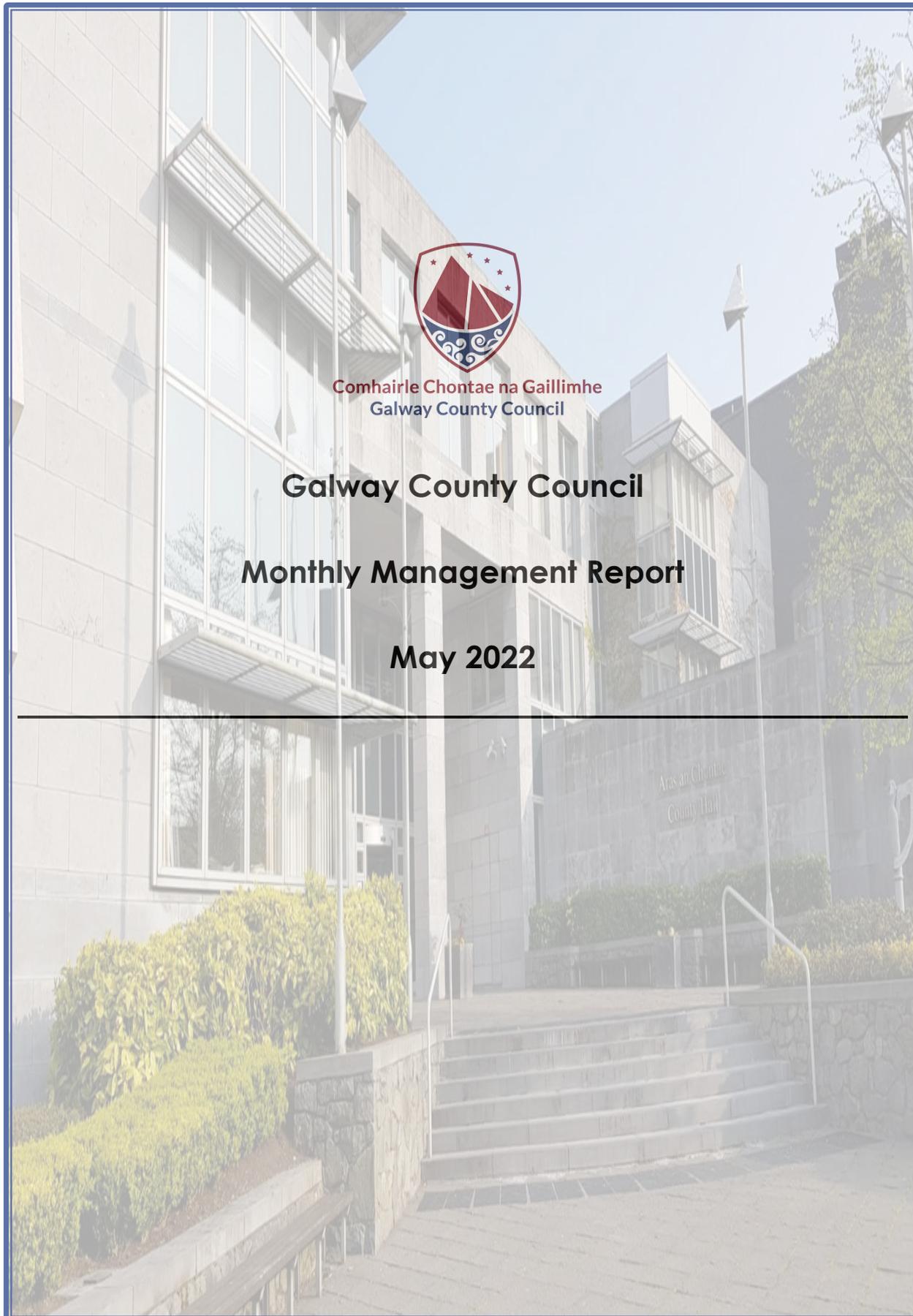




Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

**Galway County Council**  
**Monthly Management Report**  
**May 2022**



## HOUSING & ECONOMIC, RURAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### HOUSING UPDATE

#### UKRAINIAN REFUGEE SITUATION – EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION UPDATE

Galway County Council has not been required to set up the emergency weekend response – 75 camp beds this month. This is due to the number of people arriving in the state on the decrease and the number of contracted beds in hotels and other options coming on stream such as City West.

The team has continued to engage with accommodation providers who may have units, hotel rooms or other solutions on offer. A technical liaison person within the Department/IPAS has been appointed to coordinate such offers with the council.

A Galway County Community Response Forum has been set up and engages with the relevant agencies and local development companies working in communities in which refugees have been placed. This includes DSP, HSE and Tusla who are engaging in all hotels and centres, and follow up with GRET, Community groups etc. Issues of concern including transport, education and employment are being discussed at the forum and fed into the national structures also. The State Agencies has advised that in recent weeks people have begun to take up employment opportunities, language classes and engaging in family supports.

#### GALWAY HOUSING TASKFORCE

The Taskforce met in person for the first time in 2 years in May. The agenda included:

Update on Capital Projects – targets for delivery were discussed, building costs and solutions and future delivery plans. The Department confirmed a willingness to engage with both Turnkey and Social Housing construction to review costs, which in recent months have seen significant increases.

Homeless Traveller sub -group – the significant number of Traveller families in emergency accommodation due mainly to the lack of properties in the private rented market was discussed in detail and a subgroup has been formed to review the issue and examine solutions.

Affordable Homes – delivery of units, cost of units and affordable units in private developments were discussed. The Department confirmed that as well as Council lead

Affordable units, that private developers will be able to work on delivery of affordable units in the coming months. A website for potential buyers is to be launched, similar to the Local Authority Home Loan website.

## HOUSING CAPITAL DELIVERY

Targets have been set on the number of Affordable units, Disability and OPD targets and number of units by size. A final target in each category has been proposed by the Capital unit to the Department for approval and these will be presented to the next Housing SPC

Minister Darragh O'Brien officially opened Tearmann Eanna's renovation of the 'old post office' at Inverin this month as well as visiting a number of sites in the Connemara South area that are being developed with the AHB. The opportunity was used to brief the Minister on ongoing council social housing developments and he has committed to visiting a number of these in the coming months.



Construction is ongoing at:

Kinvara – 10 units; well progressed; allocations to commence in June

Fana Bui, Tuam – 49 units; completion due from May to July. Allocations have begun

Ahascragh – 18 units; construction started with demolition completed

Clifden – 26 units; progressing with Houses due in July and apartments in old school slow due to conservation architecture- expected delivery October onwards

Design team progressing at:

Claregalway	Claregalway: 90 units– Social and Affordable – detailed drawings
Cosmona, Loughrea	Cosmona, Loughrea: 90 units –Social and Affordable – prelim drawings
Ardrahan	Ardrahan: 10 units - detailed drawings. Part 8 due this summer
Weir rd Tuam	Weir rd, Tuam- 49 Units – updating design spec to modern build standards
Dunlo Street (Dooley’s corner)	A Design Team has been appointed to progress the part 8
Ongoing design and pre-planning work:	Moycullen, Oughterard, Ballymoe and other regeneration projects.
Turnkey Developments	Under Circular31/19 an expression of interest for public housing (Social and Affordable) was sought in March 2022 and closing date for EOI’s was the 31 <sup>st</sup> of March 2022.  A total of 22 submissions were received and are currently being examined in accordance with the briefing documents requirements for Location, Demand, Services and Zoning.



Cathaoirleach Peter Keaveny and Mannion Build signing contracts with Galway County Council Housing Dept for the building of 6 Rural properties on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

## HOUSING APPLICATIONS AND ALLOCATIONS

There has been a remarkable increase year on year on applications, allocations and other processes required to create tenancies. These are highlighted below:

Process	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (first Quarter)
<b>Applications Received</b>	402	493	394	444	253 YTD
<b>Tenancies created*</b>	141	265	403	757	331
<b>Offers Accepted (new tenancies)</b>	75	167	328	553	277
<b>Offers refused</b>	41	79	38	120	55
<b>Completed Garda checks **</b>	197	269	388	753	185

\*- Tenancies created includes succession of tenancies, additions to tenancies and new tenancies

\*\* - All applicants being shortlisted for social housing/AHB/Homeless services etc are fully garda vetted prior to being interviewed by the HLO for potential tenancies.

## ENERGY RETROFIT

The Energy Retrofit Team have signed contracts with 7 contractors onto a new Framework specifically for Energy Retrofit projects for the next 3 years. This allows us to run mini competitions using the newly acquired software +Adjust. Energy Retrofit Projects can now be managed from start to finish using this new software. We are proposing to deep retrofit an additional 71 houses in 2022 at a cost of €2.5m using the new framework.

The PMP Team signed a new contract with Mid-West Fire & Security Ltd to carry out electrical certification and install new fire and carbon monoxide alarms to current standards in 530 social houses in the Tuam Area. Works are due to commence in early June 2022.

## LTACC

The LTACC met in May and updates were provided on 2022 workplan:

Clontuskert – renovations to be undertaken

Creggaun – refurbishment of properties; work to be undertaken to identify needs of families

Tuam – proposal to review site and use Craughwell model for re-development

The LTACC also discussed mediation services. The TLO's and other staff of the council and community groups have been involved in supporting mediation at a number of locations in the County. The combination of the Traveller Mediation Service and a Court Appointed Mediator has worked well in dealing with ongoing issues.

## ERCD UPDATE

### LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE



#### **Minister Visits County Hall & BIA Innovator Campus in Athenry**

#### **Food entrepreneurship hub granted €4.1m from Regional Enterprise Funds**

Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail, Damien English, T.D., was in Galway recently where he called to the BIA Innovator Campus in Athenry and the Local Enterprise Office at Prospect Hill where he met LEO staff and some client companies.

The Minister began his visit at the BIA Campus in Athenry where he was greeted by Councillor Peter Feeney, who is also Chairperson of the Campus and Breda Fox, Head of Enterprise at Local Enterprise Office, Galway.

Minister English then travelled on to Áras an Chontae where he was greeted by Interim Chief Executive of Galway County Council, Jim Cullen. He also met with the Local Enterprise Office Galway team, Liam Hanrahan Director of Service and was briefed about developments in the county as well as future plans.

## LOCAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP)

The Department of Rural and Community Development have held a Webinar for local authority staff on the economic elements of the LECP, which will be administered through the Economic & Enterprise SPC. Further webinars on Climate Action and the Community Elements of the LECP are scheduled for May & June 2022.

## LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

A meeting of the LCDC was held on 17<sup>th</sup> May at which:

- Final re-allocations under the Community Enhancement Programme 2021 were approved bringing total grants awarded to 75 applicants with a value of €143,401
- Final financial and non-financial reports on Round 3 of the Healthy Ireland Fund which ceased on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 were discussed and agreed. Round 3 saw total expenditure of €245,889.92 across 9 key projects in addition to small grants for community wellbeing initiatives. Interim funding has been awarded until end of 2022 with Round 4 of the Healthy Ireland Fund due to start on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 with a programme of works to be devised in the intervening period, which will be based on the strategic objectives of the Healthy County Galway Plan.
- The findings of a Survey of People with Disabilities, which was conducted in partnership with the PPN's Disability Forum, were presented to the LCDC Members, and will form the basis for prioritisation of projects under the Disability Participation and Awareness Fund.

## SOCIAL INCLUSION

- With the current phase of funding for Planet Youth set to cease in 2023, agencies from Galway, Mayo, and Roscommon came together for a Focus Group Meeting to discuss how the data sets on youth in County Galway have been utilised to guide policy and programmes, and the Community Department of Galway County Council made a presentation on how the data sets were utilised to guide funding for leisure activities, initiatives, and facilities for youth, in partnership with Comhairle na nÓg.
- The Galway LGBTI+ Interagency Group launched a Public Recognition Marker for agencies and community groups on 17<sup>th</sup> May and an invitation to sign up and display the Marker has been issued to all community & voluntary groups through the PPN, and Awareness Training will be provided to all sign-ups in due course.

- A Traveller Interagency Group Meeting was held on 18<sup>th</sup> May to agree a Workplan for the year and further implementation of initiatives related to employment and education of Travellers.
- Bealtaine is Ireland’s national festival which celebrates the arts and creativity as we age. As part of a Social Inclusion Calendar of Events, applications were invited from communities for activities to promote inclusion of our older people in creative activities leading to 28 events approved for small-scale funding ranging from creative writing, poetry, storytelling, music lessons, to more active events line dancing, guided walks and gardening events.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

- The Annual Report for 2021 has been submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development, which collates the activities of the PPN under its primary functions of facilitating representation, building capacity, and acting as an information hub. All Annual Reports will be collated nationally by the Department before the publication of a national Annual Report for PPN’s.
- The PPN supported its Migrant Forum to organise day 3 of a Migrant Integration Conference 2022 at NUIG, including contributions from Migrants who are trailblazers in business and integration across communities, with a view to sharing ideas and identifying positive actions to promote effective migrant integration and inclusion in Ireland.

## COMMUNITY AWARDS

- Cathaoirleach Awards for 2022 have been launched and assessments and an award ceremony will be arranged in due course.
- The national IPB Pride of Place Awards for 2021 were held in Killarney on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May and County Galway was proudly represented by “The Headford Lace Project” in the Creative Communities Category, and by “Killannin Development Group” in the Community Resilience Category. Both Groups represented the County with distinction and demonstrated great pride in their place in their presentations to the judges and submissions to the Awards. On the night, the Headford Lace Project was awarded runner-up in their Group and received a trophy and cash prize of €500.
- The submission process opened for the Pride of Place Awards for 2022 and following an open invitation, 2 groups have been selected to represent the County as follows: Lawrencetown Community Development Group in the Population Category 300-1000, and Woodford Parish Development in the Creative Community Category. Staff from the Community Department will work with the groups throughout the coming months to help them prepare submissions and present a tour of their work and locality to the judges.

## ARTS OFFICE

- **Local Live Performance Scheme Round 3:** Arts Office has been awarded €143,000 to run the Local Live Performance Programming Scheme 2022. This is funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and aims to support employment and wellbeing in the arts and culture sectors through the provision of live performances by professional artists, musicians, crew and other staff members involved in live performances for the period to June 2022.



- One event took place in May with a further 15 live music performances taking place over four weekends in June. Venues include Ballinasloe Town Hall, Athenry Heritage Centre, Ballyglunin Railway Station, The Mall Theatre Tuam, The Station House Clifden Theatre, The Gallery Gort, Headfest, Oranmore Castle and Arás Eanna.

- Musicians include Julie Feeney, The Raines, Ye Vagabonds, Fuse Music Collective, Little John Nee, Pdraig Stevens, Leo Moran and Máirtín O'Connor. The Arts Office is working in partnership with local venues and community groups to deliver this county wide programme.
- **PLATFORM 31:** Is a national initiative led and funded by Local Authority Arts Officers and the Arts Council. One artist from each county is awarded a bursary to take part in this unique initiative. This year the bursary of €8,000 has been awarded to Galway County Artist Stephanie Dufresne. PLATFORM 31 2022: a national opportunity for artists to reflect on and investigate how they might significantly develop their practice or make work in a new way, while being connected with and supported by peer practitioners, advisors and mentors

- Arts Office presented **HOUSE** a large-scale outdoor circus and spectacle performance by leading Irish Company, Fidget Feet in Athenry on the 14/15 May. The show featured professional aerial performances and participation from local music, dance and performance groups. It was funded by the Arts Council through the Invitation to Collaboration Scheme and supported by Limerick, Clare and Galway County Arts Offices.



- Arts Office is currently planning a county tour of “**The Strawboys**” – an outdoor dance performance by Rob Heaslip Touring Company to take place in small outdoor public settings in August throughout the County.
- **Culture Night 2022** – Expressions of Interest will be announced this month with closing dates for project ideas, the end of June. Information session will take place for interested groups in May.
- **Agents of Change** - Small grant of €700 made available to all Galway County Festival and cultural partners who participated in this programme. This grant is available for support in the following areas: training, mentoring, producer support, marketing/social media, financial planning, programming support or collaborative projects within the group. This project was funded by the Arts Council and Galway County Council Arts Office.
- **Arts Office Programme Key targets for May:** Currently supporting Artist in Schools programme, Youth Arts Programmes, Children’s Book Festival, Public Art Programme, Planning Host Visit of EU Partners in Oct 22 and a range of artists supports programmes and residencies.

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## CREATIVE IRELAND

### Creative Ireland Programme is led by the Arts Office.

- Annual Budget: Increase in Creative Ireland budget for 2022. Total funding allocation of €175,161 (€145,161 Core funding + €30,000 Cruinniú na nÓg funding) to allow Galway County Council to deliver collaborative projects of scale, innovation and ambition in 2022.

- Programme has been launched for Galway County Cruinniú na nÓg; National Creativity Day for Children due to take place on Saturday 11th June. 18 projects have received support from the programme with events happening with groups of young people throughout the county. We have also partnered with Dance Ireland and Galway Community Circus to deliver larger scale events for children.
- This year the Cruinniú na nÓg national ambassadors include two local brothers, The Barceló Brothers from Headford and they will take part in the national campaign to promote the event.



**The Barceló Brothers**

- **Creative Ireland Bursaries** : 8 have been awarded to projects from creatives and community groups in the County (€25,000).
- **Culture Team Projects:** have begun work on their individual projects to include Galway Gates, Wandering Kite Festival, Comicon Ballinasloe, Westward Ho and the Heart of Gort.
- **Creativity in Older Years Fund:** Culture Team have been successful in their application for funding (€27,000) under the Creativity in Older Years in collaboration with the Healthy Ireland & Age Friendly Coordinator.
- Work is to begin on the **Galway County Creative Ireland Strategy 2023-2027**. The Culture Team met with Creative Ireland to discuss priorities and plans for the programme nationally over the next five years which should inform the local strategy.

## RURAL SCHEMES



The Economic, Community and Rural Development Section acts as Lead Co-ordinator and Administrator for allocated Programmes and Initiatives arising from the *Town Centre First* and *Our Rural Future* Policies.

In May 2022 the following activities were progressed in relation to the Rural Schemes Programme of Work;

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### TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME

- On April 29<sup>th</sup> 2022 the Department of Community and Rural Development ( DRCDC) Rural Programmes and Policy Unit based in Ballina, issued a Letter of Offer to Galway County Council for the 2021 Town and Village Scheme.
- Conditions are more detailed than previous scheme with additional monitoring requirements.
- Letters of Offers are being advanced, under the T&V 2021 Scheme to the following. The DRCDC Completion date is August 2023:
  - I. Leenane Development Association, awarded €250,000 by DRCDC for Community Park
  - II. Galway County Council, Tuam Municipal District and Killarerin Community Council – €100,000 for Village Enhancement and Safety Measures
  - III. Galway County Council – ERCD for Village Health Checks €50,000
  - IV. Woodford Parish Development Group, Woodford Tidy Towns for Project Development and Site Investigation at Woodford Courthouse and Cinema Derelict Site, €50,000.
- Preparation of monitoring reports and engagement with Project Partners was ongoing in May respect of the 2019 Town and Village Live Projects and the 2020 Town and Village live programme of projects.

- On May 15<sup>th</sup> Extensions have been sought for completion of works in An Cheathrú Rua, Oranmore and Killimor under the 2019 Scheme.

ERCD staff continue to monitor and engage with Lead Partners across GCC Department and external community organisations to ensure progress and compliance with the Scheme. Increasing costs and supplier delays continue to impact on projects.

The following projects co-funded under the 2020 Town and Village Scheme are live.

Town /Village	Municipal District / Electoral Area	Scheme	Scheme Year	Project Reference Number	Grant Amount Approved	Project Name
Baile Chláir/Claregalway	Athenry-Oranmore	Town and Village Renewal	2020	TV20GY01	€200,000.00	Baile Chláir/Claregalway Leisure Centre Upgrade and Co-Work Space.
Leitir Móir	Connemara (South)	Town and Village Renewal	2020	TV20GY02	€100,000.00	Leitir Móir Community Park
Creggs	Ballinasloe	Town and Village Renewal	2020	TV20GY03	€90,000.00	Creggs Heritage Centre Upgrades and Outdoor Amenity Space
Belclare	Tuam	Town and Village Renewal	2020	TV20GY04	€100,000.00	Belclare Village Safety and Amenity Enhancements
Portumna	Loughrea	Town and Village Renewal	2020	TV20GY05	€100,000.00	Linking Portumna Forest Park
Castleblakney	Ballinasloe	Town and Village Renewal	2020	TV20GY06	€100,000.00	Castleblakney Community Playground
					<b>€690,000.00</b>	

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## STREETSCAPE ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

- The 2021 Town and Village Co-Funded Streetscape Enhancement Scheme which operated in Ballygar; Glenamaddy; Headford; Loughrea; Oranmore and Oughterard is subject to final recoupment for Funding under this Scheme must be made by Galway County Council to DRCD by May 31<sup>st</sup> 2022. No extension has been granted by Department of Community and Rural Development.
- From mid- April through May, Communication to approved applicants in the six locations was intensified from to maximise successful claims. One to one assistance on completing claims has been resource and time intensive with many applicants engaging directly with the Council for the first time. Assigned staff dealt with a high volume of incomplete and incorrect claims submitted during this period. Actions to guide claimants on the process at each stage were undertaken.
- Support of local MD Offices, Elected Members and Tidy Towns Groups was also sought during late April and May to promote deadlines and encourage all applicants to respond to Council communications on the Scheme.
- The table provides an overview of the number of claims progressed under this Scheme reflecting completed works on properties across each location.

<b>Town Streetscape 2021</b>	<b>Number of offers</b>
<b>Headford</b>	41
<b>Oranmore</b>	11
<b>Ballygar</b>	22
<b>Glenamaddy</b>	16
<b>Oughterard</b>	24
<b>Loughrea</b>	60
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>174</b>

<b>Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2021</b>	<b>Summary Update May 18th 2022</b>
No. of Offers	174
No. of Offers Claimed & Paid **	132
No. of Claims Pending***	31
Total Paid or Pending	<b>163</b>
No. Not Proceeding- Withdrawn from Scheme	11

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#### CLÁR SMALL SCALE INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME

- In late April and early May, a total of 15 projects were shortlisted for submission to the Department of Community and Rural Development (DRCD) in advance of the 2022 deadline, under Measure One – Community Amenities & Facilities. The total amount of CLÁR funding sought was €618,712.95
- It is noted that the Department of Community and Rural Development (DRCD) significantly changed the focus of the CLÁR 2022 Scheme and introduced an expanded Measure One with a focus on Recreation, Universal accessibility, Bio-Diversity and facilities that are freely available and open to the public at all times. This year’s Scheme marked a move away from co-funding School/Community Safety Measures. The Department stated that for 2022, the following interventions would not be funded:

- *Works to current school buildings*
- *Footpaths*
- *Flashing amber safety lights and safety signs including digital speed safety signs*
- *Road markings · Pedestrian crossings · Bus shelters*

*Funding for safety works at schools and the provision of footpaths is available for Local Authorities under both the Safe Routes to School Programme and the Active Travel Programme operated by the Department of Transport .*

**CLAR Measure 1 2022 Overview of Applications**

<b>Municipal District, Galway County Council</b>	<b>No of Applications Received</b>	<b>No Ineligible</b>	<b>No. Eligible Applications</b>	<b>No. Shortlisted for submission to DRCD</b>
Ballinasloe MD	14	3	11	8
Connemara MD	7	2	5	3
Loughrea MD	4	1	3	3
Tuam MD	4	1***	3	1
Athenry-Oranmore MD *	0			
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>

\* This MD has Minimal CLÁR Areas

\*\* Connemara MD 1 North Connemara, 1 South.

\*\*\* This Application was referred to ORIS

The Following Projects were Shortlisted and Submitted to DRCD for Consideration for Funding under the Measure One CLÁR 2022 Programme:

<b>School Name / Community Facility Name / LDC</b>	<b>Project Description (less than 30 words)</b>	<b>Total estimated costs including Administration / Professional fees</b>	<b>Amount of CLÁR funding requested 2022</b>
Comhairle Ceantar na nOileán Teo	Development of a community cinema and drop in youth hub facility at the Hall Pobail Tir an Fhia to include library, coffee dock & game area.	€46,474.70	€41,827.23
Mountbellew Moylough GAA Club	Construction of 1.1km walking/running track around site perimeter. Enhancements also to parking and lighting on site.	€83,045.95	€50,000.00

Galway Council	County	Enhancements to the community playground in Portumna	€40,525.00	€36,472.50
Cleggan Claddaghduff Community Council	-	Enhancement to surface and surrounds of ballcourt at Cleggan Community Centre	€40,545.88	€36,491.88
Kilchreest National School BOM		Development of a car parking facility to allow access to community walking track and pitch area.	€66,292.00	€50,000.00
Clonberne Community Centre Co Ltd		Enhancement to access roadway allowing for increased & accessible use of existing community facilities. Associated landscaping works & development of a pollinator area.	€72,800.00	€50,000.00
Gort GAA Club		Development of an 850m accessible perimeter walkway around the 20acre site for community use.	€62,447.00	€45,000.00
Skehana Community Development (SCD)		Upgrade of the current car parking at the Skehana Community Facility which is home to 5 rural sports clubs. Significant biodiversity element to project.	€56,000.00	€50,000.00
Ahascragh Fohenagh GAA Club		Level existing car park, improvements to site accessibility, drainage, surfacing and lined finish.	€55,000.00	€49,500.00
Killyan Community Field		Upgrades to include works on walkway and lighting around perimeter of pitches. Plans also include improvements to site drainage and installation of seating area	€65,901.00	€45,000.00
Ballinasloe Rugby Club		Develop a walking track around the perimeter of their site encompassing two pitches and	€36,000.00	€32,400.00

	available to community and non-clubs members.		
Clontuskert Community Development Group	Resurfacing and lining of parking area, upgrade to lighting, install CCTV, painting of building facade, heating system upgrade, seating & garden area also being developed	€40,130.00	€36,117.00
Ionad Pobail Oideachas Glinnsce & Caiseal	Development of safe accessible parking facilities at the education centre.	€30,000.00	€27,000.00
Collins Park Playground Committee	To enhance facilities at the community playground. Fit accessible play equipment to enhance inclusivity. Provision for playground maintenance also included in plans.	€21,004.82	€18,904.34
Donaghpatrick National School	Development of a community walkway and small playground on the school grounds which will be accessible to the wider community.	€71,372.21	€50,000.00

**Total CLÁR Funding Requested 2022 for Co. Galway**

**€618,712.95**

#### REGENERATION UPDATES:

##### **Athenry:**

*Feasibility Study for Town Wall Walk complete.*

*Streetscape Scheme- Reminder letters to issue to 7 applicants where offers made have not resulted in works being carried out.*

##### **Tuam:**

*Part 8 application for Town Hall with Panning and to be considered by the Municipal District.*

*Category 1 application for funding for Tuam Town hall submitted to Department with anticipated decision in Q4, 2022.*

**Kinvara :**

*Draft Construction method statement prepared to inform discussions with NPWS*

**Loughrea:**

*Formal request for additional funding submitted to the Department (Form 2.4)*

*Part 8 planners report issued and recommendation currently with Planning Dept., to be presented to the MD on June 13th.*

**Clifden:**

*Second Public Consultation scheduled for June 8th in Community Hall*

*Topographical Survey Contractor appointed, and surveys commenced.*

*Ground Investigation Contractor appointed with works programmed for the coming months.*

**Portumna:**

*RPS Consultants appointed to Public realm Contract.*

*Topographical Survey and Site Investigation Works at Procurement phase.*

*Public Engagement Strategy at development stage.*

**Gort:**

*Public Realm and Town Centre First Engagement of Consultants Documents advanced .*

**Tourism Strategy:**

Consultation is currently taking place to inform a new sustainable tourism strategy for County Galway to cover the period 2022-2030.

- 200 responses have been received for the Tourism Industry survey;
- Two workshops took place with the Elected representatives; an in person event on 26<sup>th</sup> April and an online workshop on 6<sup>th</sup> May.
- Two ideation workshops have taken place with industry stakeholders and one to one consultations continue during the consultation phase.
- The SEA scoping document has been issues to relevant authorities with closing date for submissions from same being 18<sup>th</sup> April.
- The next steps are to develop a strategic framework and to engage with teams across Galway County Council.



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

### **The Great Western Blueway**

Galway City and County Tourism Officers are currently managing the research phase of the 'Corrib' Blueway project and supporting community and local consultation with key individuals and groups.

The feasibility study will be delivered by Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland by Q3 2022.

## INFRASTRUCTURE & OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE

### BREXIT ADJUSTMENT: LOCAL AUTHORITY MARINE INFRASTRUCTURE (BALAMI) SCHEME 2022

Galway County Council was successful in securing grant aid of €356,575 under the BALAMI scheme. The aim of the funding is to mitigate the impacts on the fishing sector and coastal communities of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) between the European Union and the United Kingdom.

Expenditure under the scheme is exclusively aimed at coastal local authorities and publicly owned infrastructure. The focus is on small scale 'shovel ready' projects which will give an immediate construction stimulus in coastal communities affected by the TCA/Brexit. A requirement for funding allocation is that there is a dependency of the community on fishing activities and the infrastructure is in public ownership.

The Galway County Council allocation is spread across 9 locations as per the table below.

Location	Funding Approved
Inishbofin Harbour	€76,500
Cleggan	€34,000
Blackweir	€68,000
Spiddal	€31,450
Inver	€18,700
Loughaun Beg	€10,625
Aircin	€31,450
Sconnsa	€26,350
Ballyconneely	€59,500
	<b>€356,575</b>

Under the terms of the scheme the approved works must be complete by November 2022 to facilitate recoupment. The various projects are currently progressing to meet this deadline.



**Image of Blackweir Pier**

## COST OF ROAD MAKING MATERIALS 2020 TO 2022

<b>Bound Materials &amp; Sprays</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>% Increase</b>
Supply, Lay & Compact CI 906, AC 20mm	<b>tonne</b>	€71.57	€81.13	€96.30	35%
Supply lay & Compact Thin Wearing Surface Course Material to Comply with Series 942 (Minimum compacted depth of 40mm).	<b>m2</b>	€10.47	€12.93	€16.40	57%
Supply daily rate to include for drivers & fuel for the following plant items - 1.0m Road Planer, Suction Sweeper & 8-Wheeler Tipper Lorry	<b>item</b>	€2,040.00	€2,584.00	€3,070.00	50%
Supply daily rate to include drivers and fuel for the following additional plant items – 8-Wheeler Tipper Lorry (Provisional)	<b>item</b>	€285.00	€416.80	€519.00	82%
<b>Surface Dressing</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>% Increase</b>
Pad Coat on DBM surface with 6mm HPSV (min 60 declared) and CE-marked. Binder to be 70% Bitumen Emulsion.	<b>m2</b>	€1.25	€2.38	€2.75	120%
Single Surface Dress	<b>m2</b>	1.4	1.52	0	9%
Double Surface Dress	<b>m2</b>	€4.16	€5.13	€5.44	31%
Racked In Surface Dressing	<b>m2</b>	€3.45	€4.52	€5.23	52%

It is worth noting the increase across the industry in the supply and lay of road making materials in the period 2020 to 2022. This represents a challenge to the Council in the delivery of the anticipated road works programme in 2022.

## LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

Further to the announcement of grant funding for LIS schemes; offers have now been made to all participants, and contributions are being received. Works will commence by the Area Offices once contributions are received. Initial works will be of a preparation nature, followed by surfacing in due course to coincide with the ongoing roadworks programme.

## OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE GLENAMADDY WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

The Council is pleased to confirm that the official opening of the Glenamaddy Wastewater Treatment Plant will take place on Thursday, 26 May 2022 at 11am.

The scheme provided for the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant at Mountkelly, a new pumping station on the Creggs Road, the upgrade/rehabilitation of 700m of existing sewers and the construction of 1,700m of new rising main and outfall sewers.

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE NATIONAL CYCLE NETWORK

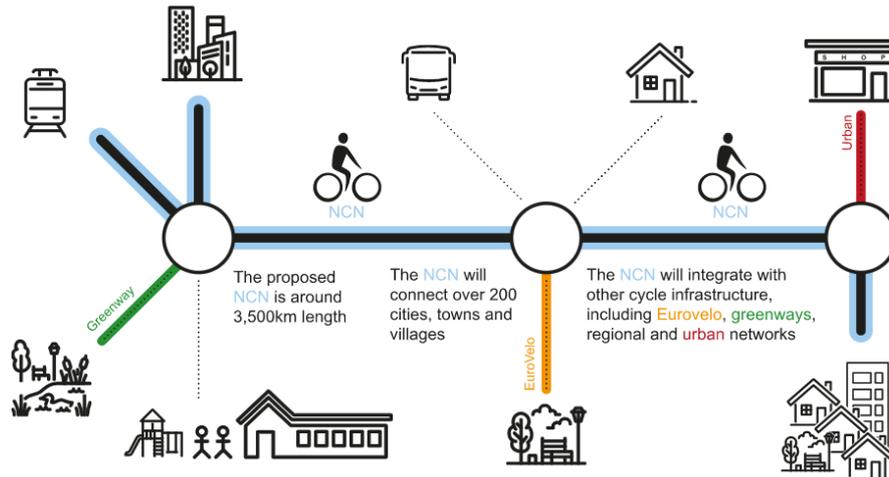


The National Cycle Network (NCN) aims to link towns, cities and destinations across Ireland with a safe, connected and inviting cycle network; encouraging more people away from their cars and onto their cycles.

To date there has been a lot of discussion with partner groups, communities and other bodies to develop a strong, insightful foundation for such a comprehensive plan. Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) has been working closely with stakeholders over recent months to gather information on existing cycle infrastructure, define plan objectives and develop the proposed network. It's envisaged the overall plan for the NCN will be delivered by local authorities across the country over the coming years.

The **consultation** is running from the 4<sup>th</sup> of May to the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 2022 – have your say on our plans for the National Cycle Network

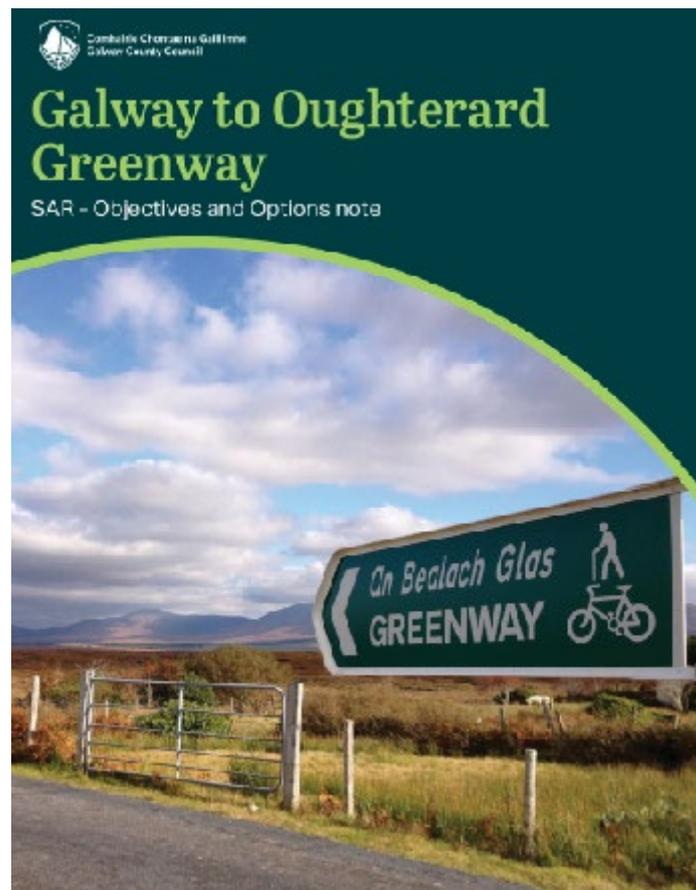
The NCN will act as the core network connecting towns, cities and destinations across Ireland



TII are now at the stage where they are sharing these plans with the public and other interested parties to help create the best possible proposals. TII want to allow future users of the NCN to gain insight into the plans that are emerging and to have their say in influencing how these evolve. Consultation on the plans opened on the 4th of May and will close on the 7th of June 2022. Following analysis of the public feedback, a report will be completed in August 2022 on the proposed NCN incorporating the feedback received. Detailed plans for the roll out of the NCN over the coming years will then be developed.

Visit <https://ncn.consultation.ai/> to have your say.

## GALWAY TO OUGHTERARD GREENWAY



The Council is pleased to confirm that the close out of Phase 1 – Concept and Feasibility (referred to as Gateway Review Statement 1) has been submitted to TII for approval. The approval, when confirmed, will allow the Council to progress to Phase 2: Options Selection. Work on Phase 2 has commenced in anticipation of the approval of the Gateway Review Statement 1.

Progress on the scheme is on plan and it is anticipated that the second public consultation event will commence towards the end of June with in-person events held at a number of locations on consecutive days. There will also be facility for members of the public to engage in the consultation process virtually via the project website. Details on venues and exact dates will be confirmed in the coming weeks.

## UPDATE ON TAKING IN CHARGE

At recent meetings of the Loughrea MD it was agreed to take the roads and services of these estates in charge; Caiseal Riada, An Chrannog & Loch na hOillean. Under consideration at upcoming Municipal District meetings for taking in charge will be Sarsfield Crescent, Ballinasloe, The Dales, Moylough and Stonehaven, Athenry.

The following estates have recently been advertised for taking in charge; Caheroyan Park, Athenry; The Punchbowl, Gort and Sliabh Carron, Gort.

And finally, the following estates are close to being advertised confirming the taking in charge; The Cloisters, The Maltings, Jardin Drive, An Sruthan, Loughrea; The Orchard, Gort na Ri, Gort; and Elmwood, Moycullen.



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

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

Speaking at the launch Cllr Peter Keaveney, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway said “In this short book Dr Conor McNamara explores the role of the ordinary men and women of the independence movement and the experience of a small rural community in a time of extraordinary change.

We hope that this book would serve as a starting point for further research into this turbulent period in Irish history, as well as the history of the independence struggle in County Galway.

It is also hoped to encourage and assist heritage groups and researchers to further explore the issues discussed, therefore references to primary sources are given throughout the text.”

This publication would not have been possible without the support and co-operation of the Mee Family and the help of Teresa, Ciaran and Luke, in particular, who supplied family documents, photographs and information. In addition to this Glenamaddy Boyoungh Heritage Project have played a vital role in promoting the publication and also Dr Conor McNamara’s online lecture on Jeremiah Mee. This can be accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1iJeTLxhB5o>

The publication was funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (Decade of Centenaries Local Authority Funding) and Galway County Council.

### **Galway County Council Decade of Centenaries Funding 2022**

Minister Martin approved a funding allocation of **€50,000** from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, for every local authority under the Community Strand of the 2022 Decade of Centenaries programme. Local authorities were requested to allocate at least €15,000 from their allocations in 2022 to support artistic and creative endeavours.

The Commemoration Unit of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media recognised that some local authorities may have additional funding requirements, in relation to the remembrance of specific centenary events or other larger projects. They welcomed proposals seeking additional funding and these proposals were assessed on a case-by-case basis, in the context of the overall available budget in 2022.

On 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022 Galway County Council Heritage Office received confirmation that the total funding allocation for **Galway County Council for 2022 is €73,000**. In addition to this a **further amount of €48,000 was allocated for the joint county project with Tipperary County Council and Roscommon County Council on Aleen Cust.**

The following is an outline of the projects that have received this funding:

### **Project 1: Historian in Residence 2022**

The events of the decade between 1913 and 1923 were momentous and defining ones. It was the decade that influenced relationships for a generation and was a period which saw the achievement of Irish independence and the foundation of our State.

It was also a period of transformation and cultural renewal in Irish society, following on electoral reform, land reform, education reform and migration. The demand for constitutional change was in parallel with the assertion of workers' rights and women's rights.

The decade was one of the most momentous of modern Irish history and justifies a comprehensive commemorative programme that recognises its importance, acknowledges the achievements of its generation and enhances the understanding today of the events that shaped our society.

While the events that occurred between 1913 and 1923 had a huge impact nationally they had a particular relevance in the County of Galway.

Therefore, Galway County Council in the context of its role in providing civic leadership recognises the importance of playing a positive and proactive role in leading commemorative celebrations and activities during the course of the decade and had decided to contract a Historian in Residence for 2022; this is following on for a very successful project in 2021.

### **The target audience for this initiative:**

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

### **Possible outcomes:**

The proposed outcomes of this project is that the citizens of the county will have a greater awareness and knowledge of this momentous period of our history and how it has shaped our county and our country.

### **Project 2: Title: Artists & Activists: 1922 Women in a changing Cultural Landscape**

This project, *Artists & Activists: 1922 Women in a changing Cultural Landscape* will highlight the role of women as artists and creatives in the early twentieth century by highlighting the contributions of specific women who revolutionized Irish art including ‘domestic’ art pieces such as weaving, embroidery and clothing. This artistic movement was particularly significant as the nation was simultaneously trying to gain Independence.

A collection of five creative genres: Arts, Crafts, Music, Drama and Dance will form the basis of new commissions by creatives throughout the County who will collaborate and participate with their communities and focus on themes such as the revival of decorative art and craft practices, Irish Nationalism, the preservation of a ‘true’ Irish identity and social life in Ireland. These collaborations will lead us past the hard politics of the era to reflect more on a social, cultural and creative Ireland and promote the visual representation of women in Irish society.

**Target Audience:** General public, Schools and Diaspora groups, Women’s groups, Minority interest, GAA, Academic/University interest, Ireland-international interaction, Art/ Cultural networks, etc.

**Possible outcomes:** Commemoration of the era, Wider knowledge of various cultural activities that happened in this period, Highlighting importance of women in the social and cultural landscape of local and national life during inter-war years, commemoration of overlooked creative figures, Highlighting artistic practices upheld in western Ireland

### **Project 3: “Gardaí in Galway 1922 – 2022” A Bi-Lingual Exhibition**

#### **About the Exhibition**

This exhibition hopes to give an insight into the founding of An Garda Síochána; how An Garda Síochána has contributed to building a safe and peaceful society in particular as it relates to County Galway and how members of An Garda Síochána contribute to the local areas in which they work and live. It will also seek to show the changing roles of An Garda Síochána over the past 100 years.

#### **Project Partners:**

An Garda Síochána, Galway Division

Galway County Council

Galway City Museum/Galway City Council

**Project 4: Bi-lingual Book: *A History of An Garda Síochána in County Galway: A Century of Service***

This will be a 250 page full colour bi-lingual publication. It will deal with the formation of An Garda Síochána, the coming of the force to Galway on 25 September 1922. It will also give how An Garda Síochána has contributed to building a safe and peaceful society in particular as it relates to County Galway and how members of An Garda Síochána contribute to the local areas in which they work and live. It also aims to show the changing roles of An Garda Síochána over the past 100 years. This publication will also compliment the exhibition entitled *Gardaí in Galway 1922 – 2022*. The publication will be distributed to libraries, schools and the wider community free of charge.

**Target Audience:** General public, individuals, retired and serving members of An Garda Síochána (including other police forces) and schools in the county and the diaspora as well as researchers and academics.

**Possible outcomes:** It is hoped that this project will raise awareness and knowledge with regards to this pivotal time in our history. In addition to this it will seek to show the contributions of An Garda Síochána to all aspects of the life of Galway over the past one hundred years.

**Project Partners:**

An Garda Síochána, Galway Division

Galway County Council

**Project 5: Sixteen Page supplement in the Connacht Tribune Newspaper**

It is proposed to have a 16 page supplement in the *Connacht Tribune* Newspaper in September 2022 to coincide with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the coming of An Garda Síochána to Galway on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2022. 20,000 copies of this supplement will be published and it will seek to increase knowledge and awareness of the various roles and work of the Gardaí in Galway over 100 years.

**Target Audience:** General public, individuals, retired and serving members of An Garda Síochána (including other police forces) and schools in the county and the diaspora as well as researchers and academics.

**Possible outcomes:** It is hoped that this project will raise awareness and knowledge with regards to this pivotal time in our history. In addition to this it will seek to show the contributions of An Garda Síochána to all aspects of the life of Galway over the past one hundred years.

**Project Partners:**

An Garda Síochána, Galway Division

Galway County Council

**Project 6: Workbook on *An Garda Síochána in County Galway: A Century of Service for primary schools***

This bi-lingual workbook is aimed at 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class students will be integrated into the primary school curriculum and will focus in on creating an awareness, knowledge and interpretation of life in 1920s Ireland and the role of An Garda Síochána over the past 100 years. It is proposed to embed videos and podcast into the workbook and this will assist in brining history to life in the classroom.

**Target Audience:** Primary School students and their teachers

**Possible outcomes:** It is hoped that this project will raise awareness and knowledge with regards to this pivotal time in our history. In addition to this it will seek to show the contributions of An Garda Síochána to all aspects of the life of Galway over the past one hundred years.

**Project Partners:**

An Garda Síochána, Galway Division

Galway County Council

**Project 7: THE LOUGHNANE BROTHERS HERITAGE TRAIL Go Explore the Historic Sites & Memorials of Ireland's War of Independence** Creation of a Z-Card and Story Map

This eleven-point heritage trail incorporates historic sites and memorials linked to the capture and killing of brothers Harry (Henry) and Pat (Patrick) Loughnane. The brothers, who lived in Shanaglish village in south County Galway, were prominent members of the local Sinn Féin organisation. They also played with Beagh GAA Club's hurling team. Harry, aged 21, was the goalkeeper and Pat, aged 29, was the full-back. Pat also served with the Irish Republican Army (IRA) during Ireland's War of Independence. He was a suspect in an engagement with the Royal Irish Constabulary at Blackwater, Gort on 12 September 1920, in the Castledaly Ambush

on 30 October 1920, and in a raid on the residence of a retired policeman on an unknown date.

The historic sites and memorials identified herein will be of interest to anybody who wishes to find out more about the Loughnane brothers and their place in the history and memory of the Irish revolutionary era.

**Target Audience:** General public, Schools and Diaspora groups and academics.

**Possible outcomes:** Greater knowledge and awareness of the Loughnane Brothers and the Decade of Commemorations as it relates to the county of Galway.

**Project Partners:**

Atlantic Technological University (Galway-Mayo)

Galway County Council

**Project 8: Liam Mellows – Film and Conference**

Liam Mellows was born in Lancashire in May 1892, the son of a British army sergeant; his parents were from Kilkenny and Wexford. He spent much of his youth in Ireland, attending military and garrison schools in Wexford, Cork and Dublin. Mellows' gateway to Irish republicanism was Na Fianna, the nationalist version of the British Boy Scouts. He soon proved himself a talented organiser and in 1913 was tasked with reorganising them on a nationwide basis. At the same time, Mellows joined both the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) and the Irish Volunteers. Upon the outbreak of the First World War, the Volunteers split over the issue of joining the British forces and Mellows remained with the breakaway group that opposed enlistment. In October 1914, as part of a national shake-up of the Volunteers, Mellows was dispatched to Galway to both train the existing members and found new battalions.

**Project Proposal:**

It is proposed to produce a short film dedicated to Liam Mellows and to hold a conference in Athenry on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022 to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the shooting of Liam Mellows.

**Target Audience:** General public, Schools and Diaspora groups and academics.

**Possible outcomes:** Greater knowledge and awareness of Liam Mellows and the Decade of Commemorations as it relates to the county of Galway.

**Project 9: Eibhlín Uí Choisdeailbh (elected as a Cumann na nGaedheal member to the first Free State senate on 7 December 1922): Concert and Exhibition**

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Concert and Exhibition:**

It is proposed to hold a concern in her memory in Tuam and also hold an exhibition. This event would be delivered in partnership with the Old Tuam Society.

**Target Audience:** General public, Schools and Diaspora groups and academics.

**Possible outcomes:** Greater knowledge and awareness of Eibhlín Uí Choisdeailbh and the Decade of Commemorations as it relates to the county of Galway.

**Project Partners:**

Old Tuam Society

Galway County Council

**Decade of Centenaries Specific Centenary Project of Significance**

**Aleen Isabel Cust 1868 - 1937**

**First woman veterinary surgeon in Ireland, Britain & Europe**



**Project Proposers & Project Proposal**

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



## About Aleen Cust

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



## Family Background

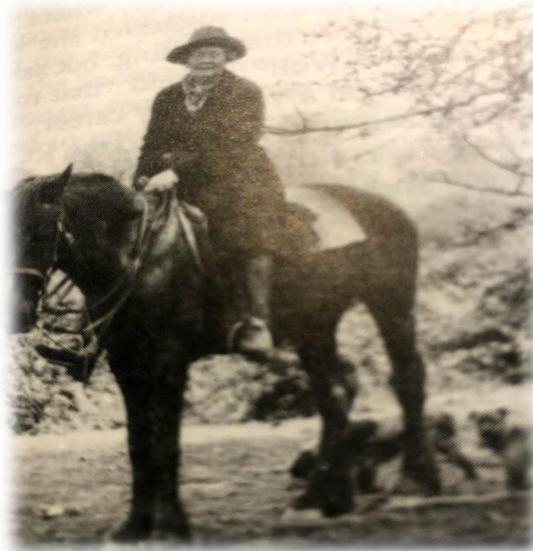
Aleen Isabel Cust was born on 7 February 1868 at Cordangan Manor, County Tipperary. She was one of six children of Sir Leopold and Lady Isabel Cust. Her father, a land agent for the Smith-Barry family, died when Aleen was just 10 years old and her mother took the family to England.

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

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

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

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



### **World War 1: Volunteer on the Western Front**

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

### **Final Recognition**

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

### **Later Life**

She sold her practice in Ireland in 1924 and moved to Plaitford, Hampshire, England. Aleen died in Jamaica on 29 January 1937. In her will she left £5,000 for a scholarship in veterinary research (with a preference for female candidates), and £100 for a kennel at the RCVS in memory of her spaniels.

## **Why Commemorate Aleen Cust?**

Aleen Cust was the first female Veterinary Surgeon, admitted to the Register of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) in 1922. She is a leading example of a visionary in the sphere of animal welfare, overcoming many barriers to practise a profession she dedicated her life to.

This is further relevant to the Sex Disqualification Act of 1919 which enabled females to gain admittance to the professions for the first time in Ireland.

Volunteering in the treatment and care of horses on the Western Front and working with the farming community in Co Roscommon and Co Galway was not the typical life path for a woman of her aristocratic background.

By undertaking this commemorative project, it will assist in creating a greater awareness and knowledge of what Ireland was like one hundred years ago and the hardships, difficulties that people endured and how Aleen's perseverance triumphed over adversity.

It will also shed light on the life of one of Ireland's unsung heroes and ensure that her work, sacrifices and her determination are known by those of us who live in the Ireland of 2022.

## **Who is the Aleen Cust Memorial Society?**

The Aleen Cust Memorial Society is an ad hoc group of 3 veterinary surgeons who came together in early 2021 to remember and honour a brave courageous woman who suffered tremendously both personally and professionally in order to achieve her dream to become the first lady veterinary surgeon in Ireland, England, and indeed Europe.

### ***Mission statement of the group:***

1. To make her name and struggle better known by her fellow Irish in general and by her profession in particular. She has been totally forgotten about and has been written out of history.
2. To find her grave and to place some acknowledgement on it in this the centenary year of her graduation.

In their few short months in existence the group achieved a lot but 2 things stand out:

They discovered a diary previously unknown of a 4-day fishing trip that she and 3 friends spent on Lough Mask in August 1913. This describes what they did during that time, conversations they had and also has Aleen's handwriting. It also contains poetry composed by them.

Secondly, they discovered her grave in Jamaica. A record of her burial was never recorded or documented in any official or church record in Jamaica. As a result of a sheer stroke of luck the group located it. Now the grave of Aleen Isobel Cust MRCVS is recorded in the official registry of St Andrew's Church, Kingston, Jamaica for the very first time. The group persevered looking for Aleen's grave despite having been officially told 6 times she was not buried there.

Only for the existence would her grave ever have been found?

The members of The Aleen Cust Memorial Society are:

Donal Connolly, MRCVS

Ascinta Kilroy, MRCVS

Brendan Gardiner, MRCVS

### **Partnerships & Target Audiences:**

This is a unique and strategic partnership between The Aleen Cust Memorial Society, Galway County Council, Roscommon County Council, Tipperary County Council working in partnership with the ATU, a number of second level schools and community/heritage groups in the three counties, the veterinary and farming communities (including the IFA and the local marts) to be involved in a Decade of Centenaries project. The synergy of all of the above groups working together not only will strengthen the impact of the delivery of the project on the ground but will also showcase the work of the Commemoration Unit of the Department and its partners to a wider audience. Aleen is a person of inspiration for all not just in 1922 but now in 2022.

### **Possible outcomes:**

The decade 1913-1923 was one of the most momentous in modern Irish history and Galway County Council, Roscommon County Council and Tipperary County Council have been to the fore in the development and delivery of a comprehensive commemorative programme with its community partners and the Commemorative Unit of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media over the past number of years to enhanced our understanding of local events during the Independence Struggle that profoundly impacted communities across our counties.

Therefore, it is hoped that this project will raise awareness and knowledge with regards to this pivotal time in our history. It will shed light on the lives of people, in particular women who lived one hundred years ago, it will show their courage and determination in the face of adversity.

It is hoped that the project will also foster greater networking and sharing of knowledge at the local level and between the partner organisations involved in the project. It is anticipated that it will encourage people at home and abroad to explore our shared local history and to reflect on the tumultuous events which shaped us a community.

Information will be disseminated in a variety of ways including a conference, StoryMap, workbook, play, exhibition (online and in person) and will have the potential to reach a wide and varied audience from those attending the conference to farmers going to the mart. It is also envisaged that materials generated from the project would be shared with *Mná 100* and local and national repositories. It is hoped that it will act as a platform for others to undertake more in-depth research on Aleen Cust and other women of her time thereby leading us to a greater understanding of life in Ireland at that time.

## **The Aleen Cust Commemoration Project 2022**

The following is an outline of the various aspects of the Aleen Cust Commemoration Project 2022:

### **1. Secondary Schools Transition Years Projects**

Second level schools in Galway, Roscommon and Tipperary are and will be involved in the Aleen Cust, Transition Year Projects initiative. The projects range from a St Patrick's Day Float, creation of a visual display for the conference, play and video which will be delivered by Holy Rosary College, Mountbellew to a 3D model of Cordangan House being produced by TY students in St. Cuan's College, poetry, a song and artistic display to be developed by students in Coláiste an Chreagáin and historical research booklets being developed by Coláiste Mhuire, Ballygar, an artistic response by two schools in Tipperary and a portrait and booklet being produced by the secondary school in Roscommon town.

### **2. Conference**

It is proposed to hold a two- day conference dedicated to the memory of Aleen Cust on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> and Friday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2022 in Mountbellew Agricultural College, ATU Campus, Mountbellew, Co Galway followed by a related event in Keypak in Athleague, Co. Roscommon on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

### **3. Exhibition**

This exhibition will comprise of 15 x 3 pull-up banners (one for each County) and a short explanatory booklet. The exhibition will deal with various aspects of Aleen's life, what Ireland and in particular Tipperary, Roscommon and Galway was like in 1922.

### **4. Workbook for Primary School Children**

This bi-lingual workbook for primary school children will be integrated into the primary school curriculum and will focus in on creating an awareness, knowledge and interpretation of life in 1920s Ireland, Britain and the world at large, work, the life of women, World War 1, life in the

big house, the political landscape in Ireland of the 1920s. Aleen will be the central character in the workbook and it will look at her upbringing, her quest to become a veterinary surgeon, her work in the sphere of animal welfare and her work on the Western Front. It will seek to show how she overcame many barriers to practise a profession she dedicated her life to. It will assist in cross-curricular learning as students will read broadly across aspects of local, national and international history. It will help extend their vocabulary and the podcasts and videos can be imbedded in the workbook and will assist in brining history to life in the classroom.

## **5. StoryMap and Z-Card**

It is hoped to develop a StoryMap and z-card to help tell the remarkable story of Aleen's life. Built on leading-edge geospatial technology it is hoped that this customised StoryMap will bring Aleen's remarkable story to life. The StoryMap will bring together the latest innovative mapping technology with text, images and multimedia content to tell powerful location based stories accessible from any internet enabled device with a Web Browser including tablets and phones. StoryMaps are a simple yet powerful way to share information and enlighten, engage, and inspire people with stories that relate to our past and in particular to tell Aleen's story.

## **6. Podcasts and Videos**

It is hoped to create a short video showing the places associated with Aleen's life. There are a number of local historians who have very interesting stories to tell about aspects of Aleen's life such as her work in Athleague, Co Roscommon, her landed gentry roots in Tipperary and the UK and the work she would have engaged in during her life as a veterinary surgeon. All will be available on the Heritage Officers websites and Decade of Commemoration websites and to Mná 100.

## **7. Artistic/Creative Project**

It is proposed to undertake an artistic/creative project as part of the Aleen Cust commemoration project. As the interpretation of significant historical events by our artists and creative practitioners provides an important platform to encourage reflection and the consideration of issues, both past and present, which may be challenging, difficult and sometimes deeply personal.

### Project Partners:

1. Galway County Council
2. Roscommon County Council
3. Tipperary County Council
4. Atlantic Technological University (Galway-Mayo)

### New OPR Calendar of Events

The Office of the Planning Regulator have recently added a new Calendar of Events feature to the training page of their website. It is intended that this calendar will provide details of all upcoming training events for elected members and local authority and regional assembly staff. The new feature is available via the following link: <https://www.opr.ie/calendar-of-events/>

## LIBRARY SERVICES

### Poetry Day Ireland

Poetry Day Ireland which took place on Thursday April 28<sup>th</sup>, encouraged everyone to share a poem exploring the following theme “*Written in the Stars*”. To mark the occasion, library staff recorded readings of their favourite poems and these were shared on Galway Public Libraries’ social media channels. Recitations included poetry by Emily Dickinson, Robert Louis Stevenson, Christina Rossetti and William Shakespeare. In addition, a member of staff shared two poems which she had written for the occasion.



**DRCD Dormant Accounts Fund: Programme for Marginalized, Socially Excluded and Disadvantaged Communities**

The Department of Rural and Community Development issued a funding call to local authority library services, seeking proposals for programmes which reach out to marginalized, socially excluded and disadvantaged communities. Funding is available for digital equity and social inclusion initiatives including the purchase of assistive technology and equipment. The purchase of literacy and numeracy licences and apps. may also be funded. The library service has submitted several funding applications for a range of inclusive programming proposals across the network of branch libraries. It is expected that notice of successful applications will be issued in early June.

### **TTRS (Touch-Type Read and Spell)**

The library service provides free access to TTRS, an award-winning multi-sensory course which helps with reading, writing and literacy. TTRS may be used with students of all ages, children, adolescents and adult learners. It is suitable for use in schools and for use at home. For further information on TTRS and to apply for a free licence, please email [info@galwaylibrary.ie](mailto:info@galwaylibrary.ie).

## CORPORATE SERVICES

### AUGHRIM VISITOR CENTRE



The Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre is re-opening at the end of May 2022 where visitors can learn about how three rival European Kings took hold of Ireland in their struggle for power with over 45,000 soldiers gathering in Aughrim in 1691. The centre is located in the heart of Aughrim Village just 7km from Ballinasloe and 22km from Loughrea.

The centre offers visitors:

- Interpretative and artefacts display
- New Educational/Learning zone
- Children's worksheets, costume dress-up
- Self-guided driving, cycling or walking trail of the battlefield (full trail route approx. 10km)
- Free car parking & baby changing facilities
- Fully accessible
- Children's playground and park adjacent to Centre
- Guided tours of battlefield on request

Seasonal opening of the Centre is from May – September with opening times from Tuesday – Saturday, 10.30am - 4.30pm and Sunday 2.00pm – 5.00pm

Schools tours, groups, special interest & educational tours are all welcome and enquiries can be sent to [battleofaughrim@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:battleofaughrim@galwaycoco.ie)

A launch night for the Visitor Centre is planned for early June (date tbc) where the Members, local media and other local tourist attractions in the locality will be invited.



## LIFEGUARD SERVICE

The lifeguard service for Galway County and City 2022 will operate on an extended basis for the Summer months, commencing on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May, times are subject to the availability of lifeguards and resources at the following locations:

1. Ballyloughane, Renmore
2. Grattan Beach, Salthill
3. Blackrock Beach, Salthill
4. Ladies Beach, Salthill
5. Silverstrand Beach, Bearna
6. Palmers Beach, Salthill
7. Spideal Pier
8. An Cnoc, Indreabhán
9. An Ceathrú Rua
10. Traught, Kinvara
11. Loughrea
12. Portuma
13. Inis Mor

Full details of the lifeguard service are included in Appendix 1 in the Summer Ready Report



Lifeguard panel for 2022 attending training on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

## PLAYGROUNDS

A Capital Grant has been awarded to Galway County Council from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for refurbishment of the following playgrounds:

- €9,247 has been awarded for refurbishment of Ballinasloe Leisure Centre Playground
- €6,605 has been awarded for refurbishment of Portumna Playground

This grant will assist with the refurbishment of 2 existing play and recreation facilities with the addition of accessible & sensory equipment including Skylight crawl Through Play Tunnels, Cradle Seats, Sensory Panels and Communications Boards for both playgrounds and where required wet pour surfacing and repairs to existing equipment.

Galway County Council must provide 25% of the awarded amount for each project funded under the scheme.

### **Ballinasloe Leisure Centre Playground**



### **Portumna Playground**



**ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE, FIRE & MAJOR  
EMERGENCY SERVICES, HUMAN RESOURCES &  
INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES  
DIRECTORATE**

**ENVIRONMENT**

**Environmental Awareness**

**NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN 2022**

National Spring Clean was run during March/April 2022 and 196 clean-ups were registered in Co. Galway for 2022. Support for community clean-ups continue.

**GREEN SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS**

Each year new applicants and schools who apply to renew their Green Flag are assessed in relation to their work in the Green Flag project and how they deliver the information throughout the school and community. 38 schools are renewing their Green Flag for 2022. One school won the Overall Global Citizenship Energy award for 2022.

**NATIONAL TREE WEEK**

National Tree Week was supported in March 2022 and over 700 saplings were distributed to 20 groups and individuals following advertising.

**MOBILE WEEE COLLECTIONS 2022**

The first campaign of 5 collections finished on the 14th of May with 88.4 tonnes of WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) collected at the first 4 collections.

The second campaign commences on the 19th of May. This will consist of 17collections in local communities over a 4-week period as outlined below.

Thursday 19 May 2022	10am- 1pm	Carna	Bringbanks Site beside Church	Carna, Co. Galway
Thursday 19 May 2022	4pm - 7pm	Leitir Móir	Car Park opposite Church	Leitir Móir, Co. Galway

Tuesday 24 May 2022	10am- 1pm	Indreabhán (Inverin)	Mícheál Breathnach GAA Club	Indreabhán, Co. Galway
Tuesday 24 May 2022	4pm - 7pm	An Spidéal (Spiddal)	An Spidéal GAA Club Pitch	An Spidéal GAA Club, Co. Galway
Thursday 26 May 2022	10am- 1pm	Moycullen	Handball Alley at GAA Pitch	Moycullen, Co. Galway
Thursday 26 May 2022	4pm - 7pm	Headford	Headford GAA Pitch	Headford, Co. Galway
Tuesday 31 May 2022	10am- 1pm	Baile Chláir (Claregalway)	Community Centre	Baile Chláir, Co. Galway
Tuesday 31 May 2022	4pm - 7pm	Glenamaddy	Supervalu Car Park	Glenamaddy, Co. Galway
Thursday 2 June 2022	10am- 1pm	Williamstown	GAA Pitch	Williamstown, Co. Galway
Thursday 2 June 2022	4pm - 7pm	Tuam	The Mart	Tuam Mart, Co. Galway
Tuesday 7 June 2022	10am- 1pm	Abbeyknockm oy	O'Donohoe's Car Park	Abbeyknockmoy, Co. Galway
Tuesday 7 June 2022	4pm - 7pm	Monivea	Monivea Abbey GAA Club	Monivea, Co. Galway
Thursday 9 June 2022	10am- 1pm	Clarinbridge	Car Park at Paddy Burkes	Clarinbridge, Co. Galway
Thursday 9 June 2022	4pm - 7pm	Athenry	Co-Op Livestock Mart	Athenry, Co. Galway
Tuesday 14 June 2022	10am- 1pm	Kinvara	St. Colman's Parish Church Car Park	Kinvara, Co. Galway

Tuesday 14 June 2022	4pm - 7pm	Woodford	St. John the Baptist Church	Church car park, Woodford. Co Galway
Thursday 16 June 2022	10am - 4pm	Portumna	Portumna Co- operative Mart	Dominic Street, Co. Galway

### **Burial Grounds**

- Stankard Stone Builders Ltd were the successful tenderer for the development of the new burial ground at Brooklodge, Ballyglunin. Works are planned to commence in June.
- The public consultation period for the extension of the burial ground at Ballyconnelly has passed and the application will now be considered by the Planning Authority.
- An application to the National Monument Service for consent to preform pre-development excavations has been submitted in respect to a proposed extension at Kilbannon Burial Ground.
- Construction works for a new columbarium wall at Moycullen cemetery are scheduled to commence in June.

### **Civic Amenity Site**

IE Consultants are in the process of completing the surface water management system design for the proposed CAS (Civic Amenity Sites) at Gort. A water services and trade effluent application will be submitted to Irish Water in June.

Tender assessment for the civil, structural, mechanical, and electrical design components of the Gort CAS is underway and an award is planned to issue next month.

### **Climate Change and Energy**

#### ***Energy***

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Energy Bureau has been signed by Galway County Council. It is expected that Mayo County Council (Lead Partner) will sign an MoU with SEAI and a contract with the recommended tenderer this week. Recruitment of Local Energy Bureau Officers will commence thereafter. It is expected that the Bureau Officers will support Galway County Council's internal Energy Team to deliver agreed work programs and build

expertise internally. Galway County Council will require significant resources internally to deliver these programs.

The Environment Section coordinated the collection of the 2021 data for input into the SEAI Monitoring and Reporting Platform and submitted the data at the end of April.

### ***Climate Action Plan***

Ministerial direction regarding the development of Local Authority Climate Action Plans is expected in Q4 2022, however, background work has commenced on the development of the plan. Staff from several sections attended a regional workshop to identify the steps required and to identify relevant stakeholders.

Membership of the Climate Action Steering Group has been expanded and it is proposed to organise the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the expanded group later this month. There is significant interest among staff members and local representatives in relation to Climate Change work and an internal communications strategy will be developed to provide information and support to people throughout the organisation.

In conjunction with the Housing Section and the Heritage Officer, the Environment Section is preparing to host a Climate Action Day in County Buildings in June. This event will be open to the public and will provide information on how staff and the public can reduce their energy consumption, reduce household waste, prevent illegal dumping, and support biodiversity.

### ***Sustainable Energy Communities***

There are 28 Sustainable Energy Communities across the county, which are supported by SEAI. Some of the communities are very advanced in the Learn-Plan-Do process and have been implementing their Energy Master Plans (EMPs) for a few years. This includes the Aran Islands Energy Co-op which has been identified as the Decarbonisation Zone for County Galway. The Environment Section has contacted the SECs with a view to setting up a network within the county to enable information sharing, facilitate their input into the Climate Action Plan and support the implementation of their EMPs.

Under SEAI's Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) Program, the Environment Department has engaged with five SECs to support them to develop their EMPs. Galway County Council has appointed consultants to deliver EMPs for Headford SEC, Milltown SEC, and Dunmore SEC. GCC has re-tendered for the provision of EMPs for Athenry and Ballinasloe SECs and the tenders received are currently being assessed.

The launch of the Headford Energy Masterplan took place on Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> of April and two further launches are taking place this week for the Dunmore and Milltown Energy Master Plans. These will be advertised on social media and through the Public Partnership Network (PPN).



# Dunmore Sustainable Energy Community

Energy Master Plan Launch Event



Join us on  
**Thursday May 12th**  
**11am to 1pm**  
**The Town Hall Dunmore**

Energy Master Plan  
 Result Presentation

1 to 1  
**Energy Clinic**  
 Bring your latest electricity bill

Warmer Homes  
 Clinic

Electric Vehicle  
 Test Drives

SEAI  
 One Stop Shop

**seai** SUSTAINABLE  
 ENERGY AUTHORITY  
 OF IRELAND

**planenergy**

**KORE**  
 RETROFIT

### **Oil Pollution:**

A contractor has been appointed to develop a Draft Oil Pollution Plan for the county. The first draft of this plan has been received and is being reviewed at present.

### **Waste Enforcement and illegal dumping:**

There has been a substantial increase in the level of enforcement carried out in the second half of 2021 and the first quarter of 2022. This has come about as additional resources have been assigned to enforcement which has been funded by the Dept.

There has been an increase in the number of warning letters and notices issues in Q1 2022 compared with Q1 2021. In Q1 2022, some fines were issued following household waste presentation by-law inspections. These are the first fines to be issued under these bylaws and came about as a result of a house-to-house campaign started in Q4 2021 in Ballinasloe. Additional inspections were carried out in Tuam and it is hoped to start inspections in Loughrea in the next quarter and in the other towns in the county during the rest of the year.

There has been an increase in the number of prosecutions initiated in Q1 2022. All of this shows that the waste enforcement unit is detecting more illegal activity and taking the appropriate enforcement action to deal with the issues arising.

The enforcement team is building relationships with the Gardai, and a number of checkpoints have been carried out as a collaborative approach. It is hoped to continue this throughout the year.

In terms of the Circular Economy, Waste Management (Amendment) and Minerals Development (Amendment) Bill 2022 was published on Friday the 29th of April and the second stage was scheduled for this week in the Oireachtas. There is no date set for Committee stage yet.

The Circular Economy bill will make provision for the use by Local Authorities of closed-circuit television and mobile recording devices in certain circumstances and for that purpose amend the Waste Management Act 1996 and the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

**The GALWAY BUZZ – National Biodiversity Week**

**The Galway Buzz!**

Celebrating National Biodiversity Week in the County of Galway from 16<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022.

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

It’s also about communicating the importance of biodiversity and encouraging people to play their part in protecting it as well as enjoying it.

Our natural heritage connects us with our roots and our community. Galway County Council and its partners are celebrating National Biodiversity Week virtually this year, through the Galway Buzz.

The following is a listing of some of the events scheduled for week to create a better awareness, knowledge, and pride in the biodiversity of the county (to see all scheduled events check out [www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie) and Galway County Heritage Office Facebook page:

**THE GALWAY BUZZ!**

**NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY WEEK 2022**

WILLIAMSTOWN PARISH HALL  
EIRCODE F45 W211  
7.00pm THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022

**Calling all Heritage Groups, Tidy Towns, Community Groups, Organisations and Schools!**

To celebrate National Biodiversity Week 2022, a workshop will be held on "How to Create a Biodiversity & Pollinator Plan" in Williamstown Parish Hall [Eircode F45 W211] at 7.00pm on Thursday 19th May 2022.

This workshop is open to all and suitable for community groups, Tidy Towns, schools and villages who would like to develop a Biodiversity and Pollinator Plan for their area. We will look at how best to approach the creation of a plan in a step-by-step easy manner.

On the evening we will also be holding a public consultation for the development of the Galway Municipal Districts Biodiversity & Pollinator Action Plan. Galway County Council are currently drafting Biodiversity & Pollinator Action Plans for County Galway Municipal Districts and would like your input.

An initiative of Galway County Council and part funded by Galway County Council, the Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017 - 2021 and supported by the Local Authority Waters Programme, Williamstown Tidy Towns and The Heritage Council.

Comhairle Contae na Gallíochae  
Galway County Council

An Bóthar 15Áineach,  
Bóthar Árainn agus Oifigeanna  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage

All Droimheirí Dúchais  
The Heritage Council

Local Authority  
Waters  
Programme

SuperTowns  
Tidy Towns

# THE GALWAY BZZZ!

## NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY WEEK 2022

WILLIAMSTOWN  
PARISH HALL  
EIRCODE F45 W211  
7.00pm  
THURSDAY  
19<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022

If your group or organization have recently prepared any of the following for your area, please let us know:

- Biodiversity Action Plans
- Pollinator Plans
- Registered your Action for Pollinators on [www.pollinator.ie](http://www.pollinator.ie)
- Natural Heritage Audits
- Heritage Plans
- Habitat Mapping
- Tree Surveys
- Bat or other Mammal Surveys
- Participated in monitoring schemes such as Butterfly Monitoring Scheme or Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme.



By getting in touch, your contributions will help towards the creation of Biodiversity & Pollinator Actions for County Galway and it's Municipal Districts. These actions will help protect and enhance our county and it's natural heritage.

We encourage you to send on any relevant information from the above list to: [info@beeecology.ie](mailto:info@beeecology.ie) by Friday 20th May 2022.

PREVIOUS PAGE

An initiative of Galway County Council and part funded by Galway County Council, the Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017 - 2021 and supported by the Local Authority Waters Programme, Williamstown Tidy Towns and The Heritage Council.



Comhairle Chontae na Gallíochta  
Galway County Council



An Eolas Tábhairne,  
Eolas Anail agus Oibreachas  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage

An Oiphearsa Dúchais  
The Heritage Council



Local Authority  
Waters  
Programme

SuperValu  
Tidy Towns



**READING YOUR  
LOCAL LANDSCAPE  
HERITAGE AUDIT TOOLKIT  
DO THÍRDHREACH  
ÁITIÚIL A LÉAMH  
FOIREANN UIRLISÍ  
INIÚCHTA OIDHREACHTA  
by | le ZENA HOCTOR**



Galway County Council  
in partnership with Dunmore Heritage Group  
Cordially invite you to the launch by Cllr Peter  
Keaveney, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

of

*Reading Your Local Landscape –  
Heritage Audit Toolkit* by Zena Hoctor

Thursday May 19, 2022 at 2pm

in

Dunmore MacHales GAA Clubhouse Meeting  
Room, Dunmore Co. Galway H54 XC53

Ba mhór ag Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe i  
gcomhpháirtíocht le Grúpa Oidhreachta Dhún Mór

tú a bheith i láthair nuair a sheolfaidh an Comhairleoir  
Peter Keaveney, Cathaoirleach Chontae na Gaillimhe,

*Do Thírdhreach Áitiúil a Léamh –  
Foireann Uirlisí Iniúchta Oidhreachta* le Zena Hoctor

Déardaoin an 19 Bealtaine, 2022 ag 2pm

i

Seomra Cruinnithe Chlubtheach CLG Dhún Mór  
Mhic Aill, Dún Mór, Co. na Gaillimhe, H54 XC53

This project was funded by Galway County Council and the Heritage Council



## Water & Biodiversity - Networking Event Invitation

Dealing with climate change, water quality and biodiversity loss begins with communities. In September 2021, with the assistance of LAWPRO and Veri Connect, FORUM Connemara launched their Water & Biodiversity training courses. In doing so FORUM Connemara empowered people living in Connemara to act. Phase 1 of the Biodiversity and Water Biodiversity Training programme saw over 200 people take part with a number progressing to Phase 2 of the training which started in January 2022.

Phase 2 provided participants with robust biodiversity action plans for their local area. The pinnacle of the training was a networking event to allow participants to share and make connections with people from other communities. Join us to celebrate the end of programme

event to showcasing the Water and Biodiversity Plans and celebrate the achievements of the participants of the Water and Biodiversity Training. Visit = [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_bWW4CrzofP-4HIMwjTMfg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_bWW4CrzofP-4HIMwjTMfg) to view highlights from the event including presentations from the attendees.

### **The bugs in your stream and water quality**

Aquatic insects play a fundamental role in helping us understand the health of freshwater environments. Join Conor Ruane Community Water Officer with the Local Authority Waters Programme as he explores a local waterbody in search of water quality indicators. See [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_bWW4CrzofP-4HIMwjTMfg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_bWW4CrzofP-4HIMwjTMfg) for a demonstration on the Citizen Science Stream Index.

### **Event: Barn Owls in Galway**

Venue: Galway Telework, Mountbellew

Date: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May

Time: 15:00 – 16:00

Description: A visual presentation on one of our most iconic birds and the conservation efforts to help restore Barn Owl populations in Galway. This free presentation by John Lusby, Birdwatch Ireland and hosted by the Heritage Office of Galway County Council for Biodiversity Week, will celebrate one of our most iconic birds and their changing fortunes in Galway in recent years. Through footage, images and tales of personal experiences studying Barn Owls, John will explore why the Barn Owl is so special in Irish culture and in the Irish countryside, we will also release a new report detailing the results of a recent survey of Barn Owls in the county and what the future holds for Barn Owl populations in Galway.

### ***Planting for biodiversity and climate change***

**Date:** Tuesday 18 May 2021

**Time:** 19:00 – 20:00

A talk on planting for biodiversity and climate change will be given by horticulturist and environmentalist Aoife Munn. This interactive and lively talk will help you make great planting choices to support local wildlife. It will also look at the challenges presented by climate change and what plants we can use to reduce the effects. There will be time for questions too.

The talk will be delivered online and is free of charge for those who reside in Galway County Council's administrative area only. There are limited places available, and booking is essential. This initiative is funded by Galway County Council under *Galway County Heritage &*

*Biodiversity Plan 2017 - 2022* and the Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the *National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017 – 2021* and supported by The Heritage Council and Galway County Heritage Forum.

This is the link for the Planting for Biodiversity Workshop. <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/planting-for-biodiversity-and-climate-change-tickets-338064318477>

### ***Sustainable Living***

**Date:** Friday 21 May 2021

**Time:** 10:00am – 12:00 noon

Join Aoife Munn, Horticulturist and Environmentalist who will guide you through reducing your waste, looking at your use of chemical, eco-friendly crafting projects such as making your own wax wraps and much more. This session will take 1.5 - 2 hours.

The talk will be delivered online and is free of charge for those who reside in Galway County Council's administrative area only. There are limited places available, and booking is essential.

This initiative is funded by Galway County Council under *Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Plan 2017 - 2022* and the Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the *National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017 – 2021* and supported by The Heritage Council and Galway County Heritage Forum.

This is the link for the Sustainable Living Workshop.

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/sustainable-living-workshop-sponsored-by-galway-county-council-tickets-338082593137>

**Mise, le meas,**

**Mr. Jim Cullen**

***Chief Executive***

***Galway County Council***

**20<sup>th</sup> May 2022**