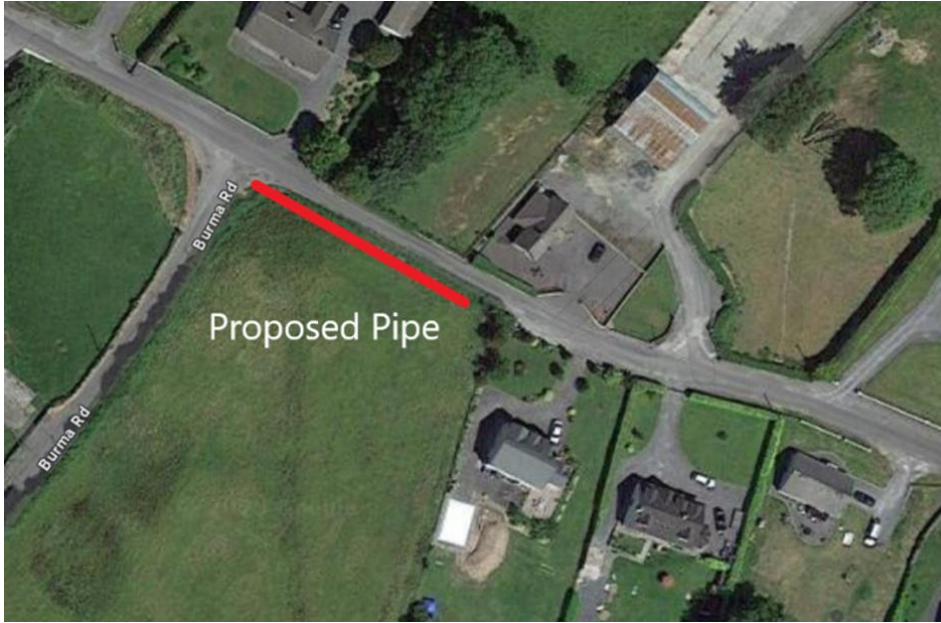
- b. CIS.69.21 L-3112 Montpellier Athenry - Complete
- c. CIS.73.21 L-2119 Baunmore/ Gardenham – Issue with Landowner consent no Funds
- d. CIS.59.21 L-4101 Maree Road Oranmore – Wall rebuilt footpath ongoing
- e. CIS.32.21 L-7119 Mirah Turloughmore – planned for this month – flooding issues.
- f. CIS.29.21 L-6202-1 Rooanmore planned.

6. Local Improvement Schemes

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

7. Other Items

- | | |
|--|---|
| a. Belville Road realignment
Landowner convey. | Issues resolving agreement
Meeting with all landowners to
Option 2 alignment |
| b. Hydrological study Clarin River
Tender | Funding Approved by OPW –
Documents being produced. |
| c. Lavally Drainage District
works | AA screening complete – Some
complete tree removal planned |
| d. Dual carriageway Oranmore
planned | Re-Tendered as works started
finish 21 st November. |
| e. Coolarne Road Flooding Issue
completed | Drone survey completed; CCTV
– Planning available options. |
| f. Pedestrian Crossing Lidl Oranmore
Design, Road cross | Cycling options included in
safety audit planned – updated
section issued to NTA. |
| g. Pedestrian Crossing Maree rd. | Contractor Started work. |
| h. Caheroyn Avenue Footpaths | Footpath Bay repairs Ongoing |
| i. Oakfield and Ashbrook footpaths | Footpath Bay repairs Complete |
| j. Storm Debi Clean-up
knocked across
flooded. | Ongoing numerous trees
roads Walls damaged houses |



MIRAH FLOOD
RELIEF -
ONGOING



ATHENRY
NETWORK
UPGRADE
ONGOING



R446 DUAL
CARRIAGEWAY
WORKS -
COMPLETE



R446 DUAL
CARRIAGEWAY
WORKS -
COMPLETE



ORANMORE
BOYS SCHOOL
- COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT
SCHEME



ORANMORE
BOYS SCHOOL
- COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT
SCHEME



CREGMORE BRIDGE
LIGHTS



AUCLOGEEN – CIS



GORTEEN CIS



COAST ROAD CLEAN UP



STORM DEBI TREE
REMOVAL

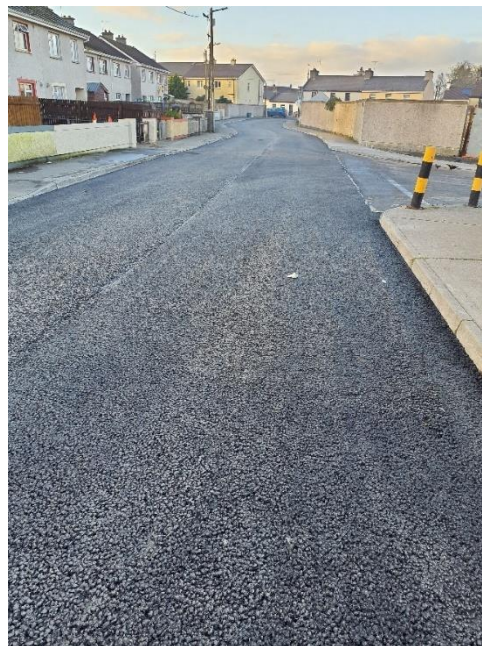
BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

Ballinasloe MD operational staff attended to several issues throughout the MD in response to the aftermath of Storm Debi which occurred on the 13th and 14th November. Approximately 100 tree related issues were reported which were causing full and partial road blockages. These were dealt with where possible, and where required, MD staff worked in conjunction with both the ESB and Eir, where overhead lines were impacted by the storm. There were no significant flooding issues experienced in the MD during the storm.



The 2023 roadworks programme for Ballinasloe is nearing completion. Works have recently been completed in November in Ballinasloe town at Garbally Drive and at St. Annes Park.

GARBALLY DRIVE, BALLINASLOE



ST ANNES PARK,
ALLINASLOE,
BEFORE &
AFTER

Beechlawn Footpaths Phase 2 Active Travel Programme project is ongoing in Ballinasloe and is expected to be completed by the end of 2023. It is also expected that funding will be granted by the NTA for a continuation of these footpaths onto Beechlawn Phase 3, in 2024.



BEECHLAWN FOOTPATHS
PHASE 2 ACTIVE TRAVEL
PROGRAMME PROJECT

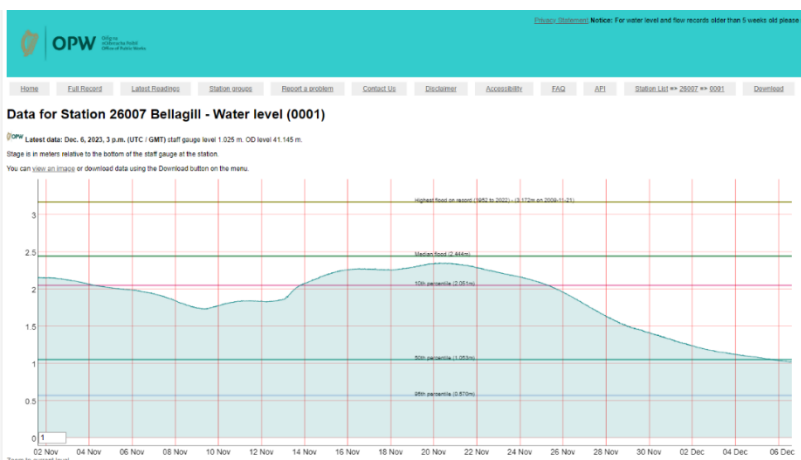


BEECHLAWN FOOTPATHS PHASE 2
ACTIVE TRAVEL PROGRAMME
PROJECT

Ballinasloe MD staff have undertaken preparatory work and are continually monitoring river water levels in advance of the peak flood season. This work involves regular checks on the OPW website www.waterlevel.ie, and visual inspections at specific locations such as at the East Bridge over the River Suck in Ballinasloe. Flood defence equipment, both fixed and portable, including flood gates, pumps and the Aquadam, have been inspected, serviced, and made available for rapid deployment if required.



EAST BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER SUCK IN BALLINASLOE



OPW WEBSITE
WWW.WATERLEVEL.IE



BALLINASLOE FLOOD DEFENCE AQUADAM TESTING

Works are ongoing and progressing well at the 92-unit Modular Housing site at Pollboy, Ballinasloe. Staff from Ballinasloe MD are liaising with the contractors, and assisting where required, in terms of surface water management, and queries from members of the public.



Ballinasloe MD staff are currently working with the event organisers of the inaugural Connacht Cyclocross Championships, to be held at the Fair Green, Ballinasloe on the 17th of December 2023.

Entry is free for kids races u6, u8, u10, and while it is regarded as the Connacht Championships, riders are welcomed from all 4 Provinces to take part. Further information is available on:

<https://www.facebook.com/ballinasloecyclingclub/>

INAUGURAL CONNACHT CYCLOCROSS CHAMPIONSHIPS, FAIR GREEN, BALLINASLOE.

CONAMARA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE



MIONOIBREACHA CAIPITIL AR NA HOILEÁIN 2023 WORK COMPLETED. TEILEASCÓIP INIS MEÁIN



BUS SHELTER IN CASLA, UNDER
CONSTRUCTION



NEW HANDRAILS, CÉIBH
INBHEAR, ROS MUC



SIGNAGE RECENTLY INSTALLED IN DÚICHE SHEOIGHEACH WHICH COVERS: AN MÁM, CORR NA MÓNA, AN FHAIRCHE AGUS AN CHLOCH BHEAC.

- 4No. **An Ghaeltacht Dúiche Sheoigheach**
- 4No. brown signs with:

Beatha teanga í a labhairt

Gaeilge agus Fáilte

Labhair Gaeilge Linn

Labhair í agus mairfidh sí

LOUGHREA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

2023 ROADS PROGRAMME STATUS:

- The 2023 Roads Programme is now complete. Additional road projects, as advised to Elected Members, are on-going and will be completed as resources allow.

SIGNIFICANT ROAD PROJECTS COMPLETED:

- Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) – Conicar/Garrynaglogh, Abbey – Sightline Improvement and Road Widening
- Drainage works under the Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Scheme at Ballydoogan.
- Road resurfacing of Queen St., Gort.
- Localised road repairs to sections of the L-8250 and L-8249 at Castleboy.

- Road resurfacing on the L-45201 at the New Estate, Ardrahan Village.

LOUGHREA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OPERATIONAL RESPONSE IN THE AFTERMATH OF STORM DEBI:

- Construction of a new access road serving several properties in Ardfry, Maree following the collapse of a section of the existing access road during Storm Debi.
- Recovery assistance in the aftermath of Storm Debi at multiple locations involving the removal of debris, stone walls, fallen trees etc. The initial focus was on restoring access and egress on several routes which had been impacted. Approximately 30No. tree down locations were attended to.
- Remedial works on the L-4503 at Tawnagh, Kinvara were completed, and temporary barriers installed, following a wall collapse during Storm Debi.
- Other Minor Works:
 - Planting of Spring bulbs in Loughrea
 - Cleaning of pathway at The Walks, Loughrea using new mechanical weeder and sweeper.
 - Installation of Bug Hotel at Corry's Field, Loughrea
 - Display planters being refreshed and Spring bulbs being planted in Loughrea





PUTTING THE NEW MECHANICAL WEEDER TO USE AT "THE WALKS", LOUGHREA



BUG HOTEL INSTALLED - CORRY'S FIELD, LOUGHREA

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE WORKS AT BALLYDOGGAN



SOME OF THE TREE DOWN INCIDENTS RESPONDED TO BY LOUGHREA MD STAFF IN THE AFTERMATH OF STORM DEBI





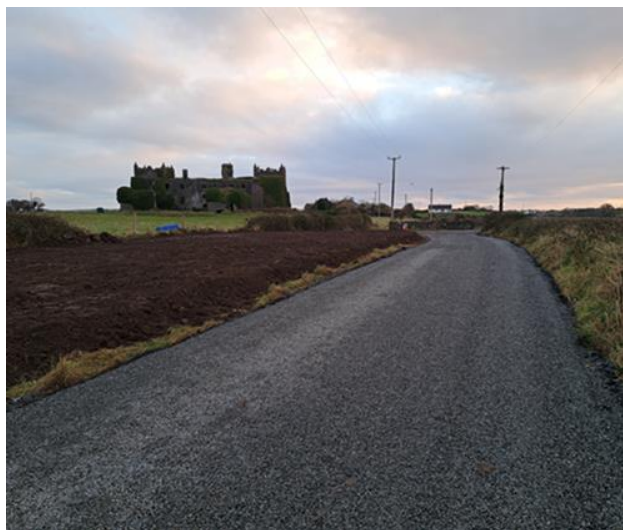
ARDFRY: COLLAPSED ROAD AFTER STORM DEBI



ARDFRY: PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ACCESS ROAD



ARDFRY: AFTER WORKS COMPLETED



L-4503 TAWNAGH, KINVARA – ROAD SURFACE DAMAGED BY STORM DEBI

BEFORE REMEDIAL WORKS



REMEDIAL WORKS COMPLETED AND TEMPORARY BARRIERS IN PLACE WHERE WALL HAD COLLAPSED



LOCALISED ROAD REPAIRS TO SECTIONS OF THE L-8250 AND L-8249 AT CASTLEBOY



ROAD RESURFACING AT QUEEN ST GORT



CIS – CONICAR/GARRYNAGLOGH - SIGHTLINE IMPROVEMENT AT JUNCTION



TUAM NEWS

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Christmas lights were officially switched on in the town of Tuam on Saturday 25th November where there was live music and entertainment on the square from 4pm. Santa Claus was also there at the turning on of the lights. The Christmas tree that was erected was biggest the town has ever got. All the businesses around the town donated funding towards the Christmas Lights this year.



HEADFORD NEWS



The Christmas Lights were officially turned on on Friday 1st December in Headford Town. In attendance were Cllr Mary Hoade, Cllr Andrew Reddington, Sean Canney TD and Marie Walsh MEP.



CURRENT WORKS STATUS

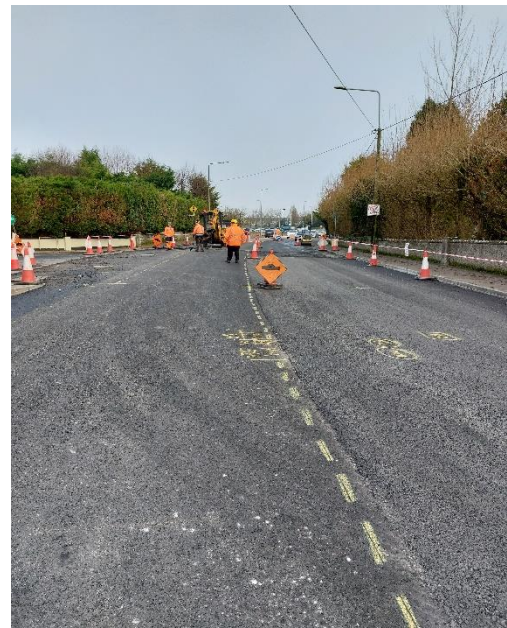
RI FUNDING

The remaining overlay projects were completed by Harringtons recently

- R332 Barnadearg
- R332 Frank Stockwell Road
- R923 Bishop Street



OVERLAY WORKS COMPLETED IN R332
BARNADEARG



OVERLAY WORKS ON BISHOP STREET TUAM

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEMES

Community Involvement schemes continued around the Municipal District with a mix of Direct Labour projects and contract works. Works included:

- New footpaths on the Weir Road in Tuam which will link the residential areas to the town safely for pedestrians.
- Setting back bends on local roads in the Headford area to improve sight lines.
- Rebuilding of a damaged wall along an existing footpath in Tuam Town.



Works progress in Knockeren near Kilcoona in Caherlistrane to improve sight lines for road users.



DURING FOOTPATH WORKS WEIR ROAD



WEIR ROAD WORKS UPON COMPLETION



REBUILT
WALL IN
TUAM
TOWN

GENERAL MAINTENANCE WORKS

During the last month the Tuam Municipal District roads crew have been carrying out general maintenance works across the District. These include upgrade and new footpaths, drainage works, signage works and general road maintenance.



PALACE GROUNDS NEW FOOTPATHS



UPGRADE TO SIGNAGE ON CASTLE STREET DUNMORE APPROACHING TOWN CENTRE JUNCTION



FOOTPATH REPAIRS
WORKS TO ENABLE
DISABLED ACCESS TO
GARRAFRAUNS
COMMUNITY CENTER



DRAINAGE AND FOOTPATH WORKS IN BALLYGLUNIN VILLAGE.

This new scheme has been very well received by the locals and provides a vital pedestrian route at Ballyglunin Railway Station



REPAIR WORKS BEING CARRIED OUT ON PLAY EQUIPMENT IN THE PALACE FIELDS, TUAM.

Mise, le meas,

Mr. Liam Conneally

Chief Executive

Galway County Council

13th December 2023