



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

TURASCÁIL BAINISTÍOCHTA MANAGEMENT REPORT



Aibreán 2024

April 2024

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

It was with great sadness that the Members of Galway County LCDC heard of the passing of Terry Keenan RIP. Terry was a member of Galway County Local Community Development Committee since its establishment in September 2014, and was a major contributor to all the Committee’s workings, discussions, and programmes. Cllr. Noel Thomas, Chairperson of the LCDC, stated: ‘Terry was a man of great knowledge and will be greatly missed. He is also a great loss to Forum Connemara where he served as Chairman for many years and is a huge loss to the whole community of Connemara, and of course, his own family’. Kieran Coyne, Chief Officer of the LCDC, added that ‘it is with deep sadness that we heard this news. Terry was a stalwart and strong advocate for rural and community issues since I first got to know him through the Community Forum – the precursor to the PPN. On behalf of all LCDC Members, we extend our condolences to Terry’s family, friends, and all in Forum Connemara’. May Terry Rest in Peace.



SICAP (SOCIAL INCLUSION & COMMUNITY ACTIVATION PROGRAMME)

A Contract Addendum has been signed for the continuation of SICAP 2018-2023 for a further 2 months up to 31st May 2024, to ensure continuity of SICAP service delivery while arrangements are being put in place for the signing of contracts for the new SICAP Programme for 2024-2028.

LOCAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME

Galway County LCDC has submitted funding recommendations to the Department of Rural and Community Development in respect of the allocation of €142,400 under the General Fund, and a ringfenced allocation of €30,896.17 under the Women’s Groups Fund. It is intended that Ministers Humphreys and O’Brien will announce details of successful applicants in April 2024, and the LCDC is not permitted to notify approved groups until the Departmental press release is issued.

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND

Galway County Council has received an allocation of €1,303,230 from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Community Recognition Fund 2024. This is part of a further €50m in funding nationally, to support communities that have welcomed people from Ukraine and other countries, and under which 33 projects were supported in County Galway under the first iteration of this Fund. While the Fund will again be targeted

at areas with the highest level of new arrivals, and projects which display the highest need, there are a number of key differences to the 2023 scheme:

- Local Authorities will now submit funding proposals to the Department of Rural and Community Development in 3 different phases, which will allow them to respond to changing needs and circumstances during the year.
- The minimum level of funding for an individual project is €50,000 – while the 2023 scheme provided funding for small-scale equipment, etc., the focus of the 2024 Fund is on projects of greater scale and impact.

The Department have indicated that it is essential that the funding proposals submitted by the local authority are developed based on direct engagement with impacted communities, and in consultation with Elected Representatives, the LCDC, the local Ukraine Community Response Forum, and the Local Development Companies. The local authority proposals must clearly demonstrate that the funding is targeted:

- Where the highest level of new arrivals is located (number / proportion of population).
- Where there is a clear need for investment identified through a community engagement process.

Galway County Council are currently confirming the number of new arrivals in communities across the County, to identify the areas where the Fund will be targeted in the first phase of funding. Once this is completed, direct engagement will be initiated with the relevant communities to identify areas where there is a clear need for investment.

AGE FRIENDLY ISLANDS PROJECT

A range of targeted consultations, and site visits for community consultations, will take place during April to identify equipment and infrastructural projects which will increase the range of social & leisure activities on the 4 offshore islands.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

Following on from the Age Friendly Alliance Meeting in March, it is intended to hold a meeting of the Galway County Older People's Council in April, to follow up on issues raised by the members at their previous meeting. The Age Friendly Programme Manager will also attend a Regional and National Meeting of Age Friendly Programmes.

Staff of Galway County Council will travel to Inis Oirr on 25th April as part of an audit of social & leisure activity opportunities which is being funded under Age Friendly Ireland.

COMHAIRLE NA NÓG

A meeting of the Comhairle na nÓg Steering Group will be held in April to discuss progress on the 2024 topic 'Mental Health & Addition'. Staff from the Community Department will also attend the online launch of the national strategy 'Participation of Children and Young

People in Decision-Making 2024-2028’ – this is the second national plan which sets out the government’s commitment to realise the right of children and young people to be heard when decisions that affect their lives are being made.

COMMUNITY AWARDS

The Cathaoirleach’s Awards 2024 are open for nominations until 16th April, and groups or individuals who are active across the Award Categories are invited to complete and submit a Nomination Form, to be recognized for their valuable community & voluntary work.

AFRICA DAY 2024

The Department of Foreign Affairs has awarded funding of €7,400, and for the first time, Africa Day celebrations will be held in Tuam, Co. Galway, from 23rd to 26th May. The Community Department is finalizing the programme of events with the joint partners to the application and will circulate details of the activities once finalised.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

Duana Tuite, who is currently in the role of PPN Support Worker, is taking over the role of PPN Resource Worker on an acting basis for the remainder of 2024. PPN activities for April are set out across the 3 main functions of the PPN as follows:

ACTING AS AN INFORMATION HUB:

The PPN April Newsletter was shared on 2nd April. The newsletter is emailed to all PPN member groups, shared on Facebook, posted to the PPN Website, shared with all staff on the Council internal message board, and emailed to all Elected Members.

The newsletter is a key information linkage between the local authority and communities, and contains a Council News section, with contributions from multiple departments including the Libraries, Community Section, Arts, Sports Partnership, Healthy Ireland, and the Environment section. The PPN also sent emails to the PPN members database and shared information online, on behalf of colleagues from several departments on a range of topics, such as funding schemes, training schemes, and the Cathaoirleach’s Awards 2024.

BUILDING CAPACITY

The PPN Workers attended several events and progressed activities in relation to building capacity of PPN Member Groups:

- Attended National PPN Workers Network Retreat 2024 on 25th and 26th April.

- Panned with the Secretariat the roll out of two free PPN Members Trainings on Governance and GDPR & Board Roles.
- Attended a planning meeting on 2nd April in Ballinasloe for the Ballinasloe Intercultural Day, which will be on Saturday 25th May 2024.
- Attended a Galway online Planning Meeting for Men's Health Week on 8th April.
- Attended five events across the five Municipal Districts on 4th, 5th and 6th April, to launch the Energy Master Plan for County Galway. Guest speakers from Galway County Council's Climate Change Team and Housing Section, with presentations and core involvement from SEAI and XD Consulting who presented on the Energy Master Plan and free Energy Audits which were provided to 11 Community Buildings through the PPN's project. A report and resource document were provided in print and digital format.

Galway PPN Sustainable Energy Community

Launch of the Energy Master Plan for County Galway

Join us at one of the following locations as we launch the Energy Master Plan for County Galway.

LOCATIONS:

Thursday April 4th:

- The Mall Theatre & Cinema CLG, H54 Y773 2-4pm (Tuam MD)
- Ballindereen Community Centre H91 TC65 7-9pm (Loughrea MD)

Friday April 5th:

- Lawrencetown Community Hall H53 XY27 2-4pm (Ballinasloe MD)
- Lackagh Parish Centre H65 EK52 7-9pm (Athenry MD)

Saturday April 6th:

- Forbairt Pobail Maigh Cullinn, H91 DHWO 2-4pm (Connemara MD)

AGENDA:

Galway PPN Introduction: *Duana Tuife, PPN Support Worker*

Energy Master Plan Overview & Results: *Xavier Dubuisson, EMP Consultant*

SEAI Home Energy Grants: *Dr Orla Nic Suibhne, SEAI SEC Mentor*

Galway County Council Housing Grants: *Carmel Kilcoyne & Michelle Connellan*

Deep Retrofit Case Study: *Tina Ryan, Climate Action Coordinator, Galway County Council*

seai SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AUTHORITY OF IRELAND

Leas Párlaimintí Seachais (Public) Coimisiún na Gaillimhe Public Participation Network - County Galway

PROMOTING REPRESENTATION:

A PPN Secretariat Meeting is due to take place online on 9th April, which will be the first Secretariat Meeting for two new members. The PPN Support Worker held a planning meeting to go over the workplan for the Galway Disability Forum, in advance of the forum meeting on 23rd April. The PPN Workers are liaising with the Secretariat to plan the PPN Reps' Forum, and PPN Online Plenary Meeting. Following Strategic Policy Committee meetings in April, the PPN workers will work with the PPN Reps on the relevant SPC's to gather their feedback from the meeting, and report back to the wider PPN as appropriate.

TOURISM

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCHEME – ECONOMIC FESTIVAL & EVENTS

Galway County Council continues to support Economic Initiatives and Festivals & Events with 73 communities granted support through the scheme for 2024.

Galway County Council funding = €69,250 with Fáilte Ireland supplying an additional €18,000.

Total funding allocated for 2024 Regional, Economic and Festival & events stands at €87,250.

MEITHEAIL 2024



Fáilte Ireland is hosting Meitheal 2024, the most important travel trade event for the Irish tourism industry, for the third consecutive year, in Killarney, Co. Kerry. Running since 1975, Meitheal is Fáilte Ireland's flagship trade event, which is organised in conjunction with Tourism Ireland to enable Irish tourism businesses to sell the best of Ireland to top international tourism buyers.

Galway County Councils Tourism Officer as a key Stakeholder will attend and participate at the Meitheal Workshop on Thursday 11th April 2024

JTF SCHEME F – TOURISM LEARNING NETWORK PROGRAMME

Galway Council applied under scheme F of the JTF for Fáilte Ireland's Tourism Learning Network Programme. The application was successful.

The EU Just Transition Tourism Learning Network Programme is a collaborative learning programme for the successful development of regenerative tourism in the EU Just Transition Territory.

This is a fully sponsored programme, led by best-in-class tourism industry specialists, provides professional learning and development to guide to achieve tourism growth in a commercial, equitable, socially responsible and environmentally sustainable way.

A member of the Tourism Team will attend the Tourism Learning Network Programme on behalf of Galway County Council.



IRELAND WEST AIRPORT – MARKETING MEETING



Galway County Council as a shareholder is delighted to welcome the news of a record year for passenger traffic at the airport. The continued growth in passenger numbers is great news from a tourism,

business, and regional development perspective.

The tourism Officer will be attending and participating a meeting to showcase the access now available to the West of Ireland from Cologne and Milan

A key feature of the activity is to promote access to all counties that form part of the Local Authority and Airport partnership. Between the months of March and October 2023 campaigns to the value of €200,000 ran across Radio, Digital and Social Media platforms promoting access from Milan and Cologne with Ryanair to German and Italian travellers.

The airport and trade from the West of Ireland were represented at events held in Frankfurt and Milan by Tourism Ireland. The events brought together over 50 German and Italian media representatives and Tour operators.

In 2023, the airport worked with RedC to carry out in-depth research, aimed at profiling overseas visitors flying through the airport, visiting the West and Northwest of Ireland. RedC interviewed 945 passengers arriving at the airport from overseas, over a period of six months. The key findings from the research highlights the importance of the airport from a regional access and economic development perspective in delivering visitors to several different counties across the regions. See link below:

[RedC Research Tourism Report- Ireland West Airport](#)

GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Galway Sports Partnership facilitates several courses to support clubs and organisations, these range from coach development, disability awareness courses through Active Disability Ireland, partnering with National Governing Bodies to run sport specific courses and courses on specific topics such as Women in Sport.

Our main courses we facilitate are Sport Ireland's Safeguarding Workshops as outlined below.

SAFEGUARDING 1

All Coaches, Club Children's Officers (CCO) and Designated Liaison Persons (DLP) must first complete the 3-hour Child Welfare & Protection Basic Awareness Workshop. This workshop educates participants on the implementation of best practice in safeguarding the welfare of children involved in sport.

SAFEGUARDING 2

A person appointed to the role of Club Children's Officer within a club must have firstly completed Sport Irelands Safeguarding 1 (Child Welfare & Protection Basic Awareness workshop). They should also complete Sport Irelands Club Children's Officer 3-hour workshop. The aim of this workshop is to help the *Club Children's Officer* to carry out their role and support the implementation of best practice in the club. Participants will also receive a Club Children's Officer Action Planning document as part of the training.

SAFEGUARDING 3

A person appointed to the Designated Liaison Person position in a club must firstly complete Sport Irelands Child Welfare & Protection Basic Awareness Workshop and should complete

the Sport Irelands Designated Liaison Person 3-hour workshop. A club may appoint the same person to both the CCO and DLP positions however best practice advises that they are kept as separate roles.

APRIL COURSES

Online Safeguarding 1 10th April 2024 – 18 people in attendance

Online Safeguarding 1 23rd April 2024 – 18 people in attendance

Future Courses

Online Safeguarding 1 22nd May 2024 – Can be booked [HERE](#)

Online Safeguarding 1 28th May 2024 – Can be Booked [HERE](#)

Online 'Understanding Female Physiology in Sport' – contact galwayactive@galwaycoco.ie for booking information.

SPORT IRELAND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER MEETING



Galway Sports Partnership Community Sports Development Officers and Sports Inclusion Disability Officer attended Sport Irelands Regional Development Officer meeting in Limerick on 11th March 2024. The meeting was an opportunity for Development Officers to

network, collaborate and to get updates from Sport Ireland on new policies, research and data that impact the work of Local Sports Partnerships. Galway Sports Partnership were asked to showcase a successful programme and our Sports Inclusion Disability Officer Ellie Loftus presented Galway Sports Partnerships Inclusive Triathlon. This is a partnership programme with Triathlon Ireland and Disability services in Galway to break down the barriers to a triathlon culminating in an Inclusive Triathlon in Kilcornan.

OLDER ADULT INFORMATION VISITS

Galway Sports Partnership supports Older Adult and Community Groups to become more Physically Active. As part of this we regularly visit groups and provide them with information of who Galway Sports Partnership are and the types of supports we offer to groups. As part of this we provide demonstrations on a variety of activities that their group can easily take part in to help them to become more physically active. This month our Sports Inclusion Disability Officer visited groups in Dunmore, Annaghdown, Lackagh and Cortoon.

INIS MÓR

On Monday 25th March Galway Sports Partnership visited Inis Mór for an adult's information session for both men and women. This was in partnership with Galway Rural Development, The Irish Men's Shed Association and Pleanáil Teanga Árann. Galway Sports Partnership provided demonstrations on various activities to promote physical activity such as Activator Poles, Boccia, Scooch and Flisk. There was also information from the Irish Men's Shed Association on how to set up a Men's Shed, the benefits of a shed and examples of activities that sheds around Ireland take part in. There was great feedback from the community with 17 participants eager to set up a social community group.



BIKE WEEK 2024

Bike Week is a celebration and promotion of the benefits of cycling. Bike Week 2024 will take place from Saturday 11th to Sunday 19th May 2024.



Galway Sports Partnership received an allocation of €26,939 as part of an application from groups in Galway to run Bike Activities to cater for people of all ages and abilities, with a focus centred around inclusive, community-based events.

For details on all Galway Based Bike Week 2024 events click [HERE](#)

ARTS OFFICE

April brought the announcement of our Centre Culturel Irlandais residency recipient who is Matthew Berrill and the launch of the Galway Theatre Festival Programme featuring several Galway County artists.

The Community Support Scheme: Cultural Development assessments were completed. The 69 awarded community groups and arts organisations are delivering exciting projects in the county. We were also completed assessments of our Artist Support Scheme. The 12 awarded artists are now working on their proposals. The Cultural Development and Artist Support Scheme awards will greatly benefit the arts across the county in 2024.

GALWAY THEATRE FESTIVAL 2024

The launch of the Galway Theatre Festival 2024 programme took place on 04 April at the Mick Lally Theatre. The festival runs from 03 – 11 May.

Highlights by Galway County artists include **The Dead House** by Martin Beanz Ward, **A Post Office at the Hawthorn – Episode 1** by Jenni Nikinmaa and a work in progress showings of **Across from me People are Watching** by Rena Bryson and **An Ceilpeadóir** by Brídín Nic Dhonncha. [Click here to see the full programme](#)

The Arts Office will be working with the Galway Theatre Festival team on development supports for Galway County artists later in 2024 and in 2025.



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GALWAY
THEATRE
FESTIVAL 2024
POSTER

CENTRE CULTUREL IRLANDAIS – PARIS

Congratulations to Matthew Berrill who was announced as the recipient of the Centre



Culturel Irlandais and Galway County Council 2024 residency. 41 artists applied for this prestigious opportunity.

Matthew is an integral member of numerous ensembles in the jazz, improvised and traditional Irish music spheres, including The Irish Memory Orchestra and Ensemble Ériu, with whom he has recorded three critically acclaimed albums for Raelach Records, Ensemble Records and Diatribe Records, respectively. He works in trio partnership with Cormac McCarthy and Iarla Ó Lionáird, performing at festivals and

venues across Ireland and further afield.

Matthew will spend one month at Centre Culturel Irlandais in Paris while he composes a new suite of music for solo clarinet. As part of this research and development he will research waterways and rivers of Headford and Paris through the lens of our ever-pressing climate crisis. Matthew hopes this residency will result in score notation for five movements of this new work called 'Rivers Suite'.

CENTRE CULTUREL IRLANDAIS RESIDENCY RECIPIENT MATTHEW BERRILL



ARTISTS SUPPORT SCHEME 2024 - OVERVIEW

90 applications were received.

€215,504 was the total requested amount.

11 applications were ineligible.

79 were eligible for shortlisting.

48 applications were shortlisted.

€129,600 was the total requested amount of the shortlist.

Artforms: Circus (1), Dance (1), Film (2), Literature (4), Music (9), Opera (2), Street Arts and Spectacle (2), Theatre (6) and Visual Arts (21).

A peer panel of 3 professional artists assessed the shortlisted applications.

Vital financial support of €29,750 was awarded to 12 artists:

Claire-Louise Bennett - Literature

Debbie Wright – Street Arts and Spectacle

Fiona Hession – Visual Arts

Helena Kilty - Literature

Jennifer Cunningham – Visual Arts

Magdalena Hylak - Dance

Niamh St John - Opera

Noelle Gallagher – Visual Arts

Phillida Eves - Theatre

Sarah Deane – Visual Arts

Tadhg Ó Cuirrín – Visual Arts

Tristan Heanue - Film

Congratulations to the successful artists!

CREATIVE IRELAND

CRUINNIÚ NA NÓG 2024

Cruinniú na Nóg 2024 will take place on Saturday the 15th of June. This is the National Day of Creativity for Children. Funding of €30,000 is available for running events all over Galway County on this day. Applications are currently open, and it is intended to have all decisions made and applicants informed by the end of April.

YOUTH CONSULTATION WITH BRANAR

Additional funding was secured to carry out a Youth Consultation to inform the programming of Cruinniú na Nóg 2024. It was decided to focus this consultation on the Aran Islands, as there is departmental interest in increasing engagement with Cruinniú amongst island and Gaeltacht communities. The consultation was carried out by Branar who have delivered a highly detailed report on their findings. 129 children were consulted across all 3

islands from 6 schools (both primary and secondary). The entire consultation process was carried out *as Gaeilge*, and the report was provided in both languages. The results will inform the programming of Cruinniú na nÓg on the islands in 2024 and beyond.

CORPORATE SERVICES

CARO NETWORKING EVENT IN CLARE

A Climate Action Regional Offices networking event was held in the Old Ground Hotel in Ennis, Co. Clare on Thursday 11th April, at which the Local Authority Climate Action Plans were launched.



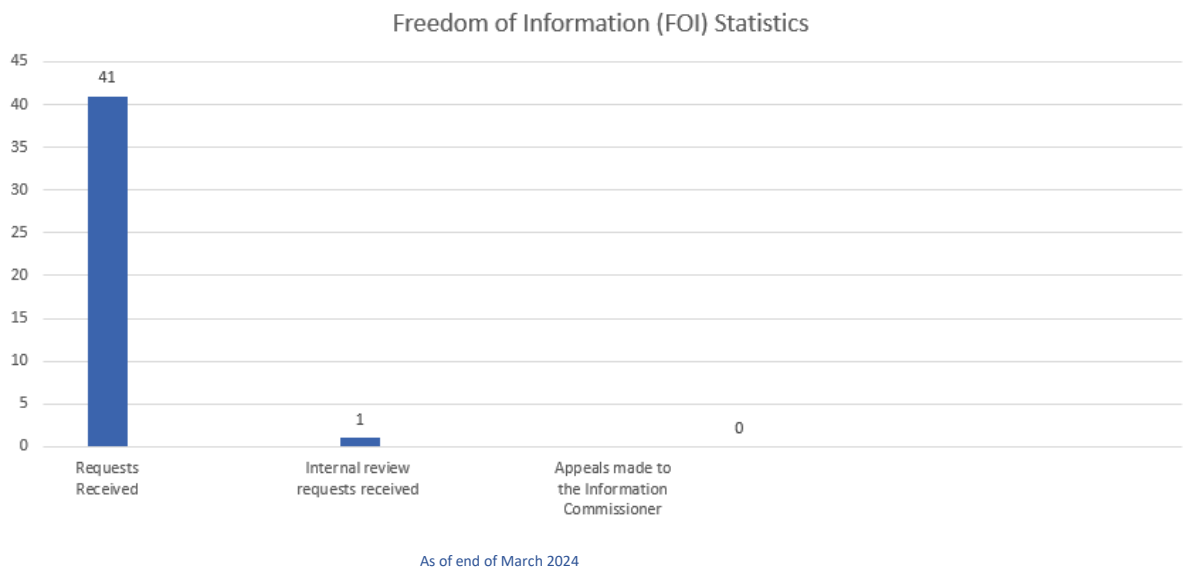
L-R: LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND MINISTER EAMON RYAN T.D.,

L-R: EAMON RYAN T.D., MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE, COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT AND LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

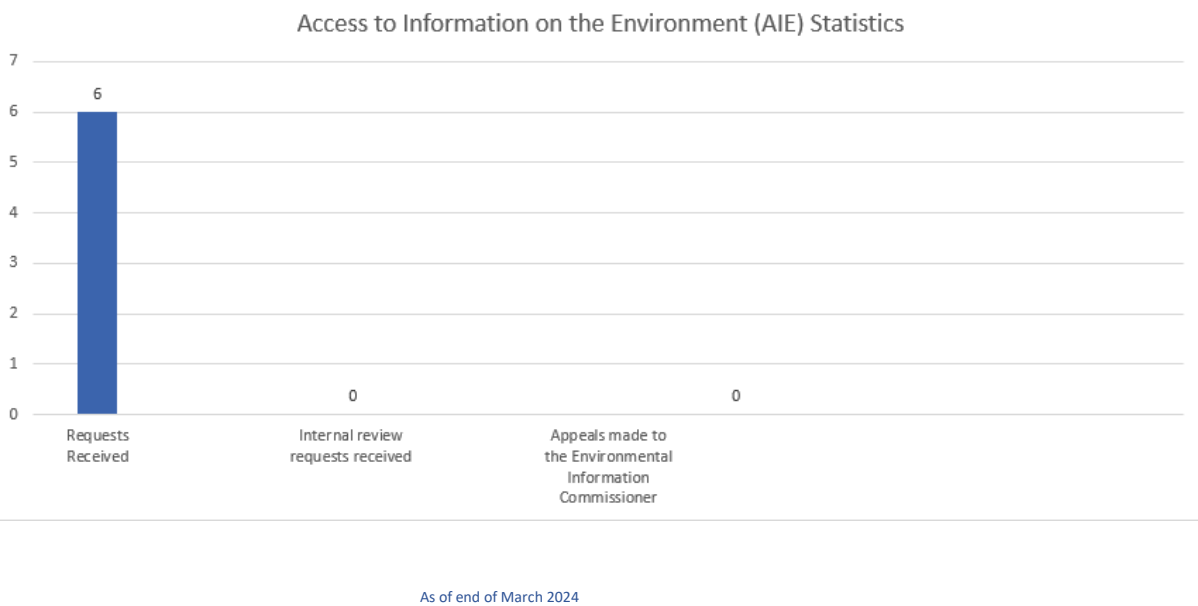


FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION & DATA PROTECTION

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT



DATA PROTECTION

- **8 Data Access Requests**

 - 6 Data Subject Access Requests -

 - 2 Third Party Access Request, e.g. An Garda Síochána

- **GDPR/Data Protection Training**

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

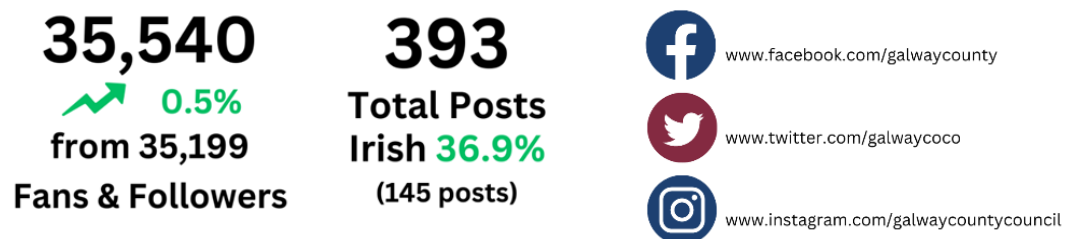
Online Refresher Training on Cyber Security & Data Breaches issued to all Staff

Quarterly Data Protection Awareness Newsletter circulated to all 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.

OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY



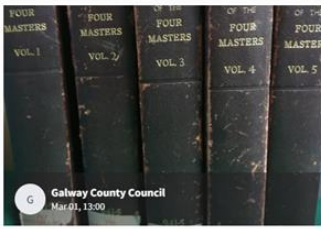
Facebook

Over this period, Customer Services have posted 111 posts to Galway County Council’s Facebook page. Customer Services also utilised the ‘story’ function on Facebook 26 times this month with followers. Galway County Council’s overall reach for the last month was 47.7k.

AUDIENCE METRICS – FACEBOOK

Last month Galway County Council gained 85 new Facebook followers, bringing the total followers as of March 31st, 2024, to 16,599. 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 23.2% of this age group are women and 10.6% are men. In total, 31.8% of Galway County Council’s Facebook followers are male and 68.2% are female.

Top posts



The Local Studies section of Galway Public Libraries holds a five volume set of "Annála Ríoghachta Éireann", or the "Annals of the kingdom of Ireland". This is a bi-lingual work in Irish and English, translated from the original Irish in 1856, by the Great Gaelic Scholar, John O'Donovan. It was originally written between 1632 and 1636, and is a history of the world, from its beginnings, until 1616. The main Author was Brother Micheál Ó Cléirigh, assisted by others, the "Four Masters". O'Donovan's English translation can be read side by side with the original Irish in these volumes, and it is a most interesting early history of Ireland. According to the annals, the age of the world was 2242 years from it's beginning to the year of



Tá leabhar combhróin oscailte ag Cathaoirleach Chontae na Gaillimhe, an Comhairleoir Liam Carroll do Shaoirse Ruane (RIP) áit a bhfuil fáilte romhat a leabhar a shíniú go pearsanta in oifigí Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe, Áras an Chontae, Chnoc na Radharc, Gaillimh nó ar líne ag an nasc seo: <https://ow.ly/bEZ950Qk9P> The Cathaoirleach of the County Galway, Councillor Liam Carroll has opened a book of condolences for Saoirse Ruane (RIP) which you are welcome to sign in person at the offices of Galway County Council, Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway or online at this link: <https://ow.ly/bEZ950Qk9P> Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dílis



Comhaltas Charna

MARCH'S TOP THREE POSTS

AUDIENCE METRICS – X (PREVIOUSLY TWITTER)

During this period on X, Galway County Council posted a total of 77 tweets with 29.2k impressions, the account gained a total of 126 new followers, bringing the total following as of the 31st of March 2024 to 16, 696.

Top tweets



Preasráiteas **Press Release** #gallimh #galway <https://ow.ly/2m850R3rVC> <https://twitter.com/GalwayCoCo/status/1773031584142159895/photo/1>



Galway County Council, funded through the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE) now invite qualifying businesses to apply for the Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) Grant. Read more here: <https://ow.ly/JpCW50Qk9P> #galway #gallimh #YourCouncil <https://twitter.com/GalwayCoCo/status/1767198845014855906/video/1>



Cycle stands and cycle repair stations at Ballinasloe and Mountbellew, recently installed by Ballinasloe MD staff, as part of NTA Active Travel funding. #galway #ballinasloe #mountbellew #cycling #NTA #activetravel <https://twitter.com/GalwayCoCo/status/1767209582017855798/photo/1>

MARCH'S TOP THREE POSTS

Instagram

Over this period, Customer Services have posted 126 posts to Galway County Council's Instagram page. Customer Services also utilised the 'story' function 71 times this month with followers as well as sharing 16 reels. Galway County Council's overall reach for this period was 7.5k, an increase of almost 20% compared to the previous period.

AUDIENCE METRICS – INSTAGRAM

Galway County Council's Instagram page has a similar audience base to the Council's Facebook page. Galway County Council's Instagram Audience ages range between 18-65+, with 70% being female and 30% 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 25.4% women and 10.2% men. Over the last month Galway County Council have increased their followers from 988 in February 2024 to 1019 followers by the 31st of March 2024.

Top posts



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I measc na bpríomhchuspóirí atá leagtha amach i bPlean Gníomhaíthe ar son na hAeráide 2024-2029 Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe tá tacú le tionscail fuinnimh in-athnuaite a fhorbairt, geilleagar ciorclach a chur chun cinn agus astaíochtaí carbóin a laghdú. Forbraíodh an straitéis cúig bliana, a áirítear mar chloch mhíle shuntasach i dtaca le tiomantas Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe don ghliomhú ar son na haeráide, i ndiaidh comhairliúcháin forleathan ar fud an chontae le 18 mí anuas. Cuireann an Plean treochlár ar fáil chun dui in oiriúint do ghuaiseacha aimsire, amhaíl tuitte cósta, abhann agus uisce dromchla, tonnta teasa agus triomach, agus meastar go méadóidh



Mar pháirt do Chéiliúradh Seachtain Na Gaeilge thug Ceoltóirí óga Comhaltas Charma taispeantas idir ceol, amhráin Ghaeilge agus damhsa Gaelach in Áras an Chontae ar an Aoine an 08/03/2024. As part of Seachtain na Gaeilge celebrations young musicians from Comhaltas Charma gave a display of singing in Irish, Music and Irish dancing in County Buildings last Friday 08/03/2024. #SnaG24 #YourCounciil #Galway #Gaillimh #County Seachtain Na Gaeilge

MARCH'S TOP THREE POSTS

AUDIENCE METRICS – LINKEDIN

During this period on LinkedIn, Galway County Council’s account gained 31 new followers, bringing the total following to 1,717. Galway County Council shared 5 posts with 849 impressions this month.

Top posts



Architecture at the Edge Festival 2023 "Our Town Square: The Heart of Headford" St. George's Square certainly has potential as a "living room" for the town, but in recent years it has been reclaimed by the car. The dominance of motorists needs for parking, over those of pedestrian accessibility, mean our square is no longer suitable for



Portumna Public Engagement Evening, Tues 24th October 2023 6-9pm Irish Workhouse Centre, Portumna #Gaillimh #Galway



Vacancy - Executive Planner Closing Date: 4pm Thursday, 9th November 2023. #jobfair #gaillimh #galway

MARCH'S TOP THREE POSTS

LIBRARY SERVICES

RIGHT TO READ



One of the four pillars of the Right to Read initiative is 'Spring into Storytime' which is celebrated annually in April. During this month, libraries host special story times, craft workshops and STEM events. The 'Spring into Storytime' events are held at family friendly times, e.g., on Saturdays and during evening opening hours. Events were held in Killimor, Tuam, Westside, Ballybane, Portumna and Galway City Library with additional events in other libraries.

NEW STAFF



Galway Public Libraries was delighted to welcome five new branch librarians to our staff. We look forward to their contribution to the work of the library service over the coming years. The new branch librarians are all based in libraries in Connemara.

DECADE OF CENTENARIES

Galway Public Libraries hosted a wonderful afternoon of music and film in Leabharlann an Spidéal on the 15th of March. The event started with a live performance of a piece of music commissioned by Galway Public Libraries last year, as part of the Decade of Centenaries project **Respond,**

Rejoice, Reflect: 1923 Through the Lens of our Literary and Artistic Creatives. The piece “I gCuimhne Liam Uí Fhlaithearta” was composed by Risteárd Ó hAodha and combines piano, fiddle and spoken word.



This was followed by a screening of the documentary “Westward Ho!.....Wandering West with Words”, from our Galway’s Great Read project. Light refreshments were enjoyed by those who attended.

HEALTHY IRELAND AT YOUR LIBRARY

All public library services in the Republic of Ireland participate in the Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme.

The initiative establishes libraries as a valuable source of health information within the community.

Funding granted by Healthy Ireland has enhanced health and wellbeing book collections (digital and hardcopy), and provided for staff training, events, and promotion.

On March 23rd, Galway City Library hosted a talk by Podiatrist and Pilates Instructor, Marie Hegarty, on practicing Pilates to help prevent falls. This interactive session also included the audience learning a series of exercises to help build stability and support natural movement.

BALLINASLOE LIBRARY



Ballinasloe Library was delighted to host young poet Charlie on March 2nd for the launch of their poetry book "The Words I Didn't Know".

Bhí Am Scéalaíochta le Aoife agus Seisiún Ceoil sa Leabharlann le haghaidh Seachtain na Gaeilge.





Creagh NS and Garbally College attended workshops for Engineers Week. Sarah from the Rediscovery Centre and Laura from Medtronic gave a fantastic workshop before setting a challenge for the children from Creagh NS.

Garbally College also attended the workshop in the afternoon, which consisted of a Kahoot quiz and yet more challenges!

International Women's Day: In the morning, Ballinasloe Library hosted the Soroptimists for an incredibly well-attended series of talks and in the afternoon, the launch of the 'Crafty Girls' exhibition- 'Our Stitches Through Time' took place. This exhibition was supported by Galway Rural Development.



Ballinasloe and District Heritage Society's Town Talks series continued with committee members Fiona Maguire, Cathal Lucas, and Abbie McGowan presenting 'Ballinasloe in Print and Picture'. Cathal spoke about the early years and competitive nature of Ballinasloe's newspaper industry, followed by Abbie speaking about the Lawrence Collection of photos which feature Ballinasloe. Fiona presented clips from the RTE archive from days gone by.



WESTSIDE LIBRARY

Westside Library's weekly and monthly events are continuing to be very popular:

Events hosted in the library include a Knitting Group, Helium Arts, the Newcastle Active Retirement Group, a Bereavement Support Group, a Science Club, a Parents Health & Wellness Class, the Cuidiú Breastfeeding Group, the Alzheimer's Support Group, the Speckled Hen Dance Group and the Ukrainian Crafts Group.

Regular events hosted by the library staff include Baby Rhyme Time (in cooperation with Music

Generation, Galway City), 2 book clubs, Lego Freeplay sessions, Storytime, and the Digital Café.

There are also numerous class visits from primary schools and bookings for the Sensory Room.

Westside Library is celebrating "Spring into Storytime" in April with some special events and story times.



Míle buíochas do na páistí ar fad a chuir isteach ar Chomórtas Ealaíne an tSean Fhocail do Sheachtain Na Gaeilge. Bhí 138 iontráil againn, mar sin bhí sé an-deacair a mheas! Tá an 20 iontráil is fearr roghnaithe anois.



The Ukrainian Craft Group “Kalyna” continue to meet in the library every Friday. “Kalyna” is supported by the Galway City Partnership.

GALWAY CITY LIBRARY



Galway City Library had a very busy month with a meeting of the Anime/Manga group and a well-attended talk 'Photographing the Night Sky' by Felix Sproll. The talk was to mark Irish Astronomy Week.



For Seachtain na Gaeilge, Sean Nós singer MacDara Ó Conaola from Inis Óirr, regaled a captivated audience with songs and folklore from the Aran Islands. In addition, there was a demonstration of basket making by traditional basket maker Tom Delaney.

ORANMORE LIBRARY

IRISH ASTRONOMY WEEK AT ORANMORE LIBRARY:



Oranmore Library hosted 'Of Planets and Asteroids' - Irish Astronomy Talk by Dave McDonald, on Friday March 15th. Dave's highly graphical talk entertained many school children plus members of the public with a whistle-stop tour through our Solar System and put

asteroids into context - where are they? How did they get there? Where are they going? He also touched on the various discoveries made from Ireland and mentioned some of the previous asteroid impacts on Earth and some near misses.

SEACHTAIN NA GAELIGE AT ORANMORE LIBRARY

The distinguished historian Tom Bartlett gave a talk in Irish about the Story of the Irish Language and Tawin School. Tom was a history lecturer for twenty years at the University of Galway. He has lived in the old schoolhouse on Tawin for thirty years and has in-depth knowledge of the history of the building as well as the history of the Irish language in the area.



BALLYBANE LIBRARY



'Intertwined-Mosaic of the Community Brain' was created by Transition Year students from Galway Community College, staff from Ballybane Library and artist Alison Mac Cormaic. The project was funded and coordinated by Cúram, the SFI Research Centre

for Medical Devices, which is under the auspices of the University of Galway. Cúram

collaborates with 12 EU partners, part of a new Horizon-funded EU project called STEAM Learning Ecologies.

The initiative fosters policy change in science education at EU level. ‘Intertwined’ was launched in Ballybane Library on March 14th, by the Deputy Mayor of Galway city, Councillor Dónal Lyons. The exhibition may be viewed during library opening hours.

LOUGHREA LIBRARY

On Wednesday 6th March. Engineers Ireland Week workshops were conducted by Sarah Clear of the Rediscovery Centre with 5th Class from Kilnadeema NS and 3rd Year from St. Brigid’s College with engineering teacher Martin Cleary.



On Thursday 7th March, World Book Day – there were pupils taking part in LEGO creative play and board games (5th Class of Gaelscoil Riabhach and 3rd Class of St. Ita’s NS)

Saturday 9th March:

“Of Planets and Asteroids” talk with Dave McDonald via Astronomy Ireland for Astronomy Ireland Week.



Friday 15th March – St Patrick’s Day card making available all day.

6.00pm, presentation of permanent exhibition of art based on the work of Anthony Raftery by the artist Dónal Lundon from Gaelsocil Riabhach and Gaeilge Locha Riach, as well as the formal launch of Féile Raifteirí week.

Saturday 23rd March – Easter Crafts workshop, making pom pom chicks with staff member Sheila and 8 children with their parents.



HOUSING & UKRAINIAN RESPONSE

HOUSING GRANTS

Three types of grant funding are available to private homeowners to enable them to make their accommodation more suitable for their needs:

- Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability – for people with a physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual disability to have necessary adaptations, repairs or improvement works carried out to make their accommodation more suitable for their needs. The maximum grant available is 30,000 or 95% of the total cost of the work approved by the Local Authority, whichever is less (not including the VAT cost of the work).
- Mobility Aids Grant – for older people and/or people with a disability who may find it hard to move around their home to include for the provision of stair lifts, level access showers, access ramps etc. The maximum grant available is 6,000 or the total cost of the work approved by the Local Authority, whichever is less (not including the VAT cost of the work).
- Housing Aid for Older People Grant – for people aged 66 years old or more who are living in poor housing conditions to have necessary repairs or improvements carried out and includes re-wiring, replacement of windows and doors, provision of heating etc. The maximum grant available is 8,000 or 95% of the total cost of the work approved by the Local Authority, whichever is less (grant can include the VAT cost of the work).

Galway County Council is required to provide 20% of the total of grants awarded, with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage providing 80% of the amount awarded. The Council adopted a budget of 750,000 for their 20% contribution. This will allow the Council to allocate grants totaling 3,750,000, provided sufficient funding is allocated by the Department. Notification regarding the capital allocation from the Department is expected in the coming weeks.

In quarter 1 2024, Galway County Council has issued the following grant payments:

Grant Type	Amount paid	Number of grants paid	Average amount paid per grant
Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability	159,767	17	9,398
Mobility Aid Grant	144,421	33	4,376
Housing Aid for Older People	352,480	61	5,778
TOTAL	656,668	111	5,916

The Councils contribution towards the total grant payment issued in quarter 1 is 131,334.

In quarter 1 2024, Galway County Council has received the following grant applications which are currently being progressed:

Grant Type	Number of applications received
Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability	22
Mobility Aid Grant	105
Housing Aid for Older People	202
TOTAL	329



WINDOWS REPLACED - HAOP



DISABLED PERSONS GRANTS

Galway County Council has received 18 applications for adaptation works and one application for an extension to Council owned properties in quarter 1 2024. A tender was awarded for adaptation works to 19 Galway County Council properties throughout the County in mid-March 2024 with preparation work ongoing on a tender for extensions to 2 properties. The Department of Housing provides 90% of the costs for adaptation works, with the Council responsible for the balance of 10%.

VACANT HOMES

The Vacant Homes Unit attended five events across the five Municipal Districts on 4th, 5th and 6th April, to give information on the Vacant Homes Grant, the Local Authority Home Loan scheme, and the Disabled Persons grant, the housing aid for older persons and the Mobility aids grants. This was done in conjunction with the launch the Energy Master Plan for County Galway and with SEAI and the PPN workers. The events were held in Tuam, Ballinderreen, Lawrencetown, Lackagh and St Thomas's in Kilchreest. Unfortunately, the planned event in Maigh Cuilinn scheduled for Saturday 6th April had to be postponed due to storm Kathleen.





ENERGY RETROFITS

The Energy Efficiency Refit Programme continues to carry out significant energy improvements across the council's social housing stock. As part of the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme 2023 a total of 87 houses were deep retrofitted. These works involved various energy efficiency improvements to the fabric of the houses including replacement windows and doors, additional insulation to walls and attics, upgrade of the heating system to a heat pump and the provision of solar panels. The 2023 programme included works to houses in the following locations: Ballygar; Gort; Headford; Loughrea and Tuam. All these houses now have a Building Energy Rating (BER) of either A3 or A2. The tenants will experience enhanced comfort and reduced heating costs while producing much lower carbon emissions.

The Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme for 2024 has recently been announced. Galway County Council has received provisional approval to deep retrofit a further 67 houses with a budget of €2,278,000. It is proposed to retrofit houses in the following locations this year; Athenry; Ballinasloe; Ballygar; An Cheathrú Rua; Clifden; Corofin; Glenamaddy; Gort & Headford.

CHIMNEYS BEING DECOMMISSIONED & SOLAR PANELS BEING INSTALLED



RURAL BUNGALOW SHOWING EXTERNAL INSULATION AND HEAT PUMP

SINGLE STOREY DWELLINGS WITH EXTERNAL INSULATION, HEAT PUMPS AND SOLAR PANELS



PLANNED MAINTENANCE & VOID REFURBISHMENT

Galway County Council has again received funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage towards the costs associated with refurbishing casual vacant housing units to get them ready for reallocation in a timely manner. Galway County Council has received an initial allocation of €451,000 based on the refurbishment of 41 units at an average cost of €11,000 per unit.

A number of planned maintenance programmes are currently being rolled out on a multi-annual basis. These include works such as periodic electric inspections & repairs, upgrading of fire and carbon monoxide detection systems to current regulations, upgrading of septic tanks and the annual service of heat pumps. Funding of €90,345 is also being provided towards the cost of these planned maintenance works.

GALWAY SOCIAL HOUSING TASKFORCE

The Galway Social Housing Taskforce met on Tuesday, 10th April 2024 at County Hall with John McCarthy, former Secretary General, Department of Housing as the new Chairperson.

The Taskforce considered a range of housing matters including:

1. Taskforce Terms of Reference and Procedures
2. Overall Galway Planning and Housing Context
3. Social Housing Delivery
4. Affordable Homes
5. Homelessness
6. Traveller Accommodation

SOCIAL WORK TEAM [HOUSING]

STRUCTURE:

The role of Social Work involves supporting individuals and families who are experiencing difficulty in coping which is impacting on their ability to function. This may be due to, emotional issues, illness, general coping ability, lack of social supports, addictions, mental health, disability, ageing, personal or interpersonal relationship problems. The work involves assessing what the issues are and firstly identifying solutions with the client(s) themselves utilising a strengths-based approach and making referrals and recommendations regarding service delivery as appropriate.

Social Workers undertake work with clients experiencing difficulties in their lives. Referred clients may experience challenges within their family, community or services and require intervention, advocacy, mediation, or negotiation. The Social Work role involves

professional, clinical input to the client in addition to evidenced based service planning and having a liaison role with the Health & Social care sector as outlined above. Social Work is a professional and specialist role that is a valuable resource where available within the local authority setting.

LA Social Work respond to referrals in respect of:

- Existing tenants / Applicants
- Older persons
- Travellers
- Vulnerable adults work (Safeguarding)
- Child Welfare cases
- Disability cases (Intellectual, Physical, Sensory & Autism)
- Mental Health
- Homelessness
- LGBTQI+ (Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex)
- Other marginalised and vulnerable individuals and groups

UPDATE:

- Increase in referrals during Q1 of older persons, vulnerable clients, both applicants and tenants, who are experiencing difficulties, seeking assistance. Referrals to Galway County Council Social Work from external referrers such as HSE Primary Care, Public Health Nursing and ALONE.
- Cost of living crisis impacting people.
- Changes to Sexual Offenders' legislation during 2024, this will impact the role of SOLO (Sexual Offences Liaison Officer), role held by Kieran Keon, Senior Social Worker. Access to accommodation and Housing is integral to the supervision and support packages provided to such housing applicants.
- CCMA – National Review of LA Social Work underway. Kieran Keon, Senior Social Worker is one of three Social Work reps on the national group. The draft review report is in its final stages. It is envisaged that it will provide an up-to-date outline of the Social Work role in local authorities, outlining the value of local authorities recruiting Professionally Qualified Social Worker, in addition to providing guidance as to appropriate staffing levels, grading structures.

PART 8 AT BARKHILL WOODFORD

On 15th March 2024, an application under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) was lodged for the demolition of existing dwellings and outbuildings and the construction of 2 no. 2 bedroom houses including connections to existing services and all ancillary site works at Barkhill in Woodford.

Plans and particulars are available to the public for viewing at the Loughrea MD Office, the planning counter in County Hall and online on the Consult.ie portal, with submissions or observations to be received no later than 29th April 2024.

The project will then come before the elected members of Loughrea M.D.



EXISTING
DWELLINGS AND
OUTBUILDINGS AT
BARKHILL,
WOODFORD

PAIRC NA DARACH, BALLYMOE

Further to a construction contract signing with Finna Construction Ltd. last September works are continuing on the new development 'Pairc na Darach' at Durrow & Ballaghymurry, Ballymoe.

The development consists of 8 no. houses comprising; 2no. single storey two-bed houses, 6 no. two-storey two-bed houses and will include all ancillary site development works, including road enhancement works along the R360 Regional Road.



VIEW OF
CONSTRUCTION
WORKS AT PAIRC
NA DARACH, AT
BALLYMOE (APRIL
2024)

DESIGN BUILD CONSULTANTS' FRAMEWORK

The LA build team have advertised a new framework on e-Tenders for: Architect Led Fully Integrated Design Team Services for the provision of housing through the Accelerated Delivery Programme for Stage (i) to Stage (v) of the DHLGH's social housing investment programme.

This new framework once established will qualify design teams to manage delivery by Design and Build on behalf of Galway County Council and Galway City Council.

The advertisement includes for an initial competition for the appointment of a team to manage the provision of social housing developments at Gort Mhaoilir and Cullairbaun in Athenry.

Tenders are due back at the end of May with tender assessment to take place thereafter.

HOUSING FOR ALL LAND ACQUISITION FUND

On 2nd April 2024 Circular 10/2024 - 'Housing For All Land Acquisition Fund' was published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage which sets out new arrangements for making Land Acquisition Fund applications.

The Land Acquisition Fund is a dedicated fund managed by the Housing Agency to support Local Authorities to acquire land to deliver new build social housing schemes. The Fund has been extended into 2024 and its remit expanded to acquire sites for affordable/mixed tenure housing delivery.

Galway County Council intends to make applications for acquiring lands for the above purposes under these new arrangements.

NRPO

Galway to Oughterard Cycleway

A series of in-person information events were held in Oughterard, Maigh Cuilinn and Galway City in March 2024. Members of the Project Team were available to discuss the Preferred Route Corridor and this consultation would lead to defining the Emerging Preferred Route (i.e., a centreline) for the project.

FLOODING UPDATE

The third Public Consultation Day (PCD) for the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme (FRS) took place on **Tuesday 27th February 2024**. A total of 65 attendees signed the attendance book, there may have been closer to 80 in attendance. Elected Representatives had a two-hour presentation and discussion prior to the main event. The PCD report is currently under draft.

TAKING IN CHARGE

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

Table A – Taking in Charge

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

In addition to the above, the following is position@ 08/04/2024.

Estates – advertised for Taking in Charge	4
Estates – Works Complete – Pending Uisce Éireann and/or GCC Water Services agreement	1
Estates – TIC Led Estates – Works in Hand This includes Bond Claim - Old Mill Road Estate, Ballinasloe	20
Estates – Developer led Estates – List of Remedials issued awaiting notification of completion	37
Bond Claims -	2

ACTIVE TRAVEL PROGRAMME – ACTIVE TRAVEL FOOTPATH AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

ORANMORE TO TRAIN STATION ACTIVE TRAVEL PROJECT

The elected members' briefing has been completed. The project details have been uploaded on consult.ie. including updated material posted online on 09/04/2024, inviting public participation and feedback. The Options report meeting was held with the NTA on 04/04/2024. [Information Leaflet - Oranmore to Train Station Active Travel Scheme | Galway County Council Online Consultation Portal](#)

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT STUDY TEMPLATE (CTS)

Systra are completing the final draft of the Kinvarra CTS template. When received, it will be submitted to the NTA and TII Land Use Planning and AT Investment teams for review this month.

TRANSPORT RESEARCH AREA (TRA) 2024 CONFERENCE

Two senior staff from Transport are attending some of the Transport Research Arena (TRA) Dublin 2024 Conference on April 15-18.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME

BALLYGAR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

New planning application to be submitted in the coming weeks. Land and wayleave acquisition is advanced and going through legal at present. Site investigation was carried out in 2017 and some additional investigation was completed by Irish Drilling at the end of 2023. Project is expected to go to tender in Q3 2024 and will be bundled with Mountbellew WWTP. Construction is expected to commence in 2025.

MOUNTBELLEW WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

New planning application to be submitted in May 2024. Land and wayleave acquisition is complete and site investigation is complete. Project is expected to go to tender in Q3 2024 and will 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 Water Ltd), operate phase commenced in October 2023. During the final months of this operate phase, Galway Co. Co./Uisce Éireann personnel will be trained to operate the plant, in preparation for its handover in October 2024.

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



AN SPIDÉAL WWTP SITE OVERVIEW

AHASCRAUGH WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Flows have been diverted to the new WWTP since 27th October. All works have been completed on site. Process proving has been completed on the plant and results received to date show that the plant is operating well within its ELVs. The contractor, (Coffey Water Ltd.), will now operate the plant for a period of 12 months.

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

ROUNDSTONE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

The judicial review of the CPO for the preferred site is ongoing, and the hearing may progress in the coming months. In the meantime, Irish Drilling have completed site investigation on the foreshore for the terminal pumping station, (which will be required in any case).

AN CHEATHRÚ RUA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Similar to Roundstone, the preferred site for An Cheathrú Rua WWTP has been tied up with judicial reviews. Following a decision by An Bord Pleanála to grant planning permission for an alternative project on the preferred site for the proposed An Cheathrú Rua Wastewater Treatment Plant, Uisce Éireann commenced a review of its plans to end the discharge of untreated sewage in An Cheathrú Rua. As part of this review Uisce Éireann has now decided to withdraw its Compulsory Purchase Order for that site. Once Uisce Éireann has completed the updated Preliminary

Business Case for An Cheathrú Rua it will make details of the proposed scheme available.



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.

Ryan Hanley Stantec (RHS) were appointed to progress the project on 15th December 2023 and the kick-off meeting was held on 24th January 2024. RHS are currently assessing a shortlist of feasible options.

GREATER GALWAY STRATEGIC DRAINAGE STUDY

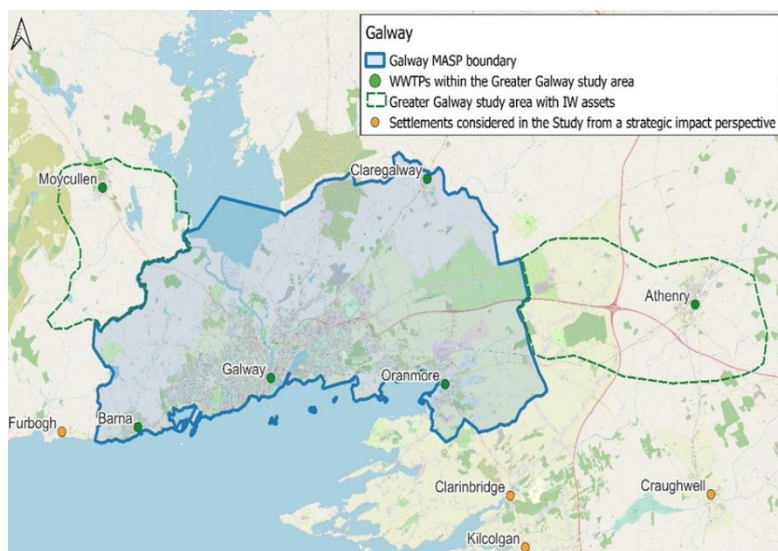
Ryan Hanley Stantec delivered an Inception Report for the project in July of this year. They are currently in the process of data gathering which will be followed by a gap analysis to identify what's needed to prepare the required existing infrastructure condition reports.

The study area covers the Galway MASP catchment, (which includes Baile Chláir), 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.



A Gap Analysis Report was submitted to Uisce Éireann in February and the consultants are now progressing their assessment of the existing infrastructure within the catchment.

GREATER GALWAY STRATEGIC DRAINAGE STUDY CATCHMENT

OPERATIONS

The information below is based on March data from West Regional Control Centre (WRCC). Galway Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) had 127 turnouts to 115 Incidents. That is an increase of 1 incident on 114 the previous month. 39 were fire incidents, 74 were special service incidents (road traffic collision (RTC), Automatic Fire Alarms (AFA's), flooding, storm damage, etc.) and 5 were standbys either in station or at a central location. Of those incidents, 44.04% were attended by Fire Service resources within 10 minutes of alert, 38.53% were attended between 10 and 20 minutes and 17.43% were attended in over 20 minutes. The average turnout time for the Full-time station in Galway City was 2.04 minutes and for county retained stations was 5.78 minutes.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

ATHENRY FIRE STATION

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



FRONT ELEVATION OF
NEW FIRE STATION
ATHENRY

LOUGHREA FIRE STATION

Subject to Senior Management Team approved, it is intended to proceed with public consultation in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations for the proposed Loughrea Fire Station, with a report to the Loughrea Municipal District meeting in July for members consideration.

BRIGADE MECHANICS WORKSHOP ATHENRY

Tender for Design Team is due to be issued in the near future.

HEADQUARTERS AND GALWAY CITY FIRE STATION

Preferred site identified and awaiting Chief Executive approval. There will be the initiation of a screening exercise in advance of any future development. Capital appraisal 99% complete and will be submitted to the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management once Chief Executive approval is available.

PREVENTION

The information in the following is based on the March figures. The Fire Authority received 23 Fire Safety Certificate applications and issued decisions on 13 applications. 8 Disability Access Certificate applications were received, and decisions made on 8 applications. A total of 5 new licenses were issued and 26 inspections were conducted.

GRANT AID FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTORATE FOR FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Capital approval has been received from the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management to procure a mid-sized vehicle appliance for use in Inishmore. This will enhance and provide additional resilience for the existing appliance in service.

TRAINING

Three new firefighter recruits successfully completed their initial training Firefighting Skills course which commenced on 26th February and lasted three weeks concluding on 15th March last. These newly trained firefighters will be stationed at An Cheathrú Rua, Tuam and Ballinasloe fire stations.

It is planned to train a further five new recruit firefighters on a training course which commences on the 8th April. These additional recruits will be stationed at Inis Mor (x1), An Cheathrú Rua (x2) and Gort (x 2). Once completed this will bring the total number of newly recruited firefighters thus far in 2024 to 12 which already exceeds the average total annual intake of recruit firefighters.

A water rescue initial/recertification training was conducted from 25th to 28th March. The participants were predominantly from the full-time fire service. The training was conducted at various training locations in Galway City and Tuam.

One training place was allocated to Galway Fire Service on the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management's "Fire Service trainer (Delivery)" training course which took place from 11th to 15th March. The aim of this course is to assist fire authorities in developing and updating their ability to manage efficient and effective training delivery. This training provides officers involved in the delivery of training with the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively deliver and manage training at fire authority level.

Training was provided to members of the administration team in fire service headquarters on the use of recently acquired software for the recording and management of staff training in the fire service. The software is an add on module to the existing asset management system "Flex".

Two training allocations were requested and granted on several National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management's training courses scheduled to take place later in April. The courses in question being "Fire Service Trainer" and "Effective Decision Making". Allocations have also been sought for the NDFEM's "Module 2" training course schedule for May next.

MAJOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

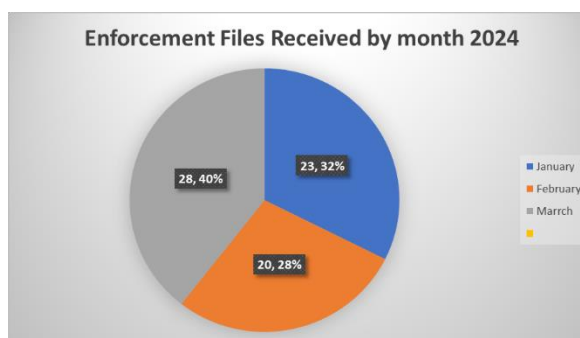
A multi-Principal Response Agency Review commenced of the Upper Tier Control of Major Accident Hazards Site in Oranmore, with a Principal Response Agency & Relevant Stakeholder meeting early April and follow up exercise scheduled in late May. The Review will update the 2021 External Emergency Plan for the site, with a view to releasing a revised draft plan in June for Public Consultation.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

PLANNING

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

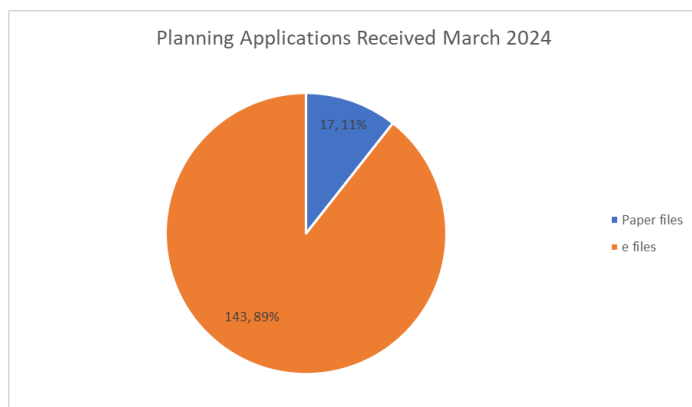
A total of 22 files were closed in March 2024 and 69 files were closed in the first quarter of 2024.



A total of 7 warning letters and 6 enforcement notices were issued in March 2024.

Court Listings	
April	10
May	7
June	4
July	5

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT



An Bord Pleanála appeals notified between 01/01/2024 to 31/03/2024 were 16 and the number of appealed decisions was 29.

AMBULANCE BASE FOR CONNEMARA

Planning permission has been granted to the HSE for the change of use from a health centre to an ambulance base to serve the wider Connemara area in Reccess. The National Ambulance Service plan to repurpose the existing health centre facility as a base to serve Connemara with one emergency vehicle and one rapid response vehicle based at this location.

STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Galway County Council have received notification that a Strategic Infrastructure Application for a windfarm at Laurclavagh & adjacent townlands (Tuam MD) was lodged with An Bord Pleanála on 15th March 2024.

Submissions should be made to An Bord Pleanála by 10th May 2024 and the decision is due by 12th September 2024.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS DECIDED 1/01/2024 TO 31/03/2024

DECISIONS GRANTED		DECISIONS REFUSED			
Approval:	0	Approval:	0		
Extension of Duration:	4	Extension of Duration:	2		
Outline:	2	Outline:	1		

	Permission:	301	Permission:	50	
	Retention:	81	Retention:	9	
	Permission Consequent:	3	Permission Consequent:	0	
	Temporary:	<u>0</u>	Temporary:	<u>0</u>	
		391		62	

FORWARD PLANNING

ATHENRY DRAFT LOCAL AREA PLAN 2024-2030

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

On 19/02/2024 – Minister of State for Local Government & Planning issued a “Notice of Intention to issue a Direction” on the Athenry Draft Local Area Plan 2024-2030. The Draft Direction concerns the zoning of five parcels of land in the town. The particulars of this Direction were subject to public consultation from 29/02/2024 – 14/03/2024. Six submissions were received during consultation period. CE Report on Submissions to Draft Ministerial Direction to the Athenry LAP 2024-2030 was submitted to Minister for Local Government & Planning; Members for Athenry MD and Prescribed Bodies on 03/04/2024.

LOUGHREA DRAFT LOCAL AREA PLAN 2024-2030

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

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

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

CE Report was discussed at the Loughrea MD Meeting on 26/03/2024. A number of Material Alterations were made and will be going out on public display by mid-April.

RESIDENTIAL ZONED LAND TAX

Annual Draft Map was published in January 2024 and closing date for submissions on Annual Draft Map was 01/04/2024. Two submissions were received during consultation period.

Where land is identified on the Annual Draft Map as being subject to the RZLT and is included in a Development Plan or Local Area Plan, a person may on or before 31st May 2024, make a submission to request a variation of the zoning of that land.

URDF

Ongoing work in relation to URDF Team in the delivery of Call 2 Funding Application.

MASTERPLAN OF THE FORMER GALWAY AIRPORT LANDS

Work is underway with a consultant, appointed in the preparation of Tender Documents in relation to the Master Plan of the Former Galway Airport lands.

SOCIO ECONOMIC PROFILE OF GALWAY COUNTY

A Socio-Economic informative profile of the county was prepared by the Forward Planning Team which will help inform policy decision makers both at home and abroad on future employment and enterprise opportunities.



SHARING AND ENGAGING WITH THE EDUCATION SECTORS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE

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.

APRIL SCHEDULE

April 2nd	How to Write a Business Plan
April 9th	How to Master your VAT Return
April 9/16	Visual Storytelling – DIY Smart Video
April 13 th	1:1 Website & Online Marketing Workshops
April 18 th	AI tools for Business
April 23 rd	Financial for Small Business
April 25th	How CRM Can Help You Increase Sales
April 29/30	E-mail Marketing

START YOUR OWN BUSINESS PROGRAMME (SYOB)

LEO GALWAY organises a SYOB programme monthly with up to 14 participants on each programme.

The April programme will commence with a daytime programme on April 11th and an evening programme which will commence on April 22nd.

GALWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

On Thursday April 11th, Caroline McDonagh will attend presentations from business start-ups and entrepreneurs from the Coordinator Horsemanship Level 6 programme and will discuss LEO supports and services.

DESIGN MINGLE

design mingle

**Weaving Connections,
Crafting Inspirations**
with award-winning fashion
designer Colin Burke

12th April
10.30am - 1pm
at CREW,
Cluain Mhuire,
Galway



Office of the
Local Enterprise Officer
Galway
CREW

Taking place in CREW on April 12th Design Mingle is a vibrant networking event tailored for craft and design entrepreneurs. It serves as a dynamic platform where creative minds come together to share ideas, collaborate, and foster meaningful connections.

Our speaker, Colin Burke is redefining Irish knitwear with contemporary luxury clothing that combines traditional Irish motifs and modern sensibilities. Focusing on exceptional yarns, impeccable details, and precise stitch techniques, every collection is made by hand in the west of Ireland. Influenced by his love of architecture, Colin Burke creates clothing that is sculptural in appearance and a joy to wear.



Inspired by his late grandmother Maureen, Colin Burke's collections also explore the strength of heritage and craft through uncompromising quality to create modern heirlooms to be treasured now and passed down to future generations.



ESG – UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

Eoin Connaire will present the LEOs sustainability supports at the ESG compliance for Environmental, Social and Governance Standards event in UOG on April 12th. The seminar will aim to help businesses:

- Understand the implications of ESG – Environmental, Social and Governance – for their business.
- Be aware of the supports such as online training, mentoring and grant aid to help businesses with their ESG compliance.
- How compliance with ESG standards can enhance their reputation and brand and is a proven factor in staff retention



TAKE ACTION ENTREPRENEUR COMPETITION



TakeAction
BUSINESS COMPETITION

Application Deadline
5pm, 12th April

Person/Company must be located within 20km radius of Tuam

Must be trading less than 5 years as of 12th April

Organised by Action Tuam and Beechtree Enterprise Centre in association with:
T.A. O'DONOGHUE CANNERY & CO. SOLICITORS
McDonald Welsh Chartered Accountants
hardiman LIFE & FINANCE
WILSON & WILSON ACCOUNTANTS
Local Enterprise Office
ActionTuam

LEO Galway is working with Action Tuam and are calling on people with a new, innovative idea or those who have set up a business within the last 5 years to “TAKE ACTION” to compete in an exciting Entrepreneur Competition with a first-place prize of €20,000. Closing date for applications is April 12th. Participants are asked to submit a detailed business plan to meet a pressing need or fill a gap in the market that they have identified. LEO Galway will be providing mentoring and training supports to the winners.

PORTUMA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Eoin Connaire will make a presentation on Green for Business Programme and outline LEO supports and services and speak to business owners afterwards in an informal setting.

This will take place on 23rd April at 7.30pm in the Portumna Village.

CONSTRUCT INNOVATE WEBINAR

Construct Innovate is Ireland’s national research centre for construction technology and innovation, based in Galway and are currently running a webinar series each Tuesday from 12-1pm in association with Engineers Ireland. Caroline McDonagh will present on the final topic of innovation and entrepreneurship on Tuesday, 23rd April between 12-1pm.

ECOSME AT BIA INNOVATOR

This event is designed for hospitality professionals seeking further information on sustainable initiatives for their workplaces and takes place on April 17th at BIA Innovator. LEO Galway will take part in a panel discussion on Economic Sustainability.

DESIGNER IN RESIDENCE FINAL IN CREW

Enterprise Office Galway with Galway Culture Company and the Institute of Designers in Ireland are collaborating on design and the convergence of business worlds through the Designer in Residence Programme 2024.

Five talented graduate designers will pair with five forward-thinking companies to collaboratively tackle real-world, intricate challenges—commonly known as "wicked problems."

The outcomes of this partnership could manifest as innovative solutions for communication hurdles, streamlined systems, or research-driven insights. This collaboration is a unique opportunity for businesses to witness first-hand the immense value of design as a problem-

solving tool, one that not only assists their operations but also wields significant strategic influence.

Upon completion, the final solutions will be formally presented in CREW on April 26th. Caroline McDonagh will represent the LEO as a judge on the judging panel.

AGINNOVATON EVENT AT UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

Caroline McDonagh will take part on a panel to discuss LEO supports for the students and alumni from the MSc program in AgInnovation at UOG to help develop their ideas further. This will take place on April 20th April.

This one-year program helps students identify a product or service and then teaches them how to shape that idea through customer discovery--by going out and talking to the actual people who will use that product.

CLIFDEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Caroline McDonagh will outline LEO supports and services and speak to business owners afterwards in an informal setting. This takes place on April 22nd.

INNOVATE AND GROW YOUR CREATIVE BUSINESS

This management development programme is aimed at business owners and managers who are looking to develop and grow a commercially sustainable creative business.

Commencing in person on 23rd April and following dates will be 8th May, 21st May and 4th June taking place in City Council from 9.30am to 4.30pm each day.

There will be 15 participants taking part.

PAST EVENTS

CREATIVE BUSINESS CUP

Caroline McDonagh attended the Irish final of the Creative Business Cup on March 20th in CREW. Galway client Grá Chocolates who won the Irish final will now go on to represent Ireland in the Global Creative Business Cup Final in Copenhagen in June.



L-R: ALAN MULROONEY (WDC), NIAMH COSTELLO (CREW), PADDY TOBIN (ATU), CAROLINE MCDONAGH (LEO) AND RASMUS WIINSTEDT TSCHERNING (CREATIVE BUSINESS CUP)



GRAINNE MULLINS – GRÁ CHOCOLATES

IHUBS



L-R: EOIN CONNAIRE, NOREEN MCDONAGH, STEPHANIE COLOMBANI, LEO GALWAY, TONY O'KELLY, ATU IHUBS.

On March 19, 2024, staff members from LEO Galway had an insightful tour of ATU iHub Galway. This innovation hub provides incubation space and comprehensive support to high-potential entrepreneurs and innovative business start-ups and scale-ups.

During the visit, they also had a meeting with Tony O’Kelly, the New Frontiers Programme Manager, who shared details about the upcoming New Frontiers program.

The New Frontiers program is Enterprise Ireland’s national entrepreneur development initiative specifically designed for early-stage start-ups. It operates in three phases and is delivered at both the ATU Galway City and Mayo campuses.

EXPORT PROGRAMME

A face-to-face regional Sales and Export Accelerator programme workshop took place on March 28th in the Clayton Hotel. Participants are preparing for their overseas client trips in June. Eoin Connaire and Caroline McDonagh attended on behalf of LEO Galway.



WILD GALWAY GAMES INCUBATOR

Caroline McDonagh attended the launch of the Wild Galway Games Incubator on April 5th in the Portershed. This will provide access to training through seminars, workshops and masterclasses, industry mentorship, peer-to-peer learning opportunities. The LEO will provide mentorship and training to the participants to support capacity end enterprise development.

LEAN FOR BUSINESS PROGRAMME

LEO Galway delivers the Lean for Business programme twice a year. Lean for Business is designed to encourage clients to adopt lean business principles in their organisations to increase performance and competitiveness. Lean is for all companies, regardless of sector.

The first programme for 2024 commenced on the 27th March in the Menlo Park Hotel with 14 participants.

REGIONAL BUSINESS SUMMIT

Caroline McDonagh attended the Regional Business summit hosted by J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics on Friday 22nd March.

REGENERATION SCHEMES

LOUGHREA TOWN HALL

Architectural Consultants Aughey O Flaherty have now resourced the QS team to finalise the Tender Documents with a view to uploading on to E Tenders in the coming week.

Plans for protective works to the current building are in train and these works will be carried out in the coming weeks.

ATHENRY

Market Square and Cross Street and Burkes Lane Property are awaiting the decision on the CAT 1 applications that have been submitted to the Department. The decisions on the most recent Funding Call are expected by the end of April.

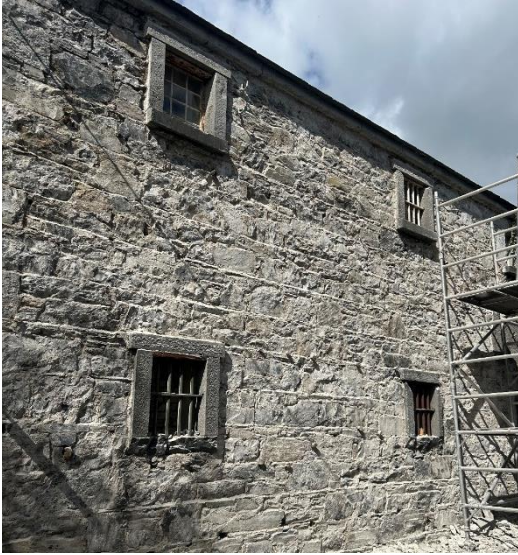
Town Centre First: Tender is being prepared for the Town Centre First Plan with funding arrangements being finalised.

An Expression of Interest is to be published in the next two weeks for the new Town Team.

PORTUMNA

Works progressing well on site of Portumna Courthouse as Kelbuild largely completing the exterior demolition works at this point. Roof works are ongoing along with internal stripout and remedial works to stone facade. Additional ceiling structure installed, and Courthouse furniture stored in attic space.





Public Realm and Wayfinding: RPS are advancing with their design with renders being updated and supplementary drone survey being completed to inform the design.

Abbey Street Property: Procurement of specialist structural survey is being pursued.

Urban Design Framework: Documents received from consultants with significant editing to be carried out inhouse to tailor to needs.



TUAM

Tuam Town Hall and the Shambles projects are awaiting the decision of the Department of Rural and Community Developments CAT 1 Funding Call which is anticipated to be at the end of April.

CLIFDEN

LUC are nearing completion of the Planning Package for the application to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála for the Public Realm project for Clifden Town Centre, Community Park and Beach Road Quay.

Works on Destination Towns initiatives funded by Failte Ireland are advancing and nearing completion at the Coach House Pavilion, The Ardbear Bridge (Greenway Readiness) and the Gateway Signage on the approach roads to Clifden. Contractors NUARK, O Malley's and Kents Steel are progressing on programme.

GORT

Public Realm: BDP are progressing with the drawings for the proposed public realm improvements and the relevant environmental assessments are being advanced to support the Planning application.

Stakeholder engagement is continuing to ensure a harmonised support for the scheme.

Town Centre First Projects: Consultants to be appointed for historic structure fund project for Gort Town Hall.

Town and Village Funding Stream announcement awaited for Gort Streetscape Scheme.

URDF CALL 3

Valuers appointed to the three qualifying towns of Ballinasloe, Tuam and Oranmore with 20 properties initially identified as candidate properties that are either vacant or derelict. Ownership is being determined in many cases and engagement will be pursued with these owners to assist in having these properties re occupied.

HERITAGE OFFICE

Heritage Projects receive funding from the Heritage Council

The Heritage Council has awarded Galway County Council Heritage Office €117,500 in funding for the following projects and initiatives:

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 1. Athenry Town Walls Conservation Works | €60,000 |
| 2. Galway Community Archaeologist Project | €20,000 |
| 3. Digital Mapping of Graveyards 2024 | €12,000 |

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 4. Audit of Holy Wells 2024 | €18,000 |
| 5. Audit of Oral Heritage Recordings Phase 2 | € 7,500 |

GALWAY CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR MONUMENTS AND SITES



Members of the public and community groups are being invited to celebrate International Day for Monuments and Sites 2024 on Thursday, April 18th by participating in a free bus tour of some of East Galway's most intriguing built heritage sites.

The theme of this year's annual UNESCO-supported initiative is 'The Heritage of Commemoration' with a particular focus on monuments and sites that reflect the human experience.

Galway Community Archaeology Project and Galway County Council have arranged a free bus tour of Kilboght Church and Graveyard, Abbeygormican and St. Kerrill's Abbey in Gurteen where they can hear about ongoing local community efforts to restore and

promote the heritage sites. A bus will leave the offices of Galway County Council, Prospect Hill at 9.30 am with pick-ups at Oranmore, Athenry, Galway Plaza and Loughrea.

Gurteen Community Council, Kilboght Graveyard Heritage Group and Abbeygormican Cemetery Group have each worked with Galway Community Archaeology Project, Heritage Office, and Environment Section in securing funding through the Community Monuments Fund to prepare conservation management plans and to undertake conservation works.

The aim of International Day for Monuments and Sites is to encourage local groups and individuals to consider the importance of cultural heritage to their lives, identities, and communities, and to promote awareness of its diversity and vulnerability and the efforts required to protect and conserve it. Galway Community Archaeology Project is funded by the Heritage Council and the Heritage Office, Galway County Council.

IRISH WALLED TOWN NETWORK STRATEGY

The launch of Irish Walled Town Network Strategy took place recently in the Swift Cultural Centre in Trim, Co Meath. Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, represented the Walled Towns

of Athenry and Loughrea at the annual general meeting of the Irish Walled Towns Network and attend the strategy launch.



L-R: PETER CAREY, CHAIRPERSON, IRISH WALLED TOWNS NETWORK, MARIE MANNION, HERITAGE OFFICER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTING ATHENRY & LOUGHREA, VIRGINIA TEEHAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE HERITAGE COUNCIL, EIMEAR O'CONNELL, MANAGER, IRISH WALLED TOWN NETWORK AND IAN DOYLE, HEAD OF CONSERVATION, THE HERITAGE COUNCIL.

HERITAGE COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME



The Heritage Officer provides advice, guidance, and letters of support to many heritage groups in the County who were applying for the Heritage Council's Community Grant Scheme. The minimum grant that could have been requested through the scheme was €500 and the maximum is €25,000. Last year, 15 Galway-based projects received a total of €148,470 through the scheme, including the Kinvara Hockey Club who

used the funding to design an accessible heritage and biodiversity trail within a new pitch development project, Bullaun Cemetery Committee who used the funding to train community volunteers on how to map its graveyard, Reilig na bhFilí (Killeeneen) for a Conservation Management Plan, Kilcummin Church of Ireland for the repair and restoration of Church windows and Abbey Heritage for the creation of a digital StoryMap. See Abbey StoryMap on Galway County Council's arcgis platform:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/3b1e021e116241b2bdc8c1fd4b5e29ca>

54 HERITAGE PROJECTS BENEFIT FROM GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL'S HERITAGE GRANT FUNDING

54 Heritage projects were granted funding by Galway County Council under the Heritage Grant Scheme which is part of Galway County Council's community support scheme. A total

of €40,000 was distributed among the various projects. The projects that received funding are rich and varied and spread throughout the county and include the following: Lásadóirí na Coiribe - Corrib Lacemakers for their project entitled *Ar an Imeall - Lace on the Edge*; Athenry Arts & Heritage Centre for their project relating to the development of self-guiding tour booklets in various languages; Ballinasloe and District Heritage Society for the development of their new heritage yearbook. East Galway Family History Society was provided funding for their initiative with regards to Exploring County Galway's Ulster Heritage. Comhlacht Forbartha Inis Meáin for their project Togra QR & Suíomh Idirlíne Inis Meáin and Friends of Tuam Heritage to undertake the digital mapping of St Mary's graveyard.

GALWAY COUNTY HERITAGE & BIODIVERSITY PLAN 2024 - 2030

Plean Nua Oidhreachta & Bithéagsúlachta do Chontae na Gaillimhe 2024 - 2030

ABAIR DO CHUID

Is fíréal ar chearn de na cruinnithe comhairleúcháin phoiblí a thionófar mar seo a leanas:

De Luain an 15 Aibreán	7pm - 9pm	Ostán an Oranmore Lodge, Orán Mór, Co. na Gaillimhe H91 NN76
De Máirt an 16 Aibreán	11am - 1pm	Ionad Pobail Sháil an Mhúir, Sáil an Mhuilinn, Tuam, Co. na Gaillimhe H54 D573
Dáineadán an 18 Aibreán	11am - 1pm	Ionad Poblait na Meántréach, An Mhainic: Baile Locha Bliach, Co. na Gaillimhe H62 VY30
Dáineadán an 18 Aibreán	7pm - 9pm	Tírech Oidhre Sháil Ábha Ghairbh, Baile Ábha Ghairbh, Co. na Gaillimhe
De Mícheál an 19 Aibreán	11am - 1pm	Tírech Cúige Uachtar Árd, Uachtar Árd, Co. na Gaillimhe H93 X0919

Léirigh, le do thoil...

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe Galway County Council | An Chomhairle Oidhreachta The Heritage Council | Page 6 of 6

A New Heritage & Biodiversity Plan for the County of Galway 2024 - 2030

HAVE YOUR SAY

Galway County Council and Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Forum are in the process of developing a new Heritage & Biodiversity Plan for the County of Galway 2024 - 2030.

Public Consultation

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe Galway County Council | An Chomhairle Oidhreachta The Heritage Council | Page 1 of 6

Galway County Council Heritage Office and Galway County Council Biodiversity Office are undertaking public consultation with regards to the development of a new Heritage & Biodiversity Plan for the county of Galway from 2024 to 2030. In addition, "The Wishing Tree Project" facilitated by

artist Maria Hitchcox will gather the input and views of voices that do not always engage in the traditional public consultation process. The first phase of the "Wishing Tree Project" will consist of a series of art facilitation workshops held at various locations across the county. The workshops will target primary and secondary school children, members of our new communities, members of the Traveller Community, people with intellectual disabilities and older people. The feedback from these workshops will contribute in developing a Heritage and Biodiversity Plan that reflects the needs and priorities of more diverse cross-section of the people of County Galway.

SOCIAL MEDIA IN A BUNDLE COURSE

Galway County Council's Heritage Office, working with Garry Kelly (GK Media/Digital Training Hub), has developed a 3hr Social Media Marketing Course for Heritage Groups and Heritage Practitioners working in



the county of Galway (**Galway County Council's administrative area only**). The course will be delivered online and is free of charge. There are limited places available on the course and booking is essential. We would ask that you would only register for the course if you are involved in Galway County Heritage and can commit to attending.

This is a Single Session course, but you have the option of choosing which dates suits you best –Friday 19th April (10am to 1pm) **or** Friday 10th May (10am to 1pm).

To book your place on this online course please log on to the following link:

Friday April 19th (10am - 1pm)

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/social-media-in-a-bundle-19th-april-2024-tickets-869295926517?aff=oddtcreator>

Friday May 10th (10am - 1pm)

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/social-media-in-a-bundle-10th-may-tickets-869303128057?aff=oddtcreator>

Social Media in a Bundle (3hrs with 15min break)

- The Benefits of Social Media
- The 7-Day Rule
- The Main Platforms
- Hashtags & Keyroom
- Traditional v Social Media
- Influencers
- Considerations for Social Media
- Dealing with Negative Comments
- Knowing your Audience & Demographic
- Blogging
- Measurement, Analysis & Promotion

BIODIVERSITY

HARE'S CORNER

The application window for the Hare's Corner Project, in partnership with the Burrenbeo Trust and funded by the Local Biodiversity Action Fund closed on the 31st March. Applications are currently being assessed and it is clear from the submissions that there is a huge demand for this scheme.

	Applicants	Orchard	Woodland	Pond	Plan For Nature	Plan for Peat	Total Measures Applied For
Galway County	222	146	118	104	181	22	571

SCHOOL TALKS

Online talks were given to students in secondary schools in the Ballinasloe and Tuam Municipal Districts as part of the Biodiversity Officer's outreach programme. The pressures facing biodiversity in the county were highlighted. Solutions and ideas for protecting and enhancing biodiversity were also presented.

BIODIVERSITY WEEK PLANNING

Planning for National Biodiversity Week 17 – 26th May 2024 is well underway with a series of events planned for around the county. The Biodiversity Officer is providing support and advice to local community groups on events to mark the week.

MEDIA COVERAGE

Galway County Council's tree planting event in Tuam for National Tree Week was well covered in the local print media with the planting of 900 trees in the Palace Grounds Park.



CONNAUGHT
TRIBUNE 15TH
MARCH 2024

Tuam's Palace Grounds set to blossom

• Address for biodiversity

A planned demonstration of biodiversity-friendly landscaping is under way at Tuam's Palace grounds, with a focus on planting native species and trees. The project, led by Galway County Biodiversity Officer Rosina Joyce, aims to enhance the site's ecological value and create a more sustainable environment for the future.

The demonstration involves planting a variety of native trees and shrubs, including hazel, hawthorn, and holly. The project is part of a larger initiative to improve the biodiversity of the site and create a more sustainable environment for the future.



Members of the High School College, Tuam, with representatives of County Biodiversity Officer Rosina Joyce and the planting team at the Palace Grounds.



Work is being done to plant native trees and shrubs at the Palace Grounds, Tuam.

The demonstration is being held to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity-friendly landscaping and to encourage the public to get involved in similar projects. The project is part of a larger initiative to improve the biodiversity of the site and create a more sustainable environment for the future.



Members of the High School College, Tuam, with representatives of County Biodiversity Officer Rosina Joyce and the planting team at the Palace Grounds.

LOCAL

TREE PLANTING ON PALACE GROUNDS



GALWAY County Biodiversity Officer Rosina Joyce and Cathaoirleach of County Galway Liam Carroll with Michael Sweeney, Gabriel Burke, Tommy Cahill and Michael Reilly from Ability West at a tree planting event in the Palace Grounds, Tuam, recently. See also page 12.

TUAM HERALD 20TH MARCH 2024

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE ICT & HUMAN RESOURCES & DIGITISATION

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

LOCAL AUTHORITY
Climate Action
Plan 2024 - 2029

The adopted Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 was published on the 21st of March. Copies of the Plan will be available at Galway County Library branches and online at <https://www.galway.ie/ClimateAction>. Considered a significant milestone in Galway County Council's commitment to climate action, the five-year strategy was developed following extensive consultation across the County over the past 18 months.



CLLR. LIAM CARROLL, CATHAOIRLEACH, WITH ALÁNNA O'BRIEN AND MICHELLE CHIPERI AIVAZOVA OF THE YOUTH WORK IRELAND SAUTI-YOUTH PROJECT AT THE LAUNCH OF THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALONGSIDE LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, EILEEN RUANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, ELECTED MEMBERS, CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY STAFF, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE & BIODIVERSITY SPC AND THE OILEÁIN ÁRANN DECARBONISING ZONE. PHOTO BOYD CHALLENGER

TIDY TOWNS NETWORK MEETING



Mark Molloy, Environment Awareness officer and Denise Feeney, Community Climate Action Officer attended the Galway County Tidy Towns Network meeting organised by the Community section in the

Council. The event was co-hosted with Kinvara Tidy Towns and held in the Burren Nature Sanctuary and Botanical Collection on Saturday, March 9th. The event was attended by over 20 Tidy Towns groups from around the County with over 40 attendees. The aim of event was to network, share experiences, expertise, challenges, and solutions. Galway Co Council staff informed the attendees of the many supports from Galway Co Council including the many grants and resources available to Tidy Towns groups in the county.



INTERNAL ENERGY USE

The Galway County Council Energy Review was completed. Total Final Consumption for 2022 was 17,000,000 kWh (17GWh) with a breakdown of 42% on electricity, 37% on transport and 21% on thermal. This equates to 4,679 tonnes greenhouse gas emissions. There is an overall downward trend in consumption. Expenditure on energy consumed by Galway County Council in 2022 was €2.6 million. This amounted to approximately 2% of the Annual Budget for 2022. The Energy Review identifies opportunities for energy consumption reductions.

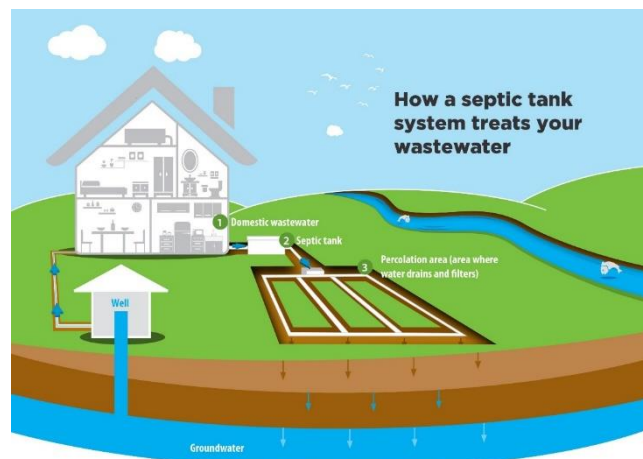
Work is ongoing to attain ISO 50001 energy management standard within the organisation to optimise implementation of these opportunities. Efforts to implement an automated Data Collection System are progressing and this is expected to be in-situ by end of Q2 2024. Outputs from this system will support analysis of energy use within the organisation.

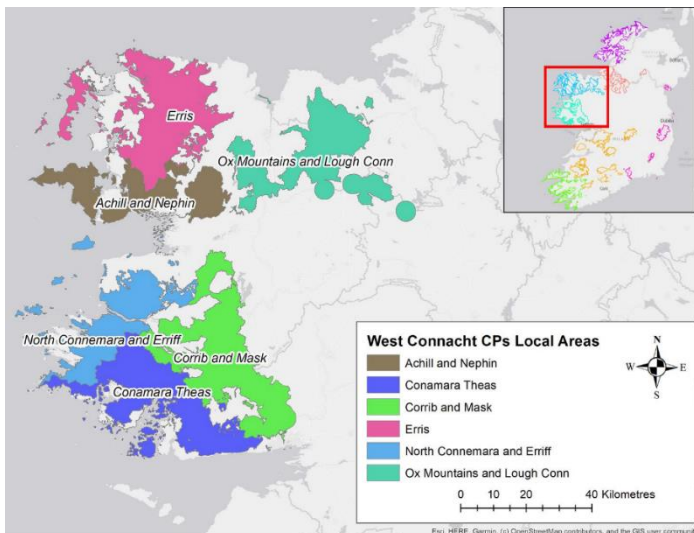
ACRES

An ecologist from the ACRES West cooperation project gave an online talk on the Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES), in particular aspects of the scheme that facilitate water quality improvements such as:

- Habitat restoration
- Riparian margin tree planting
- Riparian margin/sheep fencing
- Culverts

The area covered by ACRES West Connacht in county Galway is Connemara. ACRES Burren Aran and ACRES MSC are covering areas in the south of the county. ACRES replaces the GLAS scheme. Landowners are paid based on various measures introduced.





MAP OF ACRES WEST CONNACHT



FENCING TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY

DAWROS WATERBODIES

A meeting was held between the Council, Kylemore Abbey and MKO consultants in relation to the tourist season ahead in 2024 and ensuring compliance with the Kylemore’s wastewater discharge licence. In consultation with environment section technical staff, substantial works have been carried out on the wastewater treatment plant, surface & wastewater pipe network and pumping stations over the past 12 months. These works will ensure compliance with the licence and protection of the sensitive Dawros waterbodies downstream.



NEW CHEMICAL DOSING SYSTEM AT KYLEMORE ABBEY TO REDUCE PHOSPHORUS DISCHARGING TO THE SENSITIVE DAWROS CATCHMENT

BATHING WATERS

A meeting was held with the HSE to finalise the bathing water sampling programme for 2024. 28 bathing waters in total will be sampled during the season, with 11 inlet streams to bathing areas also being tested. The first samples will be taken on the 22nd May 2024.

WASTE/AIR MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT

WASTE PRESENTATION BY LAW INSPECTIONS

Over 130 waste presentation by law inspections were carried out in Ballinasloe. Some of these were follow-ups to previous inspections and if these were still non-compliant, Fixed Payment notices were issued to the householders.

EPA WORKSHOP

Some staff members attended a workshop run by the EPA in relation to case studies on waste enforcement issues. Topics covered included waste presentation by law inspections, instances for issuing Fixed Payment Notices, new CCTV guidelines and an update from the NWCPO. The staff found the cases very informative.

COURT FILES

Three files were submitted to the law department for prosecution. Two of them are for non-payment of Fixed Payment Notices issued under the waste presentation by laws. The other case is for the non-submission of information under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended.

COURT ATTENDANCE

There were two court cases heard in March. One was for a Section 32 prosecution under the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended, the person transported waste without a waste collection permit. The offender pleaded guilty and was convicted and fined 200 Euro. The other case concerns the storage of End-of-Life vehicles without a waste facility permit in place. The individual is being prosecuted for not complying with a Section 55 notice to dispose of the waste. The case was in court for the second time in March, on the first occasion the judge had given the individual a chance to dispose of the waste, but the judge was not happy with the progress and gave the defendant another month to clear all the waste from the site.



1 conviction secured regarding offences under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 As Amended on the 14th March last in Doire Né Court. Summary of case outlined below.

GROUNDING OF THE FISHING VESSEL AMBITIOUS ON INISHMORE

Galway County Council were contacted by the Coast Guard on Sunday the 3rd of March to advise us that a 20 m wooden fishing vessel ran aground on the north coast of Inishmore in the early hours of the morning. 5 crew members were rescued by the coast guard helicopter and taken to University Hospital Galway – all were ok. We were advised that the vessel was carrying 2 tonnes of marine diesel which posed a risk causing environmental pollution.

Our Oil Pollution Response plan was put into effect, and we contacted SEA- PT (Shannon Estuary Anti-Pollution team) to advise them that we may need equipment brought to Inishmore.

Galway County Council had an initial briefing with the Coast Guard on 4th March and further information was gathered in relation to the vessel's owners.

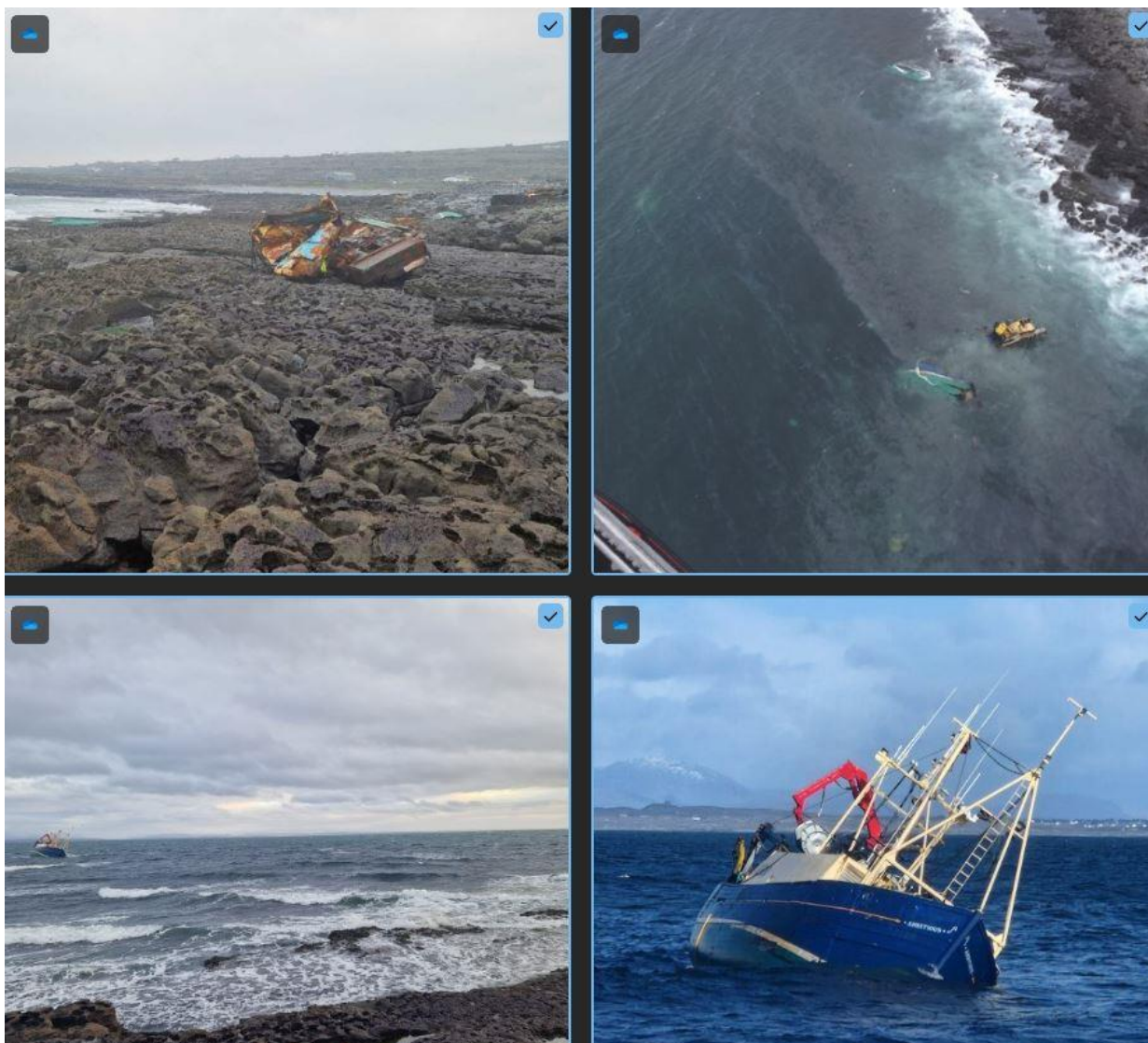
Weather conditions at the time prevented any kind of salvage operation. The prevailing winds and currents were such that any oil would have been carried away from Inishmore.

Galway County Council instructed PWS Ltd (Pollution & Waste Services), who are specialists in oil spill response, to send a team to the Island to monitor the situation and assess any potential oil pollution. At this stage, the vessel had started to break up, but PWS reported no evidence of oil pollution on the shoreline.

The owner of the vessel gave Galway County Council an undertaking that he would remove all debris from the shore and by the 6th March was on the Island with a team of locals removing the wreckage.

GCC attended daily briefings with the Coast Guard throughout the week to monitor the situation. Aerial surveys were carried out by the Coast Guard helicopter throughout the week.

In the end, the vessel broke up before any salvage operation could be carried out. It is assumed that all fuel on board escaped, but it did not wash ashore and, due to the nature of diesel, would have dispersed quickly.



VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

FOOD SAFETY

FSAI once again extended the contract for veterinary public health and food safety work in the county and city from Feb 29th until March 22nd. At this point it was further extended to October 31st with a cover letter explaining that transfer of the Local Authority Veterinary Service to the Department of Agriculture had been agreed and that they expected the

veterinary service nationally to transfer to the Department of Agriculture by October 31st, 2024. Further details on this are pending.

DOG CONTROL

Upgrading works at the dog shelter provided for by Department of Rural and Community Development fund granted in December 2023, are almost at completion with insulation works throughout, external shutters and new flooring all installed. The upgrade project provides for better biosecurity and disease management as well as thermal protection for the dogs under the care of Galway County Council. New European legislation due to be introduced in 2024 mandates allowable environmental temperatures in dog pounds and shelters for the first time and these works guarantee same.

Funding has not yet been granted for recruitment of more dog wardens as widely reported by the media in 2023.

675 dog licences purchased during month of March 2023, 470 of which were purchased in the local post office.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS



STOP FOOD WASTE CAMPAIGN, FARM BATTERY RECYCLING



WEEE COLLECTION SERVICE UPDATES



FREE E-WASTE AND BATTERY RECYCLING EVENTS FOR COUNTY GALWAY HOUSEHOLDERS

Householders across County Galway are being encouraged to bring their batteries and electrical/electronic waste to a set of free collection days being held in Mountbellew, Loughrea, Gort, Maam Cross and Oughterard during April and May.

Hosted by WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Ireland and supported by Galway County Council, the annual initiative saw over 180 tonnes of electrical waste collected in the county last year.

Anything with a plug, battery or cable can be recycled for free on the day, including old washing machines, TVs, toasters and kettles, electronic tools and toys, cables, IT equipment, mobile phones, remote controls and batteries.

The series of events kicks off on Saturday April 6th at the Oughterard GAA car park followed by Loughrea Mart (April 13th), Mountbellew-Moylough GAA Club (April 20th), Maam Cross Mart (April 27th) and Gort Co-Operative Mart (May 4th). Collections will be accepted from 10.00am to 4.00pm each day.

Cllr. Liam Carroll, Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council said “With old electric waste items and batteries lying around many households, these drop-off days provide a great opportunity to recycle these items for free. This initiative ensures waste is diverted from landfill, raw materials are recovered for reuse, and hazardous materials are safely and responsibly disposed of. “

“Recycling e-waste is incredibly beneficial for both the environment, the county, and the economy,” said **Liam Conneally, Chief Executive at Galway County Council**. “There are many old items still lying around a lot of households and we are delighted to work with WEEE Ireland in offering householders the opportunity to recycle these for free.”

According to **Leo Donovan, CEO of WEEE Ireland Ltd.**, “People living in County Galway have contributed greatly to e-waste recycling every year. We want to encourage that trend and ensure that everyone avails of this free service.”

Eileen Ruane, Director of Services commented “We look forward to working with WEEE Ireland and Galway householders to hopefully recycle a record-breaking amount of

electronic waste. All items collected this year will help County Galway meet national e-waste recycling targets for 2024.”

Galway County Council provides a WEEE collection service for householders on an ongoing basis at its Civic Amenity and Recycling Sites in Tuam, Clifden and Ballinasloe. Visit www.galway.ie for more information.

Further information from WEEE Ireland <https://www.weeeireland.ie/contact/> or 01299932

GREEN SCHOOL VISITS



Green School visits were conducted in Kilcolgan ETNS, SN Tír an Fhia, SN Baile Nua, Inis Mór secondary school, and Coláiste an Chreagán, Mountbellew.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

ATHENRY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

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

2024 Plan Preferred Bidder

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

2. **Restoration Maintenance/Improvement**

- a. **Surface dressing –**
 - R339 Newford
 - LS3109 Crumlin
 - LS7138 Knockauncarragh
 - LS71149 Kiltroque
 - LS7126 Ballydavid Middle
 - LS3112 Gloves Middle
 - LS3102 Moneymore
 - LS2117 Ballylee/Annagh West/Barana
 - LS6200 Cahergowan/Mointagh
 - LS7103 Kiltullagh

- b. **Works completed by direct labour crews.**
new plan being produced by Area team.

- c. **Recycling Contract –**

- i. Cormachugh
- ii. Lisheenoran
- iii. Carnaun
- iv. Waterdale

3. Safety Improvement Works

- a. Derrydonnell Beg Junction Funding received for upgrade works will need to Complete section 38 and procure contractor for works
- b. Oranbeg (Furey's Cross) Funding received for upgrade works will need to Complete section 38 and procure contractor for works

4. Climate Change

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

5. Community Involvement Scheme

- a. CIS.59.21 L-4101 Maree Road Oranmore – Cycle path placed ongoing.
- b. CIS.29.21 L-6202-1 Roanmore planned - Complete.
2024 CIS scheme Details being planned.

6. Local Improvement Schemes

- a. New application not received for 2024.

7. Other Items

- a. Belville Road realignment Issues resolving agreement Landowner working towards part 8 planning.
- b. Hydrological study Clarin River Funding Approved by OPW – Hydrological Pre-feasibility review ongoing.
- c. Pedestrian Crossing Lidl Oranmore Design with NTA/Active Travel, updated design Issued to GCC Active travel team.

d. Monivea Pedestrian Crossing

Contractor to start on in April
delays getting electrical contractor and anti-skid to site.

e. Storm Debi Clean-up

Flooding surveys ongoing and Hydrology assessment – Kelly Blocks used to secure coast road wall.

f. Raheen Woods Crossing

Awaiting ESB connection, Line-marking and Anti-skid surfacing (April).



ARDAUN ESTATE FOOTPATHS



ATHENRY LINE MARKING



CAHEROYN DRIVE
FOOTPATH UPGRADE



ORANMORE BOYS
SCHOOL – COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT SCHEME



ANNAGH HILL –
OVERLAY WORKS.



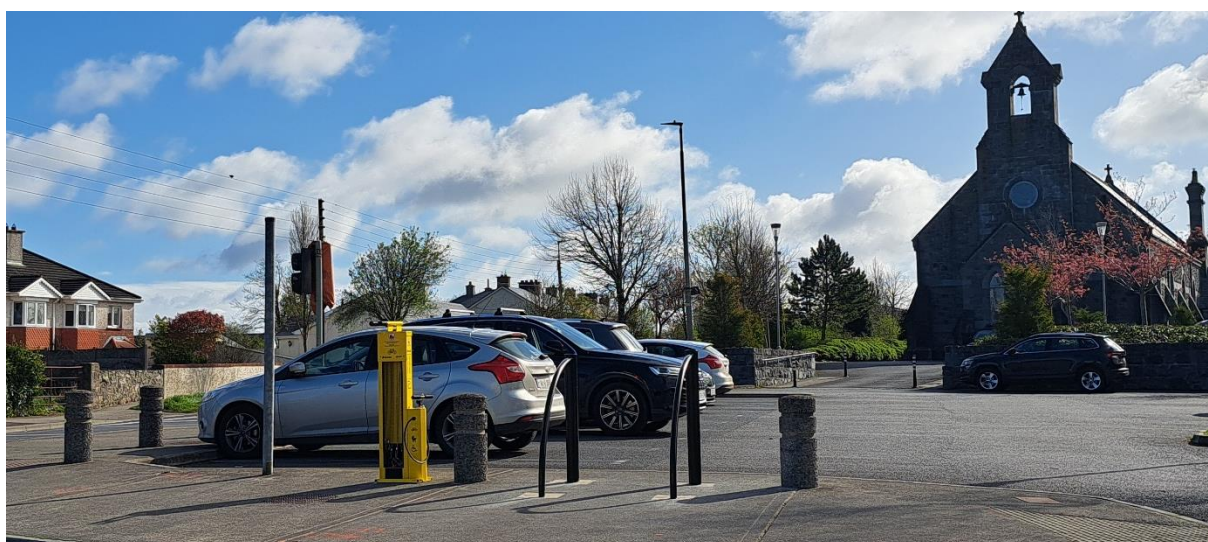
ARDAUN ESTATE FOOTPATHS

BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

During March 2024, the focus of the technical team within Ballinasloe MD is the preparation, presentation, and procurement of the annual roadworks programme. Tenders for the largest elements of work including road restoration improvement (strengthening), and road restoration maintenance (surface dressing) are being evaluated to establish the most economically advantageous tender.

Outdoor crews are working on maintenance projects throughout the MD and given the poor weather condition and extended period of rainfall, a primary focus is on drainage maintenance and pothole repair.

Below are examples of the projects ongoing and being completed in March 2024.



NTA FUNDED BICYCLE REPAIR STATION AND STANDS INSTALLED BY BALLINASLOE MD CREWS AT CREAGH JUNCTION, BALLINASLOE.



SEASONAL
FLOODING AT
POLLEAGH,
WILLIAMSTOWN

Seasonal turlough flooding at Polleagh, Williamstown has resulted in a road closure for an extended period. Technical teams are monitoring levels and will be undertaking surveys in order to design alleviation works.

Good progress is being made on the Ukrainian Response – Rapid Build Modular Homes site in Pollboy, Ballinasloe. All 64 prefabricated units have been delivered and sites works including connections to utilities are ongoing.



RAPID BUILD MODULAR HOMES SITE,
POLLBOY, BALLINASLOE

Community wardens in Ballinasloe MD, in conjunction with the Environment section - Galway County Council, are continuing to deal with dumping cases throughout the MD. Location shown below are at Ballinamore, Kellysgrove, Killaderry and Pollboy.





Footpath replacement and accessibility improvement works have been completed in Caltra. This work was funded through Notice of Motion contribution along with discretionary Maintenance grant allocation.





Native sessile oak trees being planted for the town of Ballinasloe, on the 20th of March, the Spring equinox.

This work was a collaboration between, Ballinasloe AFC, Beechlawn Organic Farm - the provider of the native Irish trees, with installation by Nordon Landscapes on behalf of Ballinasloe MD, at Garbally / Aughrim roundabout, Ballinasloe.

This was part of a fundraiser for a new 4G astro pitch for Ballinasloe AFC, and it is expected that a total of 130 bare root native trees will be planted in public areas before the end of March 2024.

CONAMARA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES FOR CONAMARA – APRIL 2024

- The Restoration Improvement Works and Restoration Maintenance Works have been tendered and a Most Economically Advantageous Tender Identified. Work due to commence in May.
- An application for funding regarding for Inishbofin, Inis Mór, Inis Meáin and Inis Oírr has been submitted to the Department of Rural Community Development. Substantial funding was granted in 2023 and a decision on 2024 funding is expected shortly.
- An allocation of €30,000 has been granted by the Department of Transport to progress a Strategic Infrastructure Scheme at Cuan na Loinge to address flooding of the main road into this area.
- Safety Improvement Works allocation of €35,000 has been granted to refurbish the traffic signal heads and push button units in Maigh Cuilinn.
- Climate Change Projects €305,000 (4 projects) has been allocated.
- Main activities at moment for outdoor staff include road maintenance, town and village maintenance, preparation works for roads programme & drainage works.

- Community Wardens – 3 positions - dealing with illegal dumping, parking enforcement, ring buoy inspections.
- Town and Village Maintenance – substantially done by direct staff.
- Piers & Harbours- Direct labour projects ongoing under marine infrastructure scheme.
- Operation & Maintenance of Public Beaches- Summer ready- preparing for summer 2024.



NEW SIGNAGE ON N59 TO NOTIFY TOURISTS TO DRIVE ON THE LEFT



NEWLY INSTALLED SCOOP AND POOP STATIONS

FOCUS OF ACTIVITY

During the March/April period the focus in the Loughrea Municipal District shifts from the maintenance of ancillary items associated with the road network to commencing works under the adopted Roads Programme. Contractors are once again on-site carrying out road improvement works but works on our public parks, tree maintenance, opening of water tables, pothole repair, sign cleaning and replacement continue. Over the last few weeks, significant road reconstruction works have taken place in the Gort/Kinvara Engineering Area with the focus being on drainage and related preparatory works in the Loughrea/Portumna Engineering Area.

A sample of the on-going maintenance work and the more significant reconstruction projects is as outlined in the following pages.



TULIPS IN BLOOM AT THE CATHEDRAL IN LOUGHREA



CLEANING OF THE DUBLIN ROAD APPROACH TO LOUGHREA USING THE NEWLY ACQUIRED MECHANICAL WEEDER AND STREET SWEEPER



REMOVAL OF WASTE AND PRUNING OF SHRUBS AT CROSS STREET, LOUGHREA



TIDYING AROUND BASE OF TREES AT BARRACK STREET, LOUGHREA



STREET CLEANING AT CAHERONAUN, LOUGHREA



LITTERING CONTINUES TO BE A PROBLEM AT STATION ROAD CAR PARK, LOUGHREA



ALLEVIATION OF SURFACE WATER ISSUE AT GALBOLEY, BULLAUN, LOUGHREA AFFECTING THE LOCAL ROAD BUT INVOLVING A CROSSING OF THE REGIONAL ROAD



DRAINAGE WORKS AT KILCOOLEY ON THE N65 TO ALLEVIATE SURFACE WATER FLOODING



INSTALLATION OF NEW WILDLIFE INFORMATION BOARD AT CORRY'S FIELD, LOUGHREA



EXPOSING AND RESEATING IRONWORKS AT COSCORRIG CRESCENT FOLLOWING RECENT OVERLAY



OPENING WATERTABLES ON THE REGIONAL ROADS



INSTALLATION OF NEW DISABLED PARKING BAYS AT EYRECOURT CARPARK

TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

The 2024 roads programme for the Tuam Municipal District was considered and adopted by the Tuam elected members on the 5th March. The elected members welcomed the good dispersal of funding right across the MD. Funding of over €6.8m was approved and allocated to the MD for 2024. The main allocations of funding were: -

- Restoration Improvement grant €3.3m
- Restoration Maintenance grant €0.845m
- Discretionary Grants €0.5m
- Bridge works €0.33m
- Climate Action and drainage grants €0.5m
- Safety grants €0.1m
- Road maintenance grants €1m

Following the adoption of the programme the Tuam MD office staff tendered out part of each grant for contract works. The road improvement overlay schemes, road recycling schemes and surface dressing schemes were all tendered out throughout the month and returned. The Tuam office staff are currently procuring the returned tenders. It is envisaged that the successful contractor will commence the works in the coming month.

WORKS CARRIED DURING THE MONTH IN TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Works have already commenced for the 2024 programme across the District with the Road improvement and surface dressing schemes being prepared by the Tuam Roads crew. This involves drainage works, edging of verges, small road surface repairs.



ROADS BEING PREPPED FOR THE ROADS OVERLAY SCHEMES.



The removal of the pole was the final part to be done under a community involvement scheme in Luimnagh. The scheme improved road safety by widening the road for a passing bay and to improve sightlines.

Road reconstruction works were carried out in Kiltivna outside Dunmore to remove a dangerous section of roadway. A section of road was excavated to improve vehicular sightlines at a junction. The road was given a temporary surface before a full road recycling overlay to be carried out during the summer as part of the Roads programme.



BEFORE
WORKS



DURING WORKS

Mise, le meas,

Chief Executive
Galway County Council

16th April 2024