



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MANAGEMENT REPORT

Feabhra 2024
February 2024

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

A meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for 22nd February to consider the Annual Performance Review of SICAP 2023, and an Action Plan for the Empowering Communities Programme 2024. The Annual Report for 2023 will also be submitted for approval at the February LCDC Meeting, and the LCDC will receive a presentation from CYPSC (Children & Young Peoples Services Committee) about a potential collaborative project on Child Poverty.

LOCAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY PLAN

A Consultant has been appointed to lead the public consultation phase for the Local Economic and Community Plan and a meeting has been set up to discuss the processes to be implemented in this important phase of the LECP development.

HEALTHY GALWAY

A meeting of the LCDC Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee took place on 8th February, to discuss a Communications Strategy to broaden awareness and knowledge of the 'Healthy Galway' brand. Preliminary discussions also took place on the Workplan for 2023 which will be finalised when a Healthy Galway Coordinator is appointed in March. HSE staff also presented on a Spark Fusion SunSmart Project with a view to discussing and agreeing accompanying public awareness measures which can be rolled out in partnership with the LCDC Sub-Committee.

HEALTHY ISLANDS PROJECT

Following on from preliminary discussions with Age Friendly Ireland, a further meeting was arranged with HSE staff from Primary Care Services and Health & Wellbeing to discuss a funding proposal for a Healthy Islands project. This is a follow-on project to the award-winning Healthy Islands Roadshow which took place in 2023 which is being rolled out in all counties with offshore island populations. Funding of €28,746.18 has been allocated to County Galway on a proportional population-basis across the 4 offshore islands, and the funding proposal submitted for approval includes Health Screening events, and consultation with older persons groups with a view to expanding the range of social and leisure activities available to them on an ongoing basis. Pending final approval, it is envisaged the project will be completed by Q2 2024.

LOCAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME (LEP)

The Local Enhancement Programme is open for applications until 27th February, and an Information Workshop was delivered through the PPN on 6th February, following which the presentations on the LEP and Community Support Scheme (Community Development) were circulated to all PPN Members and Elected Members. Staff from the Community Department are available to deal with enquiries by phone from community groups and Elected Members and ensure that applicants are directed to the most appropriate funding scheme for their funding priorities. Queries can also be directed to communitygrants@galwaycoco.ie

AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

A meeting of the chairpersons of the City & County Older People's Councils, Age Friendly Programme Managers for the City & County, and Regional Age Friendly Programme Manager was held to discuss the development of the Older People's Council & a wider Older People's Forum in the City & County. It was also agreed to hold a joint training session for the City & County Older People's Council to broaden awareness and knowledge of their role. A meeting of the Galway County Older People's Council will take place on 12th February with presentations from the Creative Ireland Coordinator & Library Services. Members of the OPC and Age Friendly Programme are participating in an online focus group with the Department of Finance on 9th February regarding the National Payments Strategy – this will enable the OPC to feed back concerns of older people regarding services accepting card payments only rather than both card + cash payments, and other prevalent issues such as online fraud, etc.

COMHAIRLE NA NÓG

A meeting took place with Youth Work Ireland to finalise reporting on Comhairle na nÓg activities for 2022 and agree a Workplan and Budget for 2023. The topic selected for 2024 is "Mental Health and Addiction" and additional Steering Group members will be sought to add value to the discussions and initiatives to be developed by the Youth Committee on this topic. A secondary topic of "Youth Spaces" was selected with a particular emphasis on feeding into the development of more social & leisure opportunities for youth at local level – this has subsequently been selected as a key priority area by the LCDC under the Local Enhancement Programme 2024.

TIDY TOWNS

A Tidy Towns Networking Event has been organised for Saturday 9th March from 11am-1pm and is being hosted by Kinvara Tidy Towns at Burren Nature Sanctuary. This will present a valuable networking opportunity for Tidy Towns Groups in County Galway who enter the National Competition and carry out so much valuable work in their communities. A Survey Monkey has been circulated to all the Tidy Towns Groups to complete and this will identify priority areas for discussion at the event, so that groups can learn from each other, as well as the local authority & PPN targeting funding and other training supports at identified needs.

COMMUNITY AWARDS

It is envisaged that the Cathaoirleach Awards for 2024 will be launched in February by Cathaoirleach of the County Cllr. Liam Carroll, and details of the Awards format, etc., are being finalised at present.

AFRICIA DAY 2024

Africa Day falls on 25th May each year and is an annual celebration of the continent's culture and people. The Community Section has invited expressions of interest from communities and agencies for events to mark Africa Day throughout the County. A collated proposal will be developed from the Expressions of Interest to be submitted by 22nd February and submitted to the Department of Foreign Affairs for approval before their closing date of 29th February.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

PPN membership now stands at 1,285 member organisations.

ACTING AS AN INFORMATION HUB:

Submissions were invited from all Departments for the February PPN Newsletter which was circulated on 2nd February. The PPN issued information to all PPN Member Groups on funding schemes such as the Community Support Schemes, Local Enhancement Programme, and Africa Day, and also hosted the Funding Workshop for PPN Member Groups on 6th February. The PPN will also attend Galway Sports Partnerships 'Come & Try' Event on 13th February 2024 to promote available funding sources for Older Persons Groups, e.g., Age & Opportunity Grant for equipment, Local Enhancement Programme.

BUILDING CAPACITY:

The PPN conducted a training needs analysis of member groups, and the results will help to form the PPN's training calendar for 2024. The following training was delivered in February:

- Facilitation Skills for In-Person Settings
- Understanding and Influencing the Oireachtas
- Sources of Funding for Non-Profits
- Permaculture course hosted by Alfred Decker, internationally renowned Permaculture Educator and Designer, in partnership with CELT and Slieve Aughty Centre

The PPN hosted a Steering Committee Meeting of the Galway County Energy Master Plan (EMP) on 15th February to review progress on the development of the Master Plan.

PROMOTING REPRESENTATION:

A meeting of the PPN's Disability Linkage Group - Galway County Disability Forum - met and received a presentation from the Disabled Drivers Association and discussed issues with enforcement and disabled parking spaces, which are being followed up with the Roads & Transportation Unit. The PPN workers attended the National Disability Strategy regional consultation event, and PPN Representatives attended the Joint Policing Committee meeting during February. A Secretariat Meeting will be held on 27th February, and 2 vacancies on the Secretariat, for Loughrea MD and the Community & Voluntary Pillar, have been advertised to the full PPN Membership.

RURAL GRANT SCHEMES

CLÁR 2023 FUNDING

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced on Friday, January 12th of €6.2 million in funding for schools, community, and sports facilities nationwide. The funding is being provided as part of Our Rural Future, the Government's strategic five-year rural development plan. The following applications have been approved by the Department of Rural and Community Development for the 2023 CLÁR Scheme:

Ballinakill, Leitir Mealláin - Improves access to area of natural beauty. Upgrading an existing pull-in area.	€21,942
Dunmore NS - Development of walking track and sensory garden.	€50,000
Ballinakill National School, Loughrea - Upgrading Tennis Court to Astroturf and upgrade of lighting.	€50,000
Milltown Community Council Ltd – Construction of a walk/cycleway on riverbank.	€50,000
Ballinasloe Social Services - Upgrade kitchen facilities in community centre.	€50,000
Comhar Chuigéal (Leitir Mealláin) Teoranta – Oibreacht sláinte agus Sabháil teachta ar an bPáirc Spraoi.	€41,027

GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

AUTISM IN SPORT TRAINING – ACTIVE DISABILITY IRELAND

active disability Ireland

Training

Autism in Sport

Date: **Tuesday 30th January**

Time: **6:30pm - 9pm**

Venue: **Online**

Email: **eloftus@galwaycoco.ie**

Presented By:

Endorsed By:

Galway Sports Partnership hosted an online Autism in Sport Workshop on 30th January 2024. This 2.5-hour training workshop is aimed at coaches, volunteers, teachers, Special Needs Assistant's, and anyone who wishes to better cater for people with Autism. 17 people attended the training and received a certificate of completion from Active Disability Ireland (formerly CARA). The feedback for the workshop was extremely positive.

GORT GETS ACTIVATED!



As part of South Galway's Operation Transformation programme Galway Sports Partnership is supporting two Activator Pole Programmes which are attended by 28 Older Adults every week. This is an extremely popular activity with many benefits to the participants.

GAMES FOR ALL

Galway Sports Partnership has partnered with Atlantic Technological University Students from the second year of the Sport and Recreation Course. As part of the Sport and Recreation Course students study an Adapted Physical Activity module. Students studying this module are being supported by Galway Sports Partnership to provide a "Games for All" session for participants with disabilities from various service providers. The students received training from Galway Sports Partnership Sports Inclusion Disability Officer, attended an Autism in Sport Workshop to help them to better support the participants in a controlled setting. The Games for All sessions will run for seven weeks supported by Galway Sports Partnership and Atlantic Technological University.

OLDER ADULTS COME AND TRY – GRANT INFORMATION DAY

Galway Sports Partnership is hosting a come and try taster event for older adults to come and try out various exercise programmes and equipment to give groups a better understanding of what they may try to source through various funding streams that are currently available and will be available later in the year. There will be opportunities to take part in various activities and to also learn about the different grants available and any questions they may have about grants and applications.



TUAM LIBRARY



Galway Sports Partnership has partnered with Tuam Library to provide Activator Poles on loan for members of the library. This will allow more people to access the new FitSticks Trail which was recently installed in The Palace Grounds.

ARTS OFFICE

In February the Arts Office team firmed up our 2024 programme with arts organisation partners. Alongside planning and programme development we supported two events - Music For Galway's Encore: Piano Showcase and an exhibition Painting with Light by Laura Buckley. The team was also on hand to give advice to artists, arts organisations and community groups before our Artist Support Scheme and Community Support Scheme deadlines.

MFG ENCORE: PIANO SHOWCASE

Music for Galway's Encore programme continues in the county with a piano showcase in Loughrea on Sunday 04 February as part of Athenry Music School's International Piano Festival Day. International piano competition winners Yukine Kuroki (Japan) and Jaeden Izik-



Dzurko (Canada) perform pieces by Bach, Chopin, Liszt, Rachmaninov, Saint-Saens, and Schubert at Lough Rea Hotel & Spa. [Click here for more information](#)

YUKINE KUROKI
(JAPAN) AND
JAEDEN IZIK-
DZURKO (CANADA)



Laura Buckley

On what would have been her 47th birthday we are honoured to celebrate the extraordinary visual artist Laura Buckley with this survey exhibition curated by Eamonn Maxwell. Laura was born in Tuam, Co Galway in 1977 and died in London in 2022. The exhibition opens on Saturday 10

February and continues until Saturday 30 March.

The exhibition features a number of her sculptural installations and all of the works in the show are being exhibited in Ireland for the first time ever. Painting With Light is Laura's first solo exhibition at any public gallery in Ireland, and it's very fitting that this show is happening in her birth county of Galway, a place she loved.

Having trained at the National College of Art and Design in Dublin as a painter, Laura always considered herself as a painter of sorts even though her practice shifted to video and sculptural installation. Following her graduation from MA in Fine Art at Chelsea College of Art, Laura quickly built a reputation as an artist in the UK and beyond.

[Click here for more information](#)

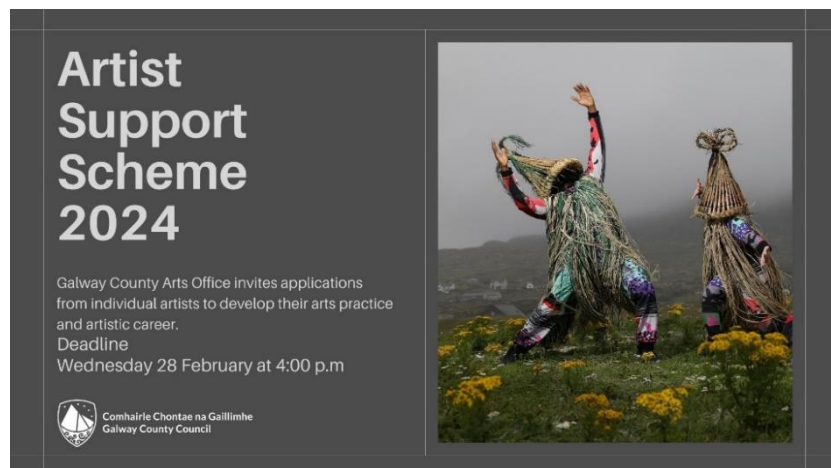
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

For the first time we are receiving funding applications through the online platform submit.com. We hope that this will be more convenient and user-friendly for applicants. Transitioning to online submissions is also more efficient for our team for processing applications. We are managing two funding opportunities in February the Artist Support Scheme and Community Support Scheme.

ARTIST SUPPORT SCHEME

Opened 22 January
Information clinic 15
February
Deadline 28 February

This scheme supports individual artists to develop their arts practice and artistic career. The scheme is open to professional artists living in County Galway at all stages of their career, working in any artform and context.

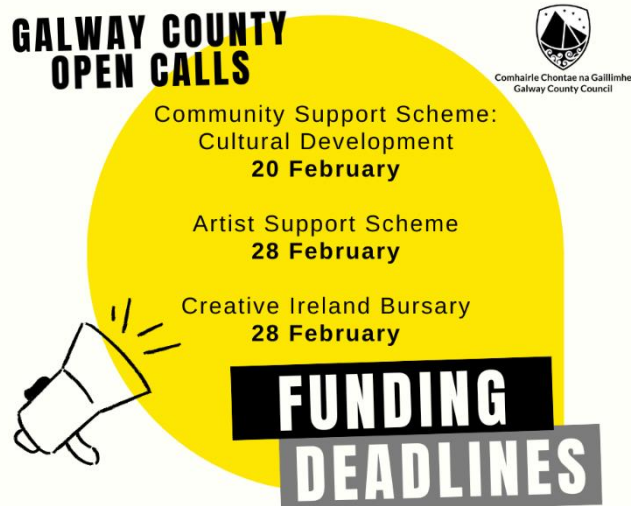


COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCHEME: CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Opened 18 January
Information clinic 06 February
Deadline 20 February

The purpose of the schemes is to encourage and promote community and voluntary groups to take an active part in the development of their communities, and to improve the economic, community, and cultural/heritage aspects of their surrounding areas **by funding projects and events which are of benefit to the wider community.** The Cultural Development strand includes:

- Arts Act Grants 2024
- Heritage Grants 2024
- Irish Language Promotional Activities 2024



CREATIVE IRELAND BURSARY SCHEME OPEN

The 2024 Creative Ireland Bursary Scheme opened on Monday the 22nd of January and will run until Wednesday February 28th. Grants are available for up to €10,000 with a minimum grant of €2,000. All applications are completed via Submit.com and it is expected that all decisions will be made and offers made by early March.

BIA INNOVATOR FOOD TRAIL



On Friday the 26th of January the new BIA Innovator Campus was officially opened by An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar. As part of this event, Creative Ireland funding supported an Artisan Food Trail at the campus. This featured local and national food producers, some of whom were resident at the campus. This funding allowed the vendors to provide free food samples on the day which provided an opportunity to

speak about their products and the visions for their businesses. There were also a number of demos throughout the day, some of which were collaborative in nature, allowing for paired tastings. The event was well attended and highly praised by all.



FOOD AND
DRINK DEMOS
AT BIA
INNOVATOR
CAMPUS
OPENING



BIA INNOVATOR
CAMPUS



L-R: AN TAOISEACH LEO VARADKAR, ELAINE O'DONOGHUE, GENERAL MANAGER, BIA INNOVATOR CAMPUS, PETER FEENEY CHAIR OF BIA INNOVATOR, LIAM CARROLL, GALWAY COUNTY CATHAOIRLEACH, ALAN PHELAN, TEAGASC, LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND MICHAEL CAREY, CHAIR OF ENTERPRISE IRELAND



BIA INNOVATOR LAUNCH
DAY



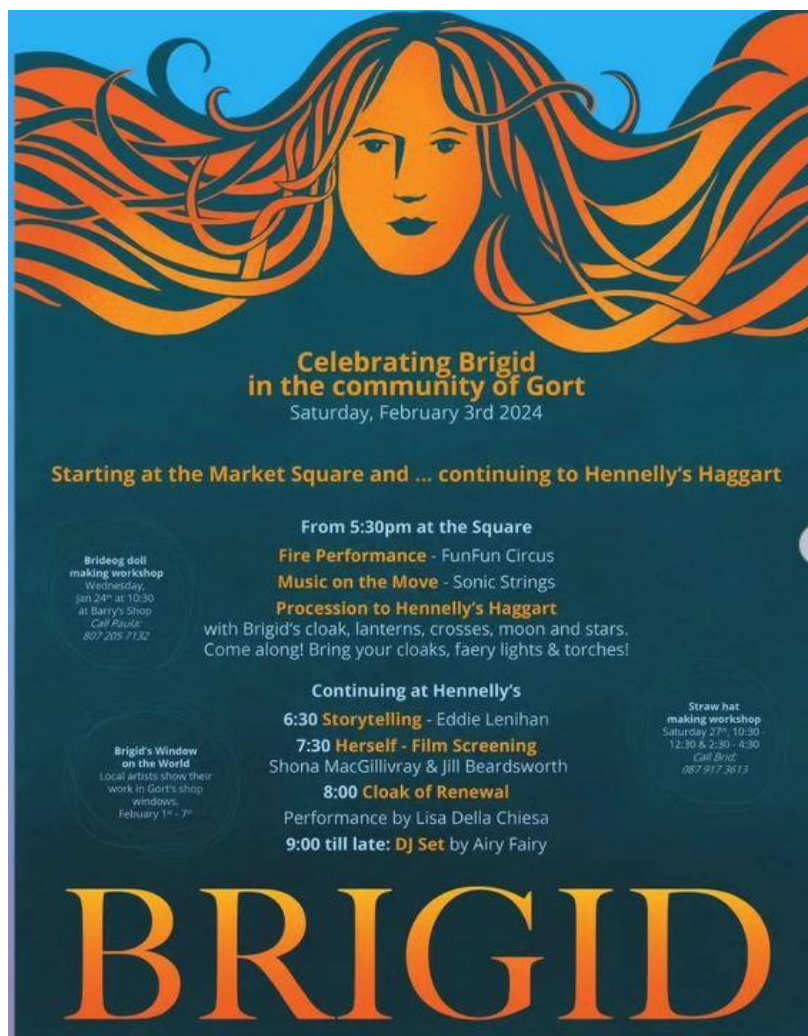
LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF
EXECUTIVE GALWAY COUNTY
COUNCIL

CULTURE TEAM 2024 PLANNING

The Culture Team held their planning meeting for 2024 on the 31st of January. During this the team reflected on the work carried out in 2023, learned of new Creative Ireland funding opportunities for 2024, and discussed their ideas for projects for the coming year. Many of these are still in the planning phase, but it is already clear that 2024 is going to be a busy year for collaborative, creative projects across Galway County.

CRUINNIÚ NA NÓG 2024

The date for Cruinniú na nÓg 2024 has been changed from Saturday June 8th to Saturday June 15th. This is due to the election taking place on Friday June 7th. In late 2023, additional funding was secured for the purpose of carrying out a youth consultation which will inform the programming of Cruinniú 2024. This work is being focused on the Aran Islands, as there was a desire from the Department to see increased engagement on the islands. This work is being carried out by Branar theatre company and is expected to be completed by the end of February.



On Saturday the 3rd of February, the town of Gort will celebrate Brigid with a wonderful programme of events suitable for all the family. This is the second year of Brigid celebrations in Gort, proudly supported by Galway County Council's Creative Ireland fund. The film will be shown again, but there will also be a number of entertaining activities including fire performances, music from Sonic Strings, a torchlit procession, and a performance of a new dance piece by Lisa Della Chiesa, a local dancer who features in the film HERSELF. The night will close out with a DJ set from 9pm til late at Hennelly's Haggart. The

festivities begin at 5:30 pm in the Market Square.

TOURISM

TOURISM STRATEGY 2023-2031.



The tourism strategy for County Galway will be formally launched in April 2024, location, and date to be confirmed. Planning of all the stages of the launch will make the releasing to the market a success. The timing of the launch is excellent with the recently launched Failte Ireland regional plans and the upcoming

Destination Experience Development Plan for East Galway by the Ireland's Hidden Heartlands Team.

An implementation plan on the strategy is underway and this will frame the work for the tourism team over the next three years, this plan outlines the steps the team will take when accomplishing a shared goal or objective. The plan is due to be published in the first quarter of 2024.

ADVERTISING

We will continue to invest in a County based marketing spread with '**This is Galway**'. For the February/March edition we are highlighting Spidéal agus Na Forbacha the sights to see and things to do while also acknowledging the preservation of the native Irish language.

THE SPIRIT OF IRELAND MAGAZINE



The Tourism Officer has invested in 4 pages to be published with 'The Spirit of Ireland

magazine' for Promoting the 10th Anniversary of the Wild Atlantic Way 2024.

The 2024 issue will be distributed in New York City on St Patrick's Day at the Sheridan Hotel where Nacta and Tourism Ireland will be attending. It will be promoting all Tourist Attractions in Galway.

The Spirit of Ireland Magazine targets the North American Tourists. The magazine is the official publication of the North American Celtic Trade Association. Nacta brings visitors to Ireland to the value of 3.6 million annually.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANTS

This year the applications and guidelines for the Community Support Scheme 2024 are available to apply for **online**, closing date is **Tuesday 20th February**.

To date there has been positive feedback in relation to applying online and the Tourism team is available for any queries or guidance that maybe required.



The Tourism Team met with the Geopark Geologist and the Geopark Manager, they updated the team on the UNESCO Global Geopark status for the Joyce Country and Western Lakes Geopark region that is currently underway. The application is based on the geology of international importance found in the region, with the complete rock record of the opening and closing

of the Iapetus Ocean, the world-famous Connemara Marble, the only fjord in Ireland at Killary, one of the fastest flowing spring complexes in the world at Cong, and Lough Carra as one of the most significant marl lakes in Europe.

Through achievement of UNESCO Global Geopark status for the Joyce Country and Western Lakes region, the communities, businesses, and education providers in the area will be empowered to better inform about its attractions, promote the use of the Irish language and draw more visitors to experience in a sustainable way its rich geological, historical and cultural features, resulting in more confident and resilient local communities, enterprise and jobs.

The Tourism Team look forward to continuing to work together with our tourism partners to realise our shared vision for Tourism development.

Geopháirc Dhomhanda UNESCO do cheantar Dhúiche Sheoigheach i nGaillimh agus Maigh Eo: na feidearthachtaí, na dúshláin agus an bealach chun cinn

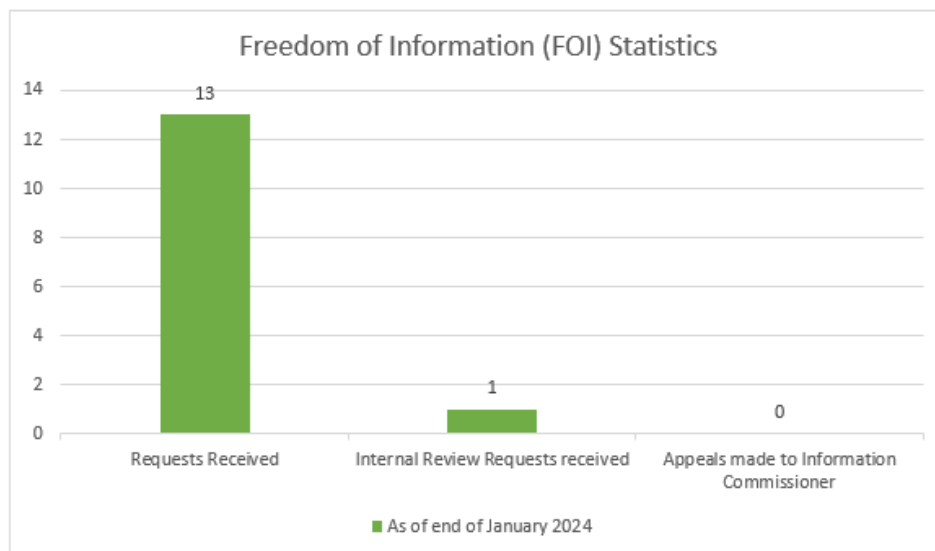


A UNESCO Global Geopark for the Joyce Country area of Galway and Mayo: the possibilities, challenges and way forward

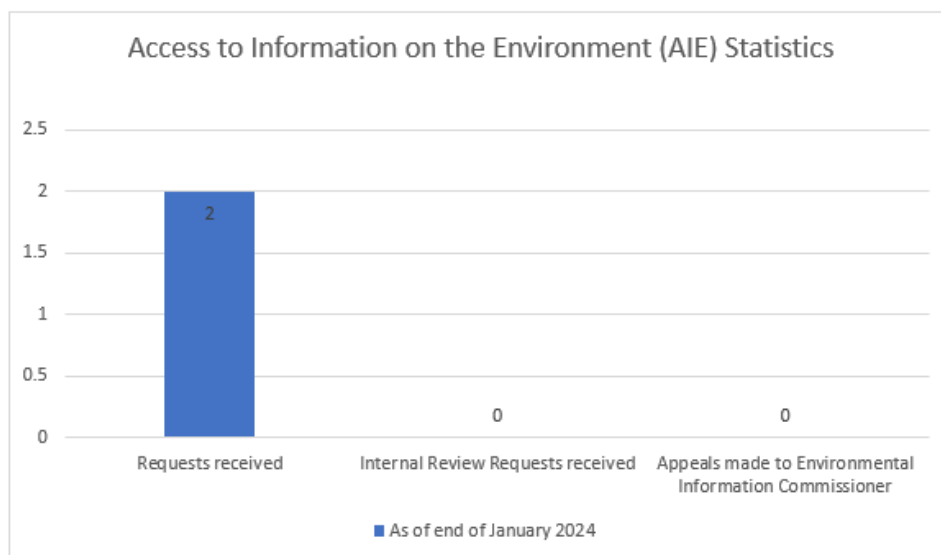
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION & DATA PROTECTION

2024 YEAR TO DATE STATISTICS TO 31.01.24

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT



DATA PROTECTION

- **Data Access Requests**

4 Data Subject Access Requests

- **GDPR/Data Protection Training**

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

LOCAL AUTHORITY CORPORATE PLAN 2024-2029 AND THE PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS DUTY

RECREATION & AMENITIES

PORTUMNA PLAYGROUND

Works and upgrades were recently completed by Murphys Playground Services Ltd and Galway County Council at Portumna Playground funded by Department of Rural and Community Development and Galway County Council under the Clár 2022 Scheme.

Our Clár application, aimed to ensure inclusivity for all children by replacing single spring rockers with double rockers which encourages children to play together, along with the installation of an inclusive wheelchair roundabout and necessary repairs to existing play apparatus to ensure safety for all users.



BEFORE &
AFTER AT
PORTUMNA
PLAYGROUND,
INSTALLATION
OF
WHEELCHAIR
ACCESSIBLE
CAROUSEL



Before

After



Before

After



BEFORE AND
AFTER,
CLEANING OF
PLAYGROUND

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT – JANUARY 2024

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



www.facebook.com/galwaycounty



www.twitter.com/galwaycoco



www.instagram.com/galwaycountycouncil

OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY

35,199

↑ 1.46%

from 34,692

Fans & Followers

35,199

↑ 1.46%

from 34,692

Fans & Followers

FACEBOOK

Over this period, Customer Services have posted 198 posts to Galway County Council's Facebook page. Customer Services also utilised the 'story' function on Facebook 31 times this month with followers. Galway County Council's overall reach for the last month was 64.4k, an increase of 37.1% compared to the previous month.

AUDIENCE METRICS – FACEBOOK

Last month Galway County Council gained 290 new Facebook followers, bringing the total followers as of January 31st, 2024, to 16,438. Galway County Council's audience ages range between 18 – 65+ with the main audience being those aged between 35 and 44, when this is broken down further 23.4% of this age group are women and 10.7% are men.

In total, 31.7% of Galway County Council's Facebook followers are male and 68.3% are female.

JANUARY'S TOP THREE POSTS



AUDIENCE METRICS – X (PREVIOUSLY TWITTER)

During this period on X, Galway County Council posted a total of 170 tweets with 91.6k impressions. The account gained 72 new followers, bringing the total following to 16,551.

JANUARY'S TOP THREE POSTS



INSTAGRAM

Over this period, Customer Services have posted 151 posts to Galway County Council's Instagram page. Customer Services also utilised the 'story' function 32 times this month with followers as well as sharing 22 reels. Galway County Council's overall reach for this period was 2.1k, an increase of 177.6% compared to the previous period.

AUDIENCE METRICS – INSTAGRAM

Galway County Council's Instagram page has a similar audience base to the Council's Facebook page with audience ages ranging between 18-65+, with 69.2% being female and 30.8% being male. Overall, the main audience; with 37% in total, again is those aged between 35 and 44 years old, a closer breakdown shows that this consists of 26.4% women and 10.6% men. Over the last month Galway County Council have increased their followers from 834 in December 2023 to 938 followers by the end of this period.

1 @galwaycountycouncil Jan 21

IMPORTANT NOTICE: R339 at Carnmore East: An ESB High Voltage 110KV...

Post impressions **652**

2 @galwaycountycouncil Jan 31

Vacancy - Just Transition Fund - Tourism Programme Local Authority...

Post impressions **479**

3 @galwaycountycouncil Jan 30

Tá Rabhadh Aimsire Gaoithe Stádas Buaisithe do Ghailimh, ón 08:00am -...

Post impressions **446**

During this period on LinkedIn, Galway County Council's account gained 51 new followers, bringing the total following to 1,640, an increase of 13.3% with 25 posts being shared and 3,992 impressions this month.

100 YEARS OF GALWAY PUBLIC LIBRARIES



Galway Library is 100 years this year as per the inaugural meeting of the Irish Advisory Committee of the Carnegie Trust held on 2nd August 1924 and we hope to remember and reflect on this history with various events throughout the year.

SAMUEL MAGUIRE, GALWAY'S FIRST
COUNTY LIBRARIAN.

DRCD - DEPARTMENT OF RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Galway Public Libraries successfully submitted a funding proposal for Public IT equipment to the DRCD last November. The following equipment was purchased with the aid of this grant from the Department and the total value of the equipment purchased is €114,855.

The equipment purchased includes:

97 Lenovo PCs. These PCs will be deployed in each of our 29 libraries.



Lenovo M75s Desktop PC

13 conference monitors with in-built docking stations and 25 detachable 2-in-1 laptops.



Dell Latitude 7320 Detachable 2-in-1 laptop; HP 24" Conference Monitor with Docking Station

HEALTHY IRELAND AT YOUR LIBRARY

**SEIMINEÁR
SLÁINTE NA MBAN
AGUS NA BHFEAR**

Le Aoife Ní Eochaidh
Fisiteiripeoir le suim
speisialta i sláinte na mban
agus na bhFear

Beidh Aoife ag labhairt faoi
comhairle ó thaobh cosc agus
cóireáil, le aghaidh sláinte na mban
/Sláinte na bhFear

Seirbhís Leabharlaine Chontae na
Gaillimhe agus Éire Shláintiúil i do
Leabharlann

**DÉ MÁIRT
23 Eanáir, 2024**

11r.n. - 12i.n.

**LEABHARLANN NA
CEATHRÚN RUA**

Fáilte roimh gach duine

**WOMEN'S AND
MEN'S HEALTH
SEMINAR**

AOIFE NÍ EOCHADH
CHARTERED PHYSIOTHERAPIST
CLINICAL SPECIALIST IN
WOMEN'S AND MEN'S HEALTH
AND CONTINENCE

In this seminar Aoife will be
speaking about
preventative as well as
essential therapies for
women's and men's bone
and pelvic health

**TUESDAY
30TH JANUARY, 2024
11AM - 12PM
TUAM LIBRARY**

Hosted by Galway Public Libraries
as part of the Healthy Ireland At
Your Library programme

**THIS IS A FREE EVENT
OPEN TO ALL**

Healthy Ireland At Your Library Programme for 2024 kicked off with events in Carraroe Library, Tuam Library and Gort Library. These events were delivered by Aoife Ní Eochaidh who was focusing on bone and pelvic health in both men and women. The workshops also provided opportunities to carry out exercises to strengthen core muscles and improve posture.

Podiatrist Marie Hegarty spoke about all things foot-related over two Saturday sessions in Westside Library. Both sessions were well attended.



CREATIVE COMMUNITIES ON A SHARED ISLAND PROJECT

Galway Public Libraries is delighted to be part of a very exciting Creative Communities on a Shared Island project valued at €250,00 which runs from the end of 2023 – 2025. This cross-border initiative titled 'Birds of a Feather' will bring together women from Belfast, Co. Clare and Co. Galway, Catholic, Protestant, Nationalist, Loyalist, Ethnic Minorities, Travellers, Inner City working class, Islanders and people with physical disabilities and mild forms of dementia.

Over a 2-year period the women will work with artists and the wider cultural and creative sectors, and they will go on an experiential journey learning about the variety of cultures that the participants come from.



Participants in the project include the Ballymac Friendship Centre Women's, a group which is part of the Protestant Ulster Loyalist (PUL) Community in East Belfast and live in an area of disadvantage which borders the Nationalist Short Strand; Mná ag Gaire, a group of women from across

Co Clare who have a particular interest in crafting and bringing their skills to market; the Ballinasloe Women's group, a group of women from diverse backgrounds who have been

meeting weekly in Ballinasloe library since 2019 and women from Inis Boffin Arts Festival and Crafters.

In December 2023 representatives from the group met in Belfast for an exciting and engaging 2 days of introductions and chats about expectations, deliverables, desired outcomes and the programme of upcoming events. Our next engagement will be in Ennis in February when we will be hosted by Clare County Libraries and the Mná ag Gáire group.



JACKIE GOODE,
BALLINASLOE
WOMEN'S
GROUP, ÚNA
KELLY, GALWAY
PUBLIC
LIBRARIES,
NIAMH
O'DONOVAN,
CLARE
LIBRARIES,
HELEN WALSH,
CLARE COUNTY
LIBRARIAN

AGE FRIENDLY INITIATIVES

Age Friendly Westside Library



Need a hand using Library Apps?

Drop in to Westside Library with your Tablet or Smartphone

Last Friday of every month

11:30-12:30pm

Starting 26th January 2024



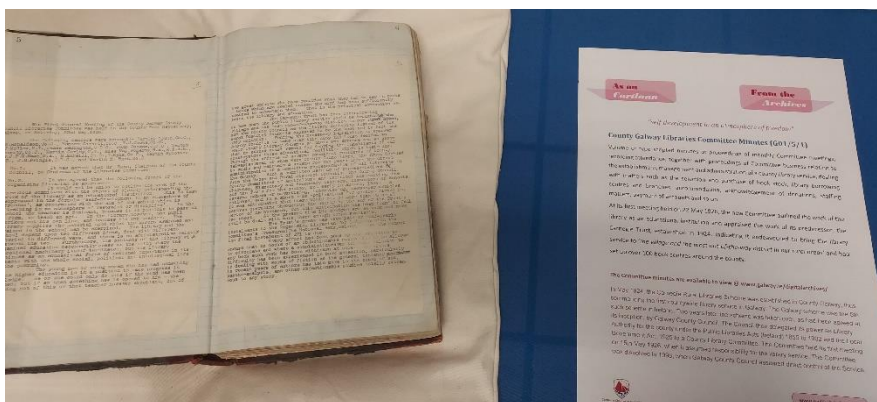
As part of the ongoing Age Friendly Initiatives in our libraries, Westside Library are trialling drop-in digital literacy sessions with the Age Friendly Ambassador. These one-to-one sessions allow participants the chance to learn how to use our vast repertoire of online resources.

Galway City Library have launched a new Scrabble event for Seniors. The first session was well attended, and this is done with the support of Cope Galway and the Age Friendly remit.



BALLINASLOE LIBRARY'S
COMMUNITY JIGSAW PUZZLE

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHIVES



In January Galway County Council Archives added a substantial quantity of material to its Digital Archive. Over 40 volumes of recently digitised (for preservation and access purposes) Galway Poor Law Union Board of Guardians minutes (GPL6/41-86), dating

from 1866 to 1889, have been added to the already extensive online digital archive website. The Board of Guardian minutes are a hugely important and popular archive source, recording details

relating to the social, political, and economic history of the period. Many thanks to our colleagues in ICT for their assistance with the upload.

In addition, to commence the celebrations of 100 years of Galway Public Libraries, the earliest minute book for the Galway County Library Committee, dating from May 1926, is on display in the Local Studies and Archives Reading Room in Library HQ at Island House.

GPL6/45

121

Galway UNION.

Population in 1861, 50,821

Present Net Annual Value, £ 65,666

STATE of the WORKHOUSE for the Week ending Saturday, the 15th day of February 1868

Number of inmates for which accommodation is provided	No. that can be accommodated in each building	Total No. in each building	Able-bodied	Aged and infirm persons, not above 15 years of age, but not working						Bosons and Girls above 15 and under 15 years of age	Children above 2 and under 2 years of age	Children under 2 years of age	Infants under 2 years of age	RETURN OF SICK AND LUNATICS		OBSERVATIONS	
				Males	Fem.	Males	Fem.	Boys	Girls					Number in Hospital on the above date	No. of Lunatics and Idiots in Workhouse on the above date		
Workhouse	816	413															
Temporary buildings	202	115															
Additional Workhouse	44	9															
Permanent Fever Hospital																	
Fever Sheds																	
Total	1062	537															
Remaining on previous Saturday, as per last Return,			56	17	68	109	51	20	48	79	40	69					
Admitted during the Week,			2	12	1	2		1	2	4	5	29					
Total			58	129	69	111	51	21	50	76	45	620					
Discharged during the Week,			4	7	4	3	2	2	4	3	3	32					
Died,					1							1					
Total Discharged and Dead,			4	7	4	3	2	2	4	3	3	33					
Remaining on the above date,			54	124	65	108	49	29	46	73	42	587					

Galway Board of Guardian minutes relating to plans for the Galway to Oughterard to Clifden railway, (GPL6/68, 23 Jan 1879, p638)

Mr. Wm. Acheson who was present laid on the table the plans of the proposed Steam Tramway from Galway to Loughrea, and Clifden, and stated that he had come specially to meet the Board for the purpose of explaining to them on the subject of the project.

After some discussion on the subject the following resolution, proposed by L. L. Ferdinand Esq. seconded by R. N. Somerville Esq. was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That Mr. Wm. Acheson having laid the plans before the Board, and having explained his views, and that it would be the means of affording great employment, spread over 700 square miles, it is the opinion of the Board of Guardians that the Galway, Loughrea, & Clifden Steam Tramway is a work which should be recommended for adoption at the next Session agreed to be held under the late Order.

TUAM LIBRARY



The Community Connects social group met again in Tuam Library and due to demand will now be running every 2nd week. The group is run with support from the GRD's social prescriber, and its aim is to give people a chance to meet new people, reconnect with others and find out about different things happening in their community.

Tuam Library celebrated St Brigid's day by asking the community to decorate a St Brigid's Cloak. The cloak was designed and made by the Women's group in Bhrú Bhríde. Tuam Educate Together School supported our project by designing and adding the decorations.

On St. Brigid's day 15 children participated in a St Brigid's cross making workshop.



Tuam Library celebrated National Lego Day on Saturday the 28th of January with a day of free Lego activities. The library has a Lego Free Play every Saturday, this never fails to attract crowds of eager builders big and small!

BALLYBANE LIBRARY

Ballybane Library 091 509 244
ballybane@galwaylibrary.ie

Have you Recently Retired? What Next?

Join us as we showcase some of the groups and amenities available in the East side of Galway City. Come along and chat to various community groups and organisations that can help you get the most out of your retirement goals.

Thursday 22nd February 10.30am

- ✓ ARD Family Resource Centre
- ✓ Ballybane Active Retirement
- ✓ Ballybane Community Organic Garden
- ✓ Ballybane Men's Shed
- ✓ Ballybane Resource Centre
- ✓ Cumann na bhFear Galway
- ✓ MABS - Money Advice and Budgeting Service



Ballybane Library coordinated and led this event on Thursday 22nd of February at 10.30am. It's an opportunity for residents to check out some of the local groups and amenities available in the Eastside of Galway City.

Enjoy a Tea/Coffee and get the chance to chat to the various community groups and organisations that can help you get the most out of your retirement goals.

GALWAY CITY LIBRARY

'Storytelling for Children / Scéalta do Pháistí'
Galway City Library/ Leabharlann Chathair na Gaillimhe

tonnta
Irish Language Festival




Delighted to welcome the wonderful Mairin Mhic Lochlainn and Catherine Brophy for their sparkling set of bilingual stories for children at Galway City Library on Saturday 3rd of February. "Scéalta do Pháistí / Stories for Children" was presented by The Moth & Butterfly International Festival of Storytelling & Improvisation in association with the Tonnta Irish Language Festival.

Galway City Library hosted a new art exhibition, by three Galway artists – Therese Connolly, Evelyn Wrynn, and Anne Connolly.

The three artists are members of Galway Art Club, and this is their first time exhibiting at Galway City Library.



The Celtic Tales Chronicles season two launched at Galway City Library on February 1st at 6pm.

With even more spooks and spellbinding stories, let podcasters Kerry Graham and Rab Fulton guide you through an audio landscape of history, mystery and murder most foul! Series are available to download now.

BALLINASLOE LIBRARY

Ballinasloe library hosted the first of the "Town Talks" series- a series of talks organised with the Ballinasloe & District Heritage Society- on Saturday January 27th at 2.30pm.

65 people attended and enjoyed a talk about one of the most beloved leading men of the Golden Age of Hollywood in the late 1930s and 1940s- George Brent. In a special hour-long talk, which featured clips from his most remembered films, John Maguire took a comprehensive look at Brent's life and career, his status as an Irish actor in America, and the timeless connection with Bette Davis that would secure his legend.

John, a native of Ballinasloe, is a national newspaper journalist and film critic with more than 20 years' experience writing and talking about cinema in Ireland.

The next talk in the series is due to be held on Saturday February 10th at 2.30pm and will feature Seán Tully speaking about the history of Ballinasloe Town GAA.



LIBRARY ASSISTANT
ABBIE MCGOWAN
WITH MEMBERS OF
THE BALLINASLOE &
DISTRICT HERITAGE
SOCIETY



A FULL HOUSE IN THE
CHURCH GALLERY

HOUSING & UKRAINE RESPONSE

HOUSING PROJECTS SHORTLISTED FOR 3 NATIONAL AWARDS

- **Irish Building & Design Awards 2024**
- **The National Property Awards 2024**
- **All-Ireland Housing Awards 2024**

The social housing development at Gort Na gCloch, Hospital Road, Clifden has been shortlisted for both the Irish Building and Design Awards and the National Property Awards 2024.

IBDA | Irish Building & Design Awards | **2024**

PUBLIC SECTOR - RESIDENTIAL /HOUSING PROJECT OF THE YEAR

The Irish Building and Design Awards are recognised as ‘best in class’ both nationally and internationally. Judged by peer industry associations and groups, the IBDA's recognise excellence in build, design, people, and creativity!

To make the IBDA shortlist is a significant achievement and acts as a signal to clients and potential clients that you are amongst the best in your sector.



SOCIAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT OF THE YEAR CATEGORY

The National Property Awards is Ireland's leading event, which celebrates and champions both individuals and organisations from across the entire property industry.

The esteemed judging panel is composed of leading experts drawn from across the industry itself, state agencies and professional bodies. Key to the success of the awards is the integrity of its judging process.

PROJECT: GORT NA GCLOCH, HOSPITAL ROAD, CLIFDEN



Steeped in a rich history and yet carrying a burden of a sensitive and disquieting past, St. Josephs in Clifden, Co. Galway was a former Mercy Convent orphanage and later an Industrial School & Laundry dating back to 1862.

Being a prominent landmark in Clifden, Galway County Council believed that this project represented an

opportunity to change the focus of this, at times, unsettling history to one of comfort and protection for the people of Clifden, in providing homes for a variety of occupiers, that sensitively creates a place that its residents can be proud to call home.



Now complete, two disused and dilapidated but historically significant buildings together with their associated lands have been brought back into use, providing them with a function and future in 26 new homes, which will ensure their long-term survival. It is

widely considered that the project is a very positive contribution to the Architectural heritage of Clifden and Galway.

Galway County Councils aim on this important project centred around the requirement for low maintenance and long-life materials: “It is expected that this development will provide a model of best practice and will include passive and active measures to maximise the sustainability of the scheme. The design should seek to achieve the appropriate energy rating in line with Building Control and in accordance with EU Directive on Energy Performance of Buildings and the appropriate software used to ensure high performance and compliance with regulations. The new building should be energy, water, and resource efficient and should be built of materials that do not harm the environment or the people who use it. For the building and its infrastructure, this may be assumed as an overall economic life of 60 years.”



All-Ireland Housing Awards 2024

Category: Working in partnership

The Chartered Institute of Housing award ceremonies exist to share good practice; highlight innovation; and showcase the work of housing professionals and their communities. With a wide range of categories available, applications will be judged by a fantastic panel, made up of tenants, residents, and housing experts, giving a well-rounded view on all entries.

This award commends collaboration between organisations or groups that achieves the best possible outcomes.

Organisations that have worked collaboratively to improve service delivery across geographical boundaries, sectors or client groups in order to benefit the people who use their services. The winning organisations will have evidenced good practice in setting up and managing the partnership, including establishing new ways of working.

Shortlisted Project: Housing Disability Steering Group (HDSG): Mental Health Subgroup

HOUSING PROPOSALS UNDER THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (SECTION 179A) REGULATIONS 2023.

S.I. No. 101/2023 – Planning and Development (Section 179A) Regulations were published on 10th March 2023. These Regulations allow for accelerated delivery of social, affordable, and cost-rental housing by means of the introduction of a temporary time-bound exemption, in strictly defined circumstances, from the ‘Part 8’ process for the approval of Local Authority own development housing projects on Local Authority or State-owned lands.

Where a development is classed as exempted development under these Regulations, there is no public participation process. The notification process by means of site and newspaper notices which will notify interested parties of the intention to undertake the proposed development.

Documents and drawings are published on the Local Authority website for public viewing and are made available for inspection in the Local Authority offices during opening hours. A person may question the validity of any decision of the planning authority by way of an application for judicial review under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts within 8 weeks of publication of the site and newspaper notices.

All developments proposed under the Regulations are to be screened for Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment in accordance with the precautionary principle. The Local Authority shall make a determination on the screenings for EIA and AA.

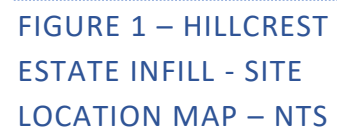
New article 81A in the Regulations requires the Chief Executive to formally notify the elected members of the proposed housing development prior to issuing a site notice and newspaper notice. In this regard, all elected members are advised that Galway County Council Housing Department has prepared two proposals at Hillcrest Loughrea and Parkmore Tuam and intends to publish the site and newspaper notice under these Regulations in February 2024.

The two proposed schemes are detailed below.

PROPOSED INFILL DEVELOPMENT OF 3 NO. DWELLING UNITS @ HILLCREST ESTATE, LOUGHREA, CO. GALWAY

It is proposed to construct 3 no. housing units comprising of 2 no. 2 bed single storey semi-detached units and 1 no. 2 bed single storey detached unit at the existing Hillcrest Estate,

An AA screening assessment was carried out by Enviroplan Consulting Ltd. in December 2023 and determined that *“no significant effects are expected on the qualifying interests or conservation objectives of the surrounding Natura 2000 sites, as a result of the proposed development in question, alone or in combination with the other plans and projects in the area. This report is therefore issued as a ‘Finding of No Significant Effects’ (FONSE) statement, in accordance with the EU Commission’s methodological guidance (EC, 2001)”*.



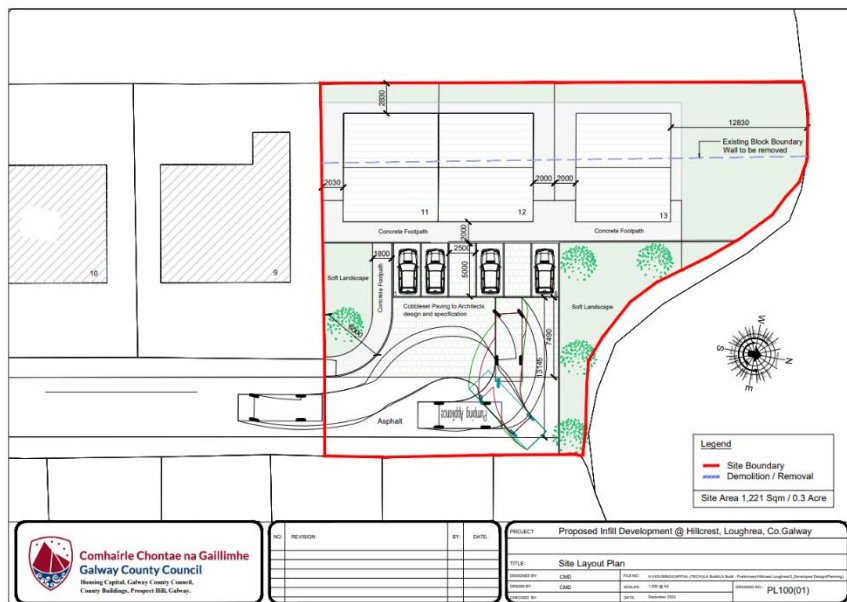


FIGURE 2 - HILLCREST ESTATE INFILL - SITE LAYOUT PLAN – NTS

PROPOSED INFILL DEVELOPMENT OF 4 NO. DWELLING UNITS @ PARKMORE ESTATE, TUAM, CO. GALWAY

It is proposed to construct 4 no. housing units comprising of 4 no., 2 bed x 2-storey semi-detached units at the existing Parkmore Estate, Tuam, Co. Galway. This proposal represents an ideal infill opportunity within the confines of the town 50 kph speed limit zones whilst the land benefits from direct access onto the R332 (Dublin Road) and existing water and power services.

The Parkmore estate is 2km from Tuam town centre and 35 km from Galway City. It is located on the R332 (Dublin Road) within the town boundary (Tuam LAP 2023-2029). The site is zoned existing residential. Two existing dwellings on the site were deemed unfit for habitation and were demolished on 13th July 2023. It is proposed that the 4 no. new dwellings will be constructed in their place.

The site has been reconfigured to remove the existing hammerhead turning area with provision of 6 no. car parking spaces, soft landscaping and pedestrian circulation adjacent to dwellings.

A screening assessment for EIA was carried out by Enviroplan Consulting Ltd. in December 2023 and determined that *“the characteristics of the proposed development are considered not significant due to the location, nature, and scale of the proposed development. The subject site is not located an environmentally sensitive site. In any event, the proposed development will implement best practice construction methodologies to avoid any significant impacts. No significant environmental impacts are likely to occur once the proposals outlined in the application are implemented. The information provided in this EIA Screening Report can be used by the competent authority, to conclude and determine that an EIA is not required for the proposed development relating to the proposed development as there will be no significant effects.”*

An AA screening assessment was carried out by Enviroplan Consulting Ltd. in December 2023 and determined that “no significant effects are expected on the qualifying interests or conservation objectives of the surrounding Natura 2000 sites, as a result of the proposed development in question, alone or in combination with the other plans and projects in the area. This report is therefore issued as a ‘Finding of No Significant Effects’ (FONSE) statement, in accordance with the EU Commission’s methodological guidance (EC, 2001). Therefore, a Natura Impact Statement is not required in this case.”

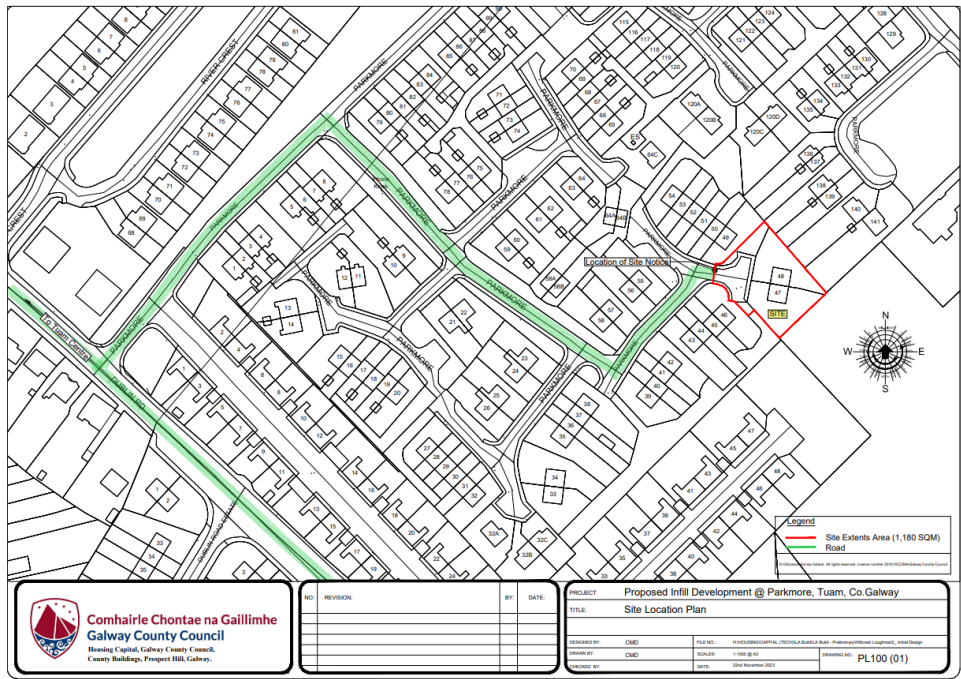


FIGURE 3 –
PARKMORE
ESTATE INFILL
- SITE
LOCATION
MAP – NTS

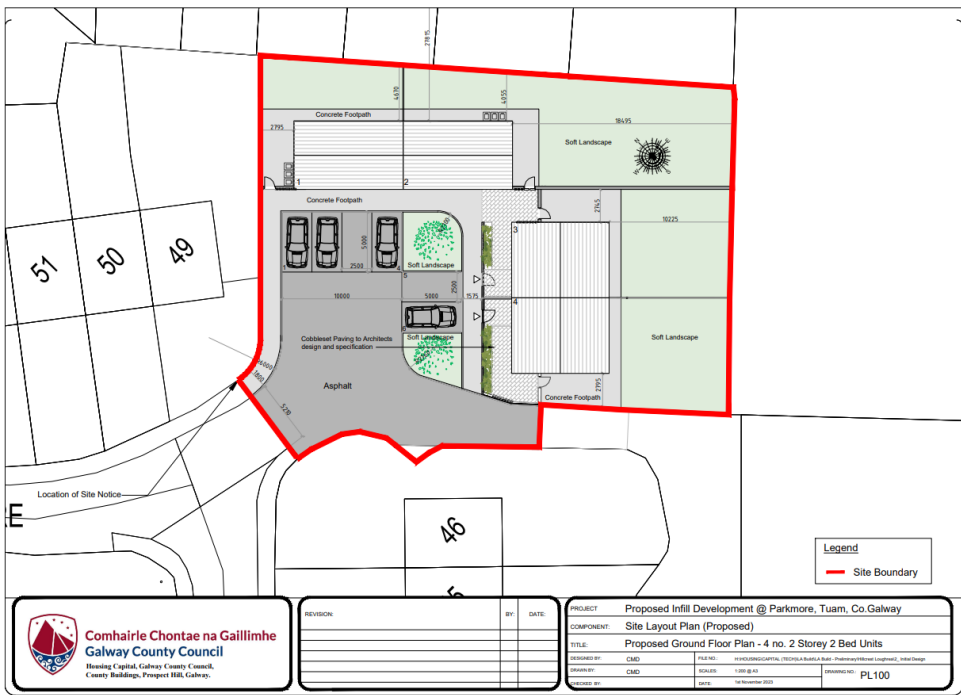


FIGURE 4 -
PARKMORE
ESTATE INFILL
- SITE LAYOUT
PLAN – NTS

WATER SERVICES

CAPITAL PROGRAMME

ATHENRY WASTEWATER NETWORK

Coffey Construction commenced works in January 2023 and the contract is expected to be completed in Q4 2024. The majority of pipelaying is complete, but some network construction is to be completed in the centre of town at Bridge Street, and through the town park, in February. The new pumping station at Pairc Na hAbhainn is expected to be completed at the end of March.

The works consist of:

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

PAIRC NA HABHAINN
PUMPING STATION
UNDER CONSTRUCTION



BALLYGAR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

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

MOUNTBELLEW WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

New planning application to be submitted in March 2024. Land and wayleave acquisition is complete and site investigation is complete. Project is expected to go to tender in June 2024, and will be bundled with Ballygar WWTP. Construction is expected to commence in 2025.

SPIDDAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Wastewater Treatment Plant has been fully commissioned and results to date have shown that the plant is operating and providing an effluent well within its ELVs. Spiddal is one of the 39 priority areas identified by the EPA where Uisce Éireann must progress new treatment to prevent wastewater discharges negatively impacting bathing water quality. The plant is 1,000 P.E design capacity, providing secondary treatment via Rotating Biological Contactors (RBCs).



The 12- month contractor (Coffey) operate phase commenced in October 2023. During the final months of this operate phase, Galway Co. Co./Uisce Éireann personnel will be trained to operate the plant, in preparation for its handover in October 2024.

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

SPIDDAL WWTP SITE OVERVIEW

AHASCRAUGH WASTEWATER TREATMENT

PLANT

Flows have been diverted to the new WWTP since 27th October. Remedial works have been completed on the Primary and Final Settlement Tanks, and process-proving is almost complete. The first test results received show that the plant is providing an effluent well within the required ELVs. It is anticipated that the contractor will have completed all aspects of the construction phase by mid-February.

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

ROUNDSTONE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

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

CARRAROE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Similar to Roundstone, the preferred site for Carraroe WWTP has been tied up with judicial reviews. Uisce Éireann have made the decision to appoint a new consulting engineer to restart the project, including the preparation of a new site selection report. Ryan Hanley Stantec Ltd. were appointed on 18th December 2023.



CARRAROE
WWTP
PREFERRED
SITE

EYRECOURT

Budget approval has been granted to progress the planning and design of a new wastewater treatment plant at Eyrecourt. The options being progressed are for secondary treatment by either installing RBCs or an ICW. Both options will require a new greenfield site.

Ryan Hanley Stantec was appointed to progress the project on 15th December 2023.

GREATER GALWAY STRATEGIC DRAINAGE STUDY

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

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

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

Communications Strategy & Plan

- Data Collection Review & Gap Analysis
- Population & Land Use Report
- Hydraulic & Marine Modelling Reports

- Optioneering Reports
- SEA Report

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

The next milestone in progressing the project will involve submission of the Gap Analysis Report in late February 2024.



GREATER GALWAY STRATEGIC DRAINAGE STUDY CATCHMENT

FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

OPERATIONS

The information below is based on January data from West Regional Control Centre (WRCC). Galway Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) had 150 turnouts to 121 Incidents. That is a decrease of 4 incidents on 125 the previous month. 46 were fire incidents, 73 were special service incidents (road traffic collision (RTC), Automatic Fire Alarms (AFA's), flooding, storm damage, etc.) and 2 were standby in station. Of those incidents, 45.13% were attended by Fire Service resources within 10 minutes of alert, 40.71% were attended between 10 and 20 minutes and 14.16% were attended in over 20 minutes. The average turnout time for the Full-time station in Galway City was 2 minutes and for county retained stations was 5.67 minutes.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

ATHENRY FIRE STATION

Construction of the New Fire Station in Athenry continues with the project approximately 70% complete and the building is now fully enclosed. Installation of services and remaining siteworks are underway. It is anticipated that the station will be completed by mid to End of March 2024.



FRONT ELEVATION OF
NEW FIRE STATION
ATHENRY

LOUGHREA FIRE STATION

Part 8 Planning application is scheduled to be lodged and the advert published in the local newspapers on the 19 January 2024. The application is currently awaiting validation by the Planning Department.

BRIGADE MECHANICS WORKSHOP ATHENRY

Tender for Design Team is to be issued by end of February 2024.

HEADQUARTERS AND GALWAY CITY FIRE STATION

Site identified and awaiting Chief Executive approval. Capital appraisal 99% complete and will be submitted to the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management once Chief Executive approval is received. A briefing of Chief Executives from Galway County and City Councils was held at County Hall on the 31 January 2024.

PREVENTION

The information in the following is based on the January figures. The Fire Authority received 28 Fire Safety Certificate applications and issued decisions on 15 applications. 8 Disability Access Certificate applications were received, and decisions made on 16 applications. A total of 2 new licenses were issued and 25 inspections were conducted.

GRANT AID FROM THE NDFEM

Capital approval has been received from the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management for the replacement of hydraulic crash rescue tools and we will be going to tender for the purchase of 13 sets of battery-operated equipment, the estimated cost is in the region of €500,000.

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

A total of 23 new complaints have been received in January 2024, 14 Warning Letters and 2 Enforcements Notices have been served. 10 files have been closed in January.

Court Cases listed for hearing:

January 10

February 9

March 7

From the 10 cases on January 6 was adjourned, 2 were struck out, defendant complied with the Enforcement Notice, 1 Court Order for committal and 1 awaiting a reply to a legal matter.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF PUBLIC WORKS FLOOD RISK WORKSHOP



A training workshop was held in the Council Chamber on the 30th January on flood risk management and the application of The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines. This training was provided by the Spatial Planning Section in Flood Risk Management, Office of Public Works (OPW).

This training was for staff who are involved in the Planning system or reviewing flood risk assessments, and covered flood risk management topics, OPW datasets, with the focus being on The Guidelines.

32 members of staff from Planning, Roads & GIS attended this informative training session.

A total of 125 planning applications were submitted in January 2024 of which 80% were e files. This compares to 94 applications submitted January 2023 of which 68% were e files.



EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

During 2023 a total of 132 Exempted Development applications were received, of which 117 were decided, 68 were exempted and 49 were not exempted, a further 9 are on further information and a further 6 are within the decision period.

BUILDING CONTROL

There was a total of 986 new buildings in County Galway in 2023 (excluding material alterations, change of use and extensions).

New Build inspection for 2023, 144 (14.6% of new buildings).

Commencement Notices submitted in 2023, 791.

Certificate of Compliance on Completion submitted in 2023, 161.

The National Building Control Office organized a continuous professional development day Building For All "Building Control and Modern Methods of Construction" on the 31st of January at the Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone, Co. Roscommon.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE GALWAY

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

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

TRAINING COURSES & PROGRAMMES:

SHORT TRAINING COURSES

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

WINTER & SPRING SCHEDULE

February 7 th and 10 th	Social Media Marketing for Beginners
February 13 th	Step by Step digital Plan for your business
February 17 th	Website and Online – 1 – 1 Workshops
February 20 th and 27 th	How to start a Podcast
February 21 st	Tax and Vat for Beginners

START YOUR OWN BUSINESS PROGRAMME (SYOB)

LEO Galway runs SYOB programmes monthly with up to 14 participants on each programme. The February programme starts on February 7th and is a daytime programme.

LEAN LAUNCH

LEO Galway delivers the Lean for Business programme twice a year with up to 12 participants on each programme. Lean for Business is designed to encourage clients to adopt Lean business principles in their organisations to increase performance and competitiveness. Lean is for all companies, regardless of sector. Lean tools and techniques are helping companies across the globe to address competitiveness issues within their businesses by building the capability of their people to identify problems, improve operations and create a more innovative organisation. The next programme will commence on February 19th in City Hall with up to 12 businesses participating.

GREEN FOR BUSINESS & ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANT

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

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

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

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

PAST EVENTS

SHOWCASE 2024

Showcase took place on 21st – 23rd January and was attended by LEO Galway. LEO Galway clients were successful in the Business of Craft Awards which included: Finalist in the Sustainability Champion category - Irish Sock Society - and Finalist in the One to Watch category - Sketchico. Pictured below: The Business of Craft Awards 2024 finalists.



LYNDSEY DEBURCA – LEO GALWAY CLIENT
WON THE SHOWCASE JEWELLERY AWARD

2024.

LAUNCH OF BIA INNOVATOR

On Friday the 26th of January the new BIA Innovator Campus was officially opened by An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar. As part of this event, LEO Galway in conjunction with Creative Ireland supported the promotion of the Artisan Food Trail, which was open to the public to attend on Fri 26th 2pm – 5pm in the Campus.



L-R BRED A FOX - FORMER HEAD OF ENTERPRISE, VALERIE KELLY - A/HEAD OF ENTERPRISE, GALWAY LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

AN TAOISEACH LEO VARADKAR



SALES AND EXPORT ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME

LEO Galway recently commenced the Sales & Export Accelerator programme in conjunction with LEO Mayo and LEO Roscommon. The programme assists business owners to identify, target and convert new sales opportunities for their business. The first in-person session took place on February 1st in Claremorris.

There are 2 distinct strands to the Programme, namely:

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

SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

- Facebook reach January: 13,100
- Instagram reach January: 1,300

UPCOMING EVENTS

Local Enterprise Week is organised every year by the 31 Local Enterprise Offices across the country. This year Local Enterprise Week takes place from Monday, March 4th to Friday, March 8th. Schedule of events organised locally by LEO Galway are listed below. Please note that Spotlight events are national events organized through others LEOs.

MONDAY, MARCH 4TH

Business Advisory Sessions, Clifden Station House Hotel - 10am to 3pm

Cross Border Sales & EEN, Online webinar with Intertrade Ireland - 12.30pm – 2pm

Master Video Presenting for Online Marketing and Business Growth (4th and 12th March, Online) - 10am to 1pm

TUESDAY, MARCH 5TH

Business Advisory Sessions, Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre - 10am to 3pm

Marketing Techniques for your Business (Online) - 10am to 1pm

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6TH

Trading Online Voucher Information Webinar - 9.30am to 12.30pm

Business Advisory Sessions, Lady Gregory Hotel, Gort - 10am to 3pm

How to use the new Canva AI tools (Online Workshop) - 10am to 1pm

★ NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT EVENT ★

Watch, Lunch and Learn: Understand and leverage future trends for your business - 2pm to 4pm

THURSDAY, MARCH 7TH

Business Advisory Sessions, Beechlawn Enterprise Centre, Tuam- 10am to 3pm

Understanding IP - with the Intellectual Property Office of Ireland (Online) - 10.30am to 12pm

★ NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT EVENT ★

The Sustainability Imperative for your Business Success - a live audience with world renowned Natural History and Environmental broadcaster Liz Bonnin - 12:00pm - 1:30pm

FRIDAY, MARCH 8TH

Business Advisory Sessions, Loughrea Council Offices - 10am to 3pm

Food and Beverage event – Bia Innovator Campus – 10.30am – 2pm

REGENERATION SCHEMES

ATHENRY



The public realm Category 1 funding application for Market Square and Cross Street has been advanced in preparation for the February 8th, 2024, deadline.

Part 8 Planning application had been lodged and the resultant CE report was presented to the Municipal District

Councillors of Oranmore Athenry on January 30th, 2024. A full presentation was made by Ronan Conway Executive Engineer Regen Team, and this was followed by discussions and a vote which saw unanimous support for the project.

LOUGHREA TOWN HALL

It is anticipated that the competitive tender Publication will take place in February 2024 upon successful review and editing of the Tender Documents.

Minor works contractor to address some minor deterioration issues with the existing building in the coming weeks pursuant to notification of same by Cllr Mogie Maher.

CLIFDEN

Consultants meeting scheduled to further advance the Public Realm planning application for Clifden.

Destination Towns projects are advancing with Contractors on site. Failte Ireland have extended the deadline period for these projects nationally until end of Q2, 2024.

The Regen Team continues in their efforts to identify a replacement site for the intended Business Enterprise Hub which was the subject of the original RRDF application but where the original identified property became unavailable.

PORTUMNA

Public Realm and Wayfinding design works are advancing with an anticipated package expected for review by the Regen Team in mid February.

Abbey Street Property: Regen Team staff met with the neighbouring residents of the acquired property in response to concerns on Health and safety grounds and dampness etc. A commitment to expedite a full inspection of the acquired property was made and contact details were shared in case of any developments in the short term.

PORTUMNA COURTHOUSE

Preliminary meetings continue with the Contractor in the final phases of the procurement process. Meetings with third parties including ESB continue in advance of commencement on site. Bat surveys and environmental obligations are being carried out in full compliance with current requirements.

GORT TOWN CENTRE FIRST PLAN

Heritage Stewardship Funding application submitted for the Town hall.

Resolution to the Cannon Quinn ownership is being advanced and Woodrow ecologists have been engaged to produce the ecological report for the planning application.

Valuers have been engaged to negotiate the acquisition of lands for potential car parking site.

TUAM

RRDF CAT 1 applications are being advanced for both the Town Hall and the Shambles prior to the submission deadline of February 8th, 2024. Supporting documents including the Part 8 planning application for the Shambles are being processed and it is hoped to present the Part 8 for consideration to the Tuam Municipal Councillors on February 1, 2024.

HERITAGE OFFICE

COMMUNITY MONUMENTS FUND

The Community Monuments Fund was established in 2020 to provide investment in Ireland's archaeological heritage. This funding is prioritised for Local Authorities, private owners and custodians and community groups for the care, conservation, maintenance, protection, and promotion of archaeological monuments.

Total funding available nationally for projects under Community Monuments Fund 2024 will be €7,000,000.

The Community Monuments Fund is investing essential capital in our archaeological heritage to help owners and custodians of archaeological monuments safeguard them into the future for the benefit of communities and the public. The impacts of climate change on



our monuments are increasingly evident. With increased weathering and severe climate events, the repair cycle on built heritage is becoming shorter. Increased maintenance and repair are key to building resilience in monuments to enable them to withstand the effects of a changing environment.

ST. KERRILL'S OGEE HEADED WINDOW,
UNDER IVY AND EXTREMELY FRAGILE
BEFORE CONSERVATION (2023)



ST. KERRILL'S OGEE HEADED WINDOW,
AFTER RECONSTRUCTION (2023)



ST KERRILL'S CHURCH,
GURTEEN AFTER
CONSERVATION WORKS
WERE UNDERTAKEN WITH
COMMUNITY MONUMENTS
FUNDING (2023)

The core aims of the Fund are the conservation, maintenance, protection, and presentation of archaeological monuments.

It enables conservation works to be carried out on monuments which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support; build resilience in our monuments to enable them to withstand the effects of climate change; encourage access to monuments and improve their presentation.

TRADITIONAL SKILLS TRAINING

The Department encourages projects to incorporate a traditional skills training element. This is to help preserve traditional building and craft skills that are of benefit in the conservation of archaeological monuments and to build capacity in the sector.

Who Can Apply?

The Community Monuments Fund provides funding for projects in relation to: (i) Archaeological Monuments that are included in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) under the National Monuments Act 1930 (as amended); (ii) Archaeological Monuments that are identified in the Sites and Monuments Record compiled by the National Monuments Service.

Eligible projects are drawn from the following categories: a) projects proposed by a Local Authority in relation to archaeological monuments in public ownership, where a clear heritage focus and community or public benefit has been demonstrated; b) projects proposed by a Local Authority on foot of applications from private applicants who are the owners or custodians of relevant archaeological monuments where there is a tangible public benefit; c) projects with a clearly defined heritage focus and community or public benefit proposed directly to the Department by a State-funded organisation working in the heritage area.



PISCINA,
ABBEYGORMICAN
CHURCH AFTER
CONSERVATION WORKS
2022

In the county of Galway, the Community Monuments Fund is administered by Galway County Council's Heritage Office on behalf of National Monuments Service - Archaeology Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Galway County Council Heritage Officer and Galway Community Archaeologist have provided advice and guidance to community groups and individuals in relation to the Community Monuments Fund 2024 application process over the past few months. For more information see: <https://www.galway.ie/en/services/more/heritage/heritagecommunities/>

Galway Community Archaeology and Galway County Council Heritage Officer held an online webinar on 16th January and explained the process with regards to applying for funding and answered questions from those who attended the meeting. The Heritage Office works very closely with the Environment Section with regards to Community Monuments Funds applications relating to Council owned graveyards and structures therein.

The Heritage Office is now in the process of assessing the applications received and will be submitting applications to the Department on 14 February.

ICAN COMMUNITY FUND GALWAY COUNTY RECIPIENTS



ICAN GALWAY
SOME GROUP
MEMBERS AT AN
ICAN EVENT IN
SKEHANA

The Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN) supports volunteer groups to digitise their local history and heritage material and make it accessible online; member groups are

provided with a subsidised community archive website and training, guidance and support on an ongoing basis.

iCAN aims to encourage and support:

1. the digitisation and online publication of unique local history and heritage sources
2. local history/heritage research and its presentation on members' community archive websites
3. community, diaspora, and public engagement with the archive websites
4. networking, collaboration and the sharing of knowledge, skills, and resources

Through the iCAN Community Fund, member groups can apply for financial support for equipment and activities to facilitate new heritage material and digital outputs for their community archive websites.

iCAN is delivered in partnership with participating Local Authority Heritage Officers and is jointly supported by the National Museum of Ireland and the Heritage Council. The fund in Galway County is administered by the Heritage Office of Galway County Council in partnership with the National Museum of Ireland and the Heritage Council.

The following is a listing of the successful Galway County applicants:

Claregalway Historical & Cultural Society: Funding given for the purchase of a laptop and projector.

Killiererin Heritage Society: Funding was provided for the partial cost of a graveyard mapboard.

Milltown (Co. Galway) Development Company Ltd: This funding was for the purchase of a laptop, hard drive, mouse & pad.

Moycullen Historical Society: Purchase of a projector and screen.

Oughterard Culture and Heritage: Subscription to Roots Ireland.

Skehana & District Herirage Group: Purchase of a laptop, TV, and projector.

Woodlawn Heritage Group: Funding was given for the purchase of a laptop and software.

Athenry Town Walls Capital Works Funding application 2024: The Heritage Office has submitted a funding application the Heritage Council under the Irish Walled Towns Network capital works funding application to undertake a programme of works to Athenry Town Walls. It is proposed to continue the repair part of the south wall (adjoining Kenny Park) in 2024.



SECTION OF ATHENRY TOWN WALL CONSERVATION WORKS WITH FUNDING FROM THE HERITAGE COUNCIL & GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

The southern section of town wall is situated in an open field that is lined by Prospect Road, the land rising from east to west. The interior face of the tower is contained within Kenny Park, the local GAA grounds with a viewing stand located close to the wall. Constructed during the

fourteenth century, this structure remains prominent though in a ruinous state in a field on the southern approach to the town. This portion of the wall stretches approximately 400 metres in length between the sites of the former Loro and Spittle gates. It survives to a height of approximately two to four metres being quite uneven along the wall head. It is one of the most impressive and intact stretches of wall to have survived in Athenry. It ranges in thickness from the base of approximately 800mm to 1500mm. The original facing stone to the town wall has survived along much of its length on both the interior and exterior but has been rebuilt with inferior rubble stone or salvaged dressed stone in isolated sections and along its top.

Altogether over 500 metres of town wall, four mural towers, the north gate and a guard house have been repaired in twelve phases since 2008.

HERITAGE GRANTS – GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCHEME

This grant scheme is currently open, and the closing date is 20 February.

Heritage Grants (no match funding requirement)

The aim of this category is to support schools, voluntary/community, and heritage groups/organisations to undertake projects which will be of benefit to the community.

Activities and projects must either:

- Gather and share knowledge.
- Increase awareness, appreciation, and participation in heritage activities.
- Manage and protect our heritage.

Who can apply?

- Heritage Groups
- Tidy Towns Applicants
- Environmental Groups
- Community Groups, Schools.

What can be funded?

Examples of funding for projects/events related to natural, built, or cultural heritage include:

- Surveys and Mapping of Graveyards, Heritage Sites, Wildlife, etc. in a local area.
- Funding for Biodiversity Action Plans, Pollinator Plans, Invasive Species Action Plans, etc.
- Events / exhibitions / publications promoting the preservation and protection of local built, natural, and cultural heritage.
- Workshops and training aimed at enhancing knowledge and skills of local heritage and promoting participation in heritage activities.
- Heritage Week and Biodiversity Week activities, e.g., walks, talks, etc.
- Oral Heritage Recordings.
- Conservation of heritage collections and objects, including documents, and conservation, planning, and habitat management works to restore important wildlife habitats, etc.
- Funding for works to remove invasive species such as rhododendron from woodland.
- Funding for heritage gardens, trails, etc., and associated signage and information boards
- Equipment that is directly associated with any proposed project.

Note: Provision or Maintenance of Memorials, Plaques, Busts or Statues will not be considered for funding.

How much is funded? A maximum grant of €1,000 will apply, although most awards will be less than €500.

For more details on this online application see:

<https://galwaycoco.submit.com/show/19>

PLANNING

DEXCOM- OFFICIAL SITE GROUNDBREAKING

On Friday 19th Jan Dexcom officially broken ground on its planned manufacturing site in Athenry, Co Galway, where it will create up to 1,000 jobs.

DexCom, a US-based health technology company focused on developing real-time continuous glucose monitoring (rtCGM) solutions, has officially started construction on its new manufacturing facility in Ireland.

The plant is being built in Athenry in County Galway with an investment of €300m over five years.

Athenry was announced as the site for the plant in May 2023. Galway County Council supported the project with a series of pre-planning meetings before Planning permission was sought in September 2023 and subsequently granted in October 2023.

The facility marks one of the largest single private sector investments to be made so far in the West of Ireland.

Set to become the first manufacturing site in Europe for Dexcom, the Irish facility will bolster product distribution across Europe, the Middle East, and Africa (EMEA). This will potentially reduce the cost of goods and enhance sustainability by shortening delivery transit times.

Galway County Council continues to meet with the Dexcom team on their plans, this involves supporting the implementation of the planning conditions and the smarter travel initiatives to be developed between the site and the train station in Athenry.



L-R: ADRIAN FUREY
DEXCOM, CLEM
MCLOUGHLIN IDA,
BARRY REGAN
DEXCOM, LIAM
CARROLL,
CATHAOIRLEACH OF
COUNTY GALWAY
RACHEL SHELLY, IDA,
LIAM CONNEALLY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE,
GALWAY COUNTY
COUNCIL, RICKY
CONNEELY IDA



L-R LIAM CARROLL,
CATHAOIRLEACH OF
COUNTY GALWAY,
MINISTER
HILDEGARDE
NAUGHTON TD,
MINISTER DARA
CALLEARY TD,
ADRIAN FUREY
DEXCOM

BIODIVERSITY

Over the last month the Biodiversity Office has been compiling a series of projects and applying for funding through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund from the National Parks & Wildlife Service. These projects range from habitat restoration, community workshops, invasive species management, research and publications and resources. It is expected that the funding will be awarded in early Q2.

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

‘Actions For Nature’ is Ireland’s fourth National Biodiversity Action Plan. It was launched on January 25th, 2024, with the aim of protecting and restoring nature across the country. It is the first biodiversity action plan to be backed by legislation, with legal requirements for public bodies, and its actions include expanding National Parks, tackling invasive species, strengthening efforts on wildlife crime, and working with communities. It also addresses key recommendations from the Citizen’s Assembly on Biodiversity Loss. To celebrate the launch of the plan, several stakeholders from around the country were invited to contribute to a specially commissioned video by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Galway County Council’s Biodiversity Officer, Rosina Joyce, represented the network of Local Authority Biodiversity Officers and showcased the beautiful coastal habitats of Trá an Dóilín and the work of Galway County Council on a national stage.



[ACTIONS FOR NATURE –
IRELAND'S 4TH NATIONAL
BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN
\(YOUTUBE.COM\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

BT YOUNG SCIENTIST & TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION

This year marked the 60th year of the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition and Galway County Council Biodiversity Office was there to engage with the students and exhibitors about their projects and the biodiversity and natural heritage around the county. Printed resources were distributed to the students and connections were made with schools from Inis Meáin, Tuam, and Headford. It also presented an opportunity to understand the key areas of interest to second level students so that our outreach programmes and plans can meet this age group’s needs. Cllr. Dr. Evelyn Parsons was also in attendance supporting the schools and students of the county.



RIGHT: ROSINA JOYCE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL'S BIODIVERSITY OFFICER WITH CLLR. DR. EVELYN PARSONS

RIGHT: STUDENTS OF COLÁISTE NAOMH EGIN, INIS MEÁIN PRESENTING THEIR PROJECT CUMHACHT NA DTIONN AR INIS MEÁIN AT THE BT YOUNG SCIENTIST & TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION AT THE RDS IN DUBLIN.



WORLD WETLANDS DAY 2024



World Wetlands Day, celebrated on February 2nd each year, serves as a global reminder of the importance of wetlands in maintaining biodiversity, supporting ecosystems, and safeguarding water resources. To mark the day, Cathaoirleach Liam Carroll joined the staff from Galway County Council and Bernadette White and Paul O'Callaghan

from the Local Authorities Waters Programme to launch the bilingual booklets Connemara Blue Dots: A Precious Resource. The launch took place in Scoil na Forbacha and a special class was delivered to the students by John Sharpson from RTE's Home School Hub. The booklets have also been circulated through the Galway Public Library branches in Connemara and will be delivered to schools in the coming weeks. The booklets were developed by LAWPRO and Galway County Council as one of last year's Local Biodiversity Action Fund Projects. The launch which was highlighted across our social media platforms and the booklets are also available online. The launch was a joint project by the Corporate Services and great support was provided for this event by Irish Officer Máirtín

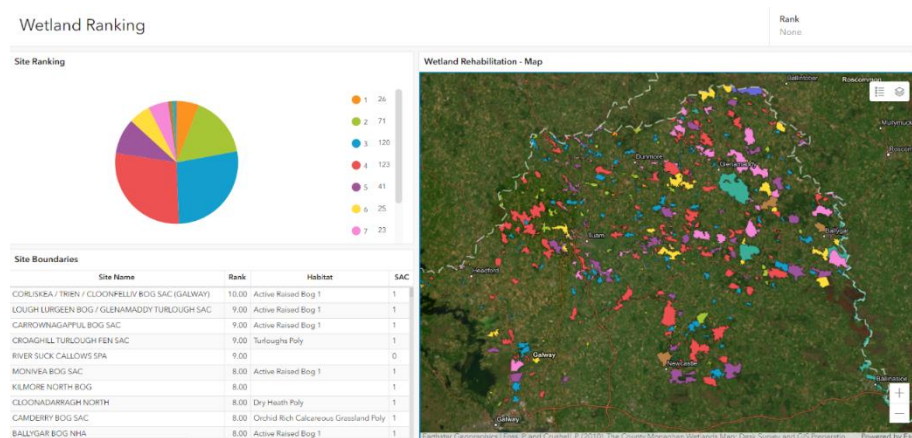
O'Donnchadha, who also attended during the day and assisted with translation, media coordination and social media coverage. Thanks too to Ellie Gavin, Martina Creavan and Ita Gordon who assisted on the day.



CATHAOIRLEACH CLLR LIAM CARROLL AT THE LAUNCH OF THE CONNEMARA BLUE DOTS BOOKLET AT SCOIL NA BHFORBACHA WITH GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL STAFF MÁIRTÍN O' DONNCHADHA. ELLIE GAVIN, MARTINA CREAVAN AND ROSINA JOYCE, AND BERNIE WHITE AND PAUL O'CALLAGHAN FROM THE LOCAL AUTHORITY WATERS PROGRAMME AND PRINCIPAL OF THE SCHOOL SEAN BREATHNACH



The Northeast Galway Wetlands Project was also placed in the spotlight during World Wetlands Day. Using data compiled during the Northeast Galway Wetland Audit in 2021 by Wetlands Survey Ireland, a strategic review of the restoration potential of the wetlands was carried out by MKO Ireland for Galway County Council. This data has been presented in an ArcGIS dashboard and will be used by the Biodiversity Office and stakeholders to engage with communities on potential restoration projects.



DASHBOARD SHOWING THE 442 WETLANDS OF NE GALWAY, COLOUR-CODED TO SHOW THEIR RESTORATION POTENTIAL

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Action Plan

The Chief Executive's Report on submissions received during public consultation on the draft Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 was circulated to the public representatives on the 25th of January. Formal consideration of the draft Plan, CE Report and accompanying environmental reports will take place at the plenary meeting on the 19th of February.

Community Climate Action Fund

The Community Climate Action Fund is open for applications until the 29th of February and will support small and large, rural, and urban communities to take climate action at a local level. Information on the fund is available at the following [link](#).

Our Community Climate Action Officer provided information in relation to the fund at the following public events:

- 1-day workshop on the Climate Action Fund Themes on the 13th of January in Claregalway Hotel.



This one-day workshop on the Climate Action Fund was attended by over 50 community groups and volunteers. Denise Feeney gave a presentation on the CAF and Aoife Munn, Horticulturist and Environment Consultant, gave practical examples of climate actions that groups can do in their community.



LAUNCH OF GLINSK'S SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ENERGY MASTER PLAN ON THE 20TH OF JANUARY IN GLINSK COMMUNITY CENTRE.

The event included Trade stands from various environmental and energy related organisations and a number of guest speakers. Denise Feeney, Galway County Council Community Climate Action Officer spoke to the groups present about the Climate Action Fund and the type of projects they can apply for. Other speakers included Glinsk SEC who gave a presentation on their energy master plan and SEAI who spoke about their home energy retrofit grants for community groups.



In attendance at the Glinsk Sustainable Community Energy Master Plan Launch; Pio Byrnes (Glinsk SEC), Denise Feeney (Community Climate Action Officer, Galway County Council), Susan Richardson (SEAI SEC Programme Manager), Dr Orla Nic Suibhne (SEAI), Laurence O'Reilly (EMP Consultant)

GALWAY PARTNER FOREST PROGRAM

Galway County Council is involved in a collaboration with ATU as part of the Cities4Forests program, which seeks to establish mutually beneficial connections between European municipalities and tropical forest communities. Economic support of community-led businesses in well-managed forest areas is one of the proven ways to conserve these forests. Further information is available at <https://www.partnerforests.org/galway>.

The outcomes from the project will include:

- A Green Public Procurement Strategy for Galway County Council with a focus on the sustainable procurement of wood,
- The design and construction of outdoor furniture for Clifden Town by ATU students/apprentices using conservation timber from partner forests to raise awareness of the importance of the sustainable procurement of wood.

The students have completed wonderful projects which were reviewed in January by an international panel of experts. They will now be used to raise awareness before being installed for public use and education.



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

GREEN DOG WALKERS PROGRAMME



This article was in the Connacht Tribune encouraging people to support the Green Dog Walkers programme. The Green Dog Walkers scheme is a positive, pro-active, non-confrontational way to change attitudes about dog fouling in Co. Galway. The programme has been rolled out in other parts of Ireland and has proven very successful. The Scheme

consists of dog owners and dog walkers committing to clean up after their dog, and to being a friendly reminder to other dog walkers to clean up after their dog, while at no time being aggressive or confrontational in the process. An information leaflet about the Scheme and a pledge form are both available online at www.galway.ie.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Thirteen Christmas tree recycling sites were in place in January. Approximately 1800 trees were recycled.



The Civic Amenity sites at Tuam, Clifden and Ballinasloe will take WEEE for free.

Electrical retailers must take back products on a like-for-like basis. There are also annual collections in towns.

Several Irish retailers have signed up to the **We'll Take It Back Electrical Retailer Programme**, meaning they will accept **household e-waste with no purchase necessary**, operating as free household e-waste recycling drop-off point. These electrical retailers include all stores/branches of Curry's, DID, Expert, Euronics, Harvey Norman, PowerCity and Soundstore nationwide.

If you go to <https://www.mywaste.ie/waste-service-locator/> and put in your location and click "Free Electrical recycling Drop-Off points" it will give a choice of businesses in the area.

DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME

The [Deposit Return Scheme](#) (DRS) begins on February 1st.



A refundable deposit of 15c (150ml to 500ml) or 25c (500ml to 3l) will be added to drinks containers which have the return logo. Consumers will receive this fully refundable deposit back, in cash or a redeemable voucher, when they return the undamaged bottles or cans with the Re-Turn logo to a designated return point. Return

points, either manual (handing them back over the counter) or reverse vending machines, will be in most shops where bottles and cans are purchased. You don't

have to hand them back into the shop you bought them from, but you do have to redeem your voucher in the shop you return them to. Consumers will have the choice to receive your refund against a store – bought purchase or in cash. Not all drinks containers are included in the scheme. No dairy products such as milk or yogurt are included. See <https://re-turn.ie/#questions> and <https://re-turn.ie/> for more information.

GREEN SCHOOL VISITS



Green school visits have taken place in Coláiste Mhuire Ballygar, Brierfield National School, Maree National School, Lawrencetown National School, and Carabane National School.

SOCIAL MEDIA



SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS
ON CIGARETTE LITTER AND
DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION EVENTS



The Environmental Awareness Officer had an information stand on food waste prevention and food recycling at the launch of the Bia Innovation centre in Athenry.

BURIAL GROUNDS

Part 8 planning was approved by the Councillors at the Tuam Municipal District meeting in January for the extension of the burial ground at Kilbannon. We would like to acknowledge the generosity of the Hoade and Morris families who donated the land for the project and the co-operation of the National Monument Service in consenting to this development in proximity to Kilbannon Church, Round Tower and Ecclesiastical Enclosure. The National Monuments are in the ownership of the Minister. The Environment Team will now progress the procurement of a construction contractor to commence works later this year.

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

Galway County Council Dog Warden Service continues to be under severe pressure at present with high numbers of stray and unwanted dogs entering our dog shelter allied to a significant increase in the numbers of requests from the public to surrender dogs. All spaces in our local authority dog shelter are currently full and we are working hard with our animal rescue charity partners to move these unwanted and stray dogs through our charity partners and on to better homes. Unfortunately rescue organisations who partner with us to rehome unwanted dogs are also under enormous pressure and as a result the rehoming of dogs entering the system remains difficult. Space in rescues is at a premium and huge pressure exists on staff within these services to find suitable homes for dogs especially at a time when the numbers of people looking to adopt remains low.

Our Dog Wardens are operating waiting lists and filling spaces as soon as spaces become available in our shelter.

Upgrade works at our dog shelter continue to progress well and we hope that all works will be completed by Quarter 2 2024.

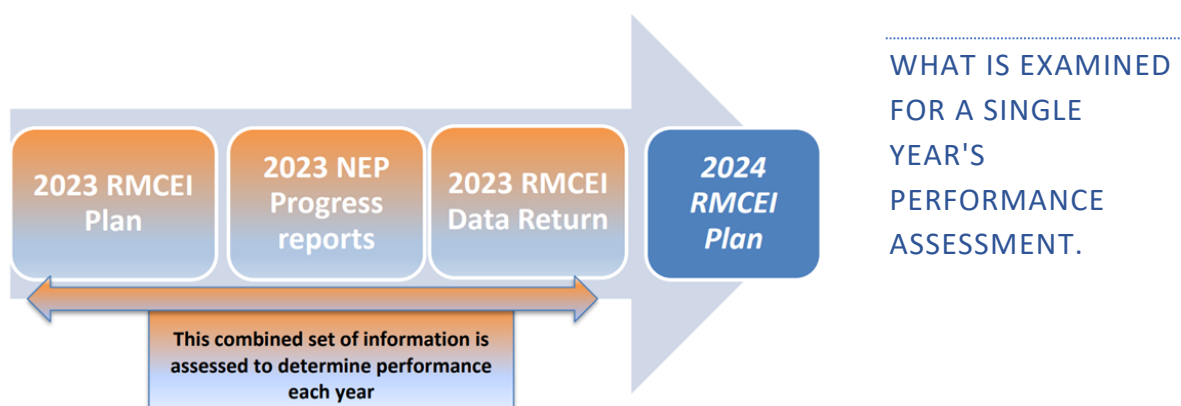
Dog Control Statistics Jan 2024

- 919 licences were purchased during the month of January. The breakdown of the licences purchased consisted of 883 annual licences, 34 lifetime licences and 2 general licences.
Over 70% of licences were purchased at the post office.
- 2 fines issued to dog owners for offences under the Control of Dogs Act

FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY OF IRELAND

Galway County Council service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland for the provision of official controls on food safety in the City and County was extended to 29th February 2024. Discussions on the implementation of the transfer of veterinary personnel to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) remain ongoing.

RMCEI RETURNS AND PLAN FOR 2024



Considerable time was spent in January on completing Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) returns and the Plan for 2024, which must be submitted to the EPA by the end of February 2024. Activities in 2023 must be reported on in the Progress Report and for the water area, the following are the headings to be reported on:

- Pressures from Agriculture (slurry/soiled water collection and storage)
- Pressures from Agriculture (slurry and fertiliser spreading)
- Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (DWWTS) / Septic Tanks
- Discharge Licences / Misconnections
- Local Priorities and Water Quality Issues

Drinking Water

The Private Drinking Water Returns are being collated for making the Annual Returns to the EPA by the 28th February 2024. The 2024 Private Supplies Drinking Water Sampling Programme is also being finalised. 1 Boil Water Notice was issued at the end of January for microbiological non-compliances on a Private Group Water Scheme.

CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

- The EPA River monitoring programme for 2024 commenced. 122 samples will be taken from across the county during the year.
- 14 Septic Tank inspections were completed in January, in the Clarinbridge_050 waterbody. This is an area for action in the 3rd River Basin Management Plan and is an “at risk” waterbody.

- The Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine's feedback from cross reports submitted in Q4 2023 was that one farmer is being issued a 20% penalty for storing a large amount of imported compost within 500m of a water course.
- A staff member attended a pre-planning meeting in relation to a large residential development in Oranmore. From a water quality and environment perspective, focus was on ensuring nature-based surface water management features were included, connectivity for sustainable transport and flood risk assessment incorporating future levels due to climate impacts.
- 7 warning letters were issued to discharge licence holders.

COMPLAINTS

- 6 complaints relating to farm inspections were completed in January. One for spreading slurry in a closed period, three for storing sewage sludge with no permit, one for a discharge from a yard and heavy poaching of land and one for storing compost from an EPA licensed facility.
- In relation to an on-going complaint involving the wastewater treatment plant of a small housing development, an Engineer was appointed by the developer to move a surface water soak away from its location right beside a wastewater percolation area. The wastewater treatment plant had been operating satisfactorily except that when the ground was saturated after heavy rain, the wastewater was flowing onto the public road and neighboring property. This work will hopefully alleviate the issues.
- 6 warning letters and 1 Section 12 notice under the Water Pollution Act were issued in relation to complaints.



DYE TEST TO IDENTIFY SOURCE OF POLLUTION.

RMCEI RETURNS AND PLAN FOR 2024

During January, all information was collated for the drafting of the National Environmental Priorities (NEP) progress reports for 2023 for submission to the EPA.

The activities to be reported on for waste are:

- Tackling illegal waste and multi-agency site/operators of concern
- Construction and demolition waste
- End of life vehicles and metals
- Household and commercial waste
- Producer responsibility initiatives and local priorities

The activities to be reported on for Air and Noise are:

- Solid Fuel
- Air quality monitoring and data use
- Environmental Noise Directive (ENDs)
- Air and Noise Control (including Planning)
- Ongoing air and noise enforcement work

Each progress report must detail what actions were carried out in the previous year in relation to each activity and the progress being made in meeting our environmental objectives. These reports are to be submitted to the EPA by the end of February 2024.

The Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) targets met in 2023 and numbers planned for 2024 must also be reported to the EPA by the end of February 2024. Preparing the RMCEI plan will be done in February.

COMPLAINTS

There were several complaints relating to illegal dumping and stockpiling of household waste in January. Examples of these sites can be seen in the photos below. In relation to these 4 sites – the top 2 photos show waste illegally dumped in drains – evidence was found at 1 of these locations identifying 2 offenders. Files are currently being prepared for the law agent to prosecute these individuals.

The lower photos relate to stockpiling of household waste in back gardens. Notices are being prepared for these 2 sites directing the occupants to remove the waste.



PHOTOS SHOWING RECENT ILLEGAL DUMPING SITES.

COURT ATTENDANCE

We had several cases before the courts for waste management issues.



One of these was a prosecution for non-compliance with a Section 55 Notice to clear a site of end-of-life vehicles. The defendant claimed that the ELVs were classic cars and would be put back on the road, but the Judge had a different opinion on the matter as can be seen from the newspaper articles below. The defendant was given more time but directed by the Judge that he needed to clear the site.



IT UPDATE

The Environment Section staff are working with the IT section to develop new inspection forms for the Community Wardens. These inspection forms will be used for managing Environmental complaints. An initial scoping meeting was held in January to assess what information we needed the wardens to record. A draft inspection form was then drawn up by the Environment staff and forwarded to IT for development.

WERLA MEETING

Waste Enforcement Officers attended the 1st WERLA meeting of the year, held remotely via teams.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

A Health and Safety toolbox talk was held for the Environment section technical team in January where staff were refreshed on all the health and safety measures in place for the activities they carry out. Training on the Atlas SOS lone worker app was also completed by the remaining staff in January.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

ATHENRY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

ARTICLE I. ROADS PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT – FEBRUARY 2024

1. Restoration Improvement – Ongoing

- a. Roanmore – Contractor Delay - February
- b. Annagh Hill - Contractor Delay- February
- c. Gorteen - Complete
- d. Kiltullagh - Complete
- e. Castlelambert - Complete
- f. Cloonboo - Complete
- g. Lydican - Complete
- h. Garraun/Ardaun – Complete
- i. Baunmore – Complete
- j. Cullairbaun – Complete
- k. Monivea – February

2. Restoration Maintenance/Improvement

- a. **Surface dressing** –New plan being completed.
- b. **Works completed by direct labour crews** – Mirah drainage works - Complete.
- c. **Recycling Contract** – New plan being completed.

3. Safety Improvement Works

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| a. Derrydonnell Beg Junction | Preliminary Design Review complete design report |
| b. Oranbeg (Furey's Cross) | Preliminary Design Phase Road safety audit planned. |

4. Climate Change

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

5. Community Involvement Scheme

- a. CIS.59.21 L-4101 Maree Road Oranmore – Cycle path placed ongoing.
- b. CIS.29.21 L-6202-1 Rooanmore planned.

6. Local Improvement Schemes

- a. New application not received for 2024.

7. Other Items

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| a. Belville Road realignment | Issues resolving agreement Landowner
Completing Land take drawings for
Option 2 alignment |
| b. Hydrological study Clarin River | Funding Approved by OPW – Tender
For preliminary assessment ongoing. |
| c. Lavally Drainage District | AA screening complete – Some works
complete tree removal planned. |
| d. Coolarne Road Flooding Issue | Drone survey completed; CCTV
completed – some sections impassable,
need to complete plan to replace
sections. |
| e. Pedestrian Crossing Lidl Oranmore | Design with NTA/Active Travel, updated
design to be completed in conjunction
with Contractor |
| f. Pedestrian Crossing Maree rd. | Started work. ESB connection complete |
| g. Monivea Pedestrian Crossing | Contractor to start in February. |
| h. Storm Debi Clean-up | Flooding surveys ongoing and Hydrology
assessment |
| i. Raheen Woods Crossing
and | Awaiting ESB connection, Line-marking
Anti-skid surfacing. |

FIGURES AND PICTURES



MIRAH FLOOD
RELIEF –
COMPLETE



BUSHFIELD –
DRAINAGE
SCHEME



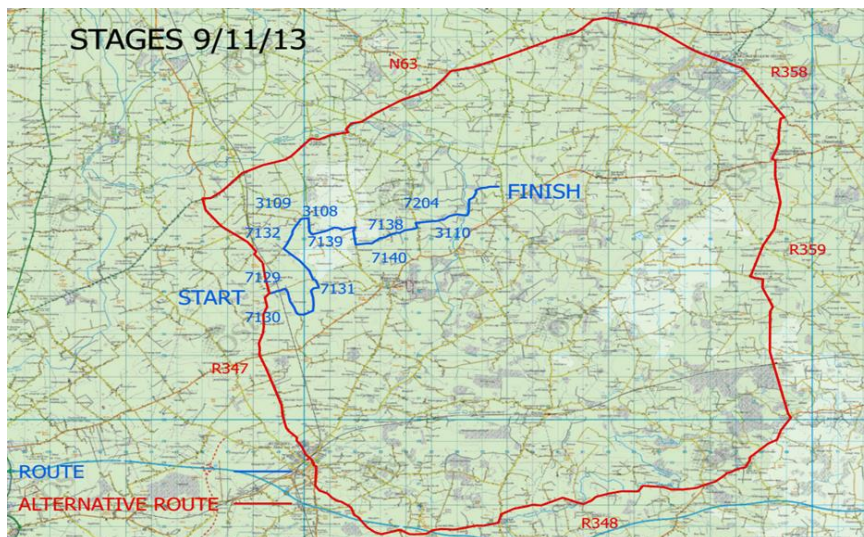
BUSHFIELD –
DRAINAGE SCHEME



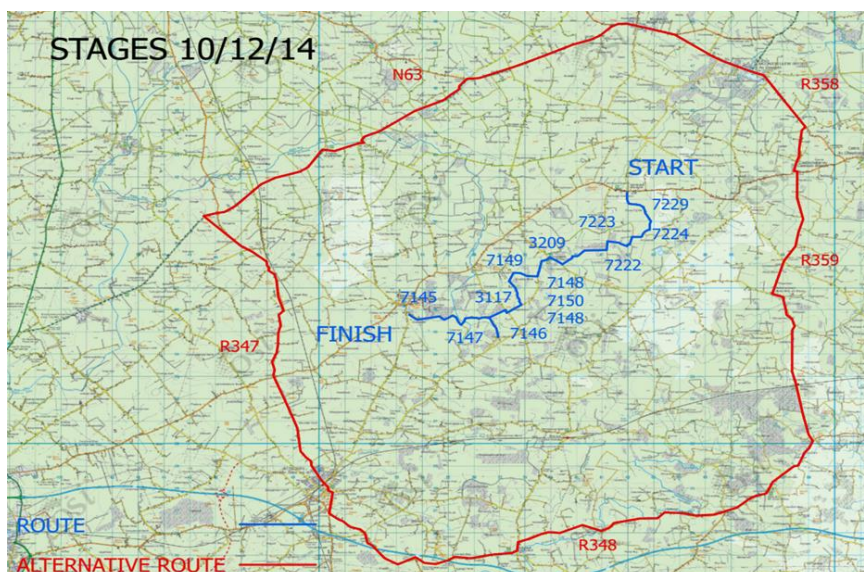
ORANMORE BOYS
SCHOOL –
COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT
SCHEME



ORANMORE
BOYS SCHOOL
– COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT
SCHEME



GALWAY RALLY –
STAGES BELLEVILLE



GALWAY RALLY –
STAGES
COLMANSTOWN



MONIVEA
DRAINAGE



KILIMORDALY
DRAINAGE



THE CATHAOIRLEACH AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD A CIVIC RECEPTION TO CONGRATULATE BALLINASLOE GOLF CLUB MIXED FOURSOMES ON THEIR ALL-IRELAND WIN IN 2023.

Throughout Ballinasloe MD, maintenance works are ongoing including road drainage, hedge-cutting and road surface repairs. Emergency works during January 2024 included storm damage repairs from Isha and Jocelyn which hit Ireland within 48 hours of each other. Ballinasloe MD staff utilised the Galway County Council Severe Weather Emergency Management Systems (SWEMS) to effectively communicate, aid real-time decision making and resolve the road closure and blockage incidents during the storm events.



STORM ISHA & STORM JOCELYN – ROAD BLOCKAGES AND EMERGENCY WORKS – BALLINASLOE MD

Following consultation and agreement with the Water Safety Awareness & Development Officer, an upgrade was completed by Ballinasloe MD staff to the ring buoys adjacent to the Suck River, which are placed in new publicly accessible and maintainable locations.





BALLINASLOE RING BUOY UPGRADES COMPLETED

Footpath works under the Active Travel Programme are progressing well and nearing completion at Beechlawn, Ballinasloe. It is expected that, subject to NTA funding, the final phase of the 'Beechlawn Loop' will be delivered in 2024.



ACTIVE TRAVEL FOOTPATHS AT BEECHLAWN, BALLINASLOE

Footpath upgrade works were recently completed in Mountbellew on the Moylough Road N63 which will improve accessibility and safety in the area adjacent to the graveyard and Mountbellew HSE Primary Care Centre.



FOOTPATH UPGRADE WORKS COMPLETED IN MOUNTBELLEW

The 64-unit Rapid Build Modular Home site being delivered by the Office of Public Works (OPW) at Pollboy, Ballinasloe is ongoing and progressing well.



64-UNIT RAPID BUILD
MODULAR HOME AT
POLLBOY,
BALLINASLOE

Throughout the winter period, regular monitoring of flood levels is undertaken Roads staff in Ballinasloe MD, and at a number of particular sites in conjunction with consultants, OPW and Bord na Mona. Monitoring is undertaken by visual inspections and online data collection. An example of this shown below, is at Clonfert, where flooding levels were rising at the start of January, but have now subsided. This is subject to a proposed Minor Works Scheme.



MONITORING OF
FLOOD LEVELS AT
CLONFERT,
IMAGE
PROVIDED
COURTESY OF
BORD NA MONA
– 5TH JAN. 2024.

In January the Conamara MD focused on road maintenance works. Priorities included road drainage works such as opening water tables, cleaning gullies and upsizing culverts where there were capacity issues. Other maintenance works include hedgetrimming, gritting roads during prolonged winter weather, sign maintenance. Also, in January the Conamara MD was hit by both Storm Isha and Storm Jocelyn. This resulted in several road closures due to fallen trees, Eir and ESB poles and cables falling across roads. The Conamara MD outdoor staff dealt with each issue promptly and roads were reopened the following day of each storm.

The Conamara MD is also currently preparing a DRAFT 2024 Roads Programme.

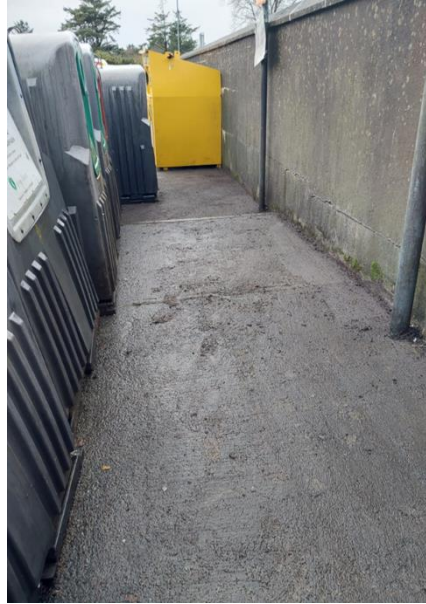
Furthermore, the Conamara MD is considering requests for DRCD funding for works on the 3 No. Aran Islands and Inishbofin for 2024.



EXAMPLE OF STORM ISHA
AND STORM JOCELYN
DAMAGE WITH ELECTRIC
CABLE



ROAD RESURFACING WORKS
TULLYVOHEEN CLIFDEN



EXAMPLE OF
ILLEGAL DUMPING
AND TIDY UP

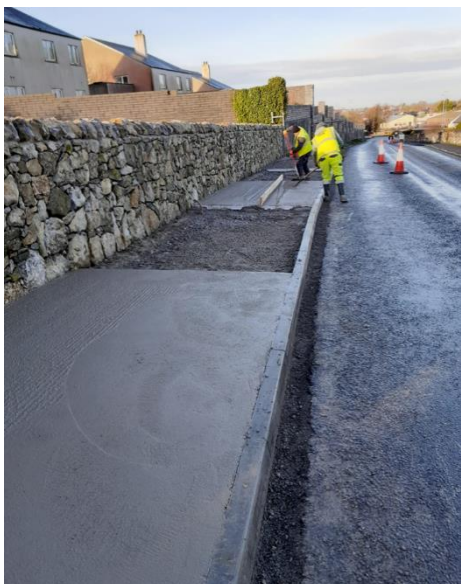


ROAD DRAINAGE AND GULLY
JETTING MAINTENANCE WORKS

LOUGHREA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

FOCUS OF ACTIVITY

During the January/February 2024 period the focus shifts to maintenance of ancillary items associated with the road network. To this end works such as sign replacement, hedge trimming, opening of water tables, pothole repair etc. are prioritized. Several outstanding NOM projects and other various minor work projects have also been completed. A sample of these works is as follows:



NEW STONE WALL AND FOOTPATH AT
MOUNTPLEASANT, TYNAGH ROAD, LOUGHREA



REPLACEMENT OF
DAMAGED
CONCRETE
BOLLARDS AT
FAHY GARDENS,
LOUGHREA



CONTINUING ISSUE
WITH ILLEGAL
DUMPING AT THE
BRING BANKS IN
LOUGHREA



Continuing issue with the illegal dumping of domestic waste at bottle banks and public bins. Items are removed from these locations on a regular basis by Loughrea Municipal District outdoor staff.



C.I.S. SCHEME, LABANE.
NEW KERB, FOOTPATH,
DRAINAGE WORKS AND
1200M HIGH STONE WALL
INCORPORATING A NEW
GATE ENTRANCE





MAINTENANCE OF OUR PUBLIC PARKS AND OTHER PUBLIC AREAS

A significant amount of work has been undertaken in recent weeks to ensure that our public spaces are safe for all users.



REMOVAL OF
HORSE
CHESTNUT TREE
AT THE WALKS
LOUGHREA
WHICH WAS A
DANGER TO THE
PUBLIC DUE TO
DISEASE AND
DECAY



CLEANING THE WALKS
LOUGHREA AND TRIMMING LEYLANDII TO INCREASE VISIBILITY AND REDUCE ANTI-
SOCIAL BEHAVIOR IN THE AREA



REMOVAL AND TOPPING OF TREES AT THE GROVE, LOUGHREA TO IMPROVE SAFETY FOR PEDESTRIANS AND MOTORISTS.



EXAMPLES OF THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY STORM ISHA IN THE LOUGHREA MD AREA AND THE REACTION OF STAFF TO THESE MULTIPLE INCIDENTS

TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

STORM CLEAN UP

Storm Isha made landfall on Sunday 21st January with winds in a red alert status for County Galway. The main impacts in the Tuam Municipal District fallen trees, fallen powerlines and poles, and fallen telephone lines. Tuam roads crews were out early Monday morning trying to get signage and traffic management installed before commuters left for work and commencing tree removal on priority roads. On the Monday 22nd January the work had been non-stop as workers removed debris and trees, liaising with ESB and Eircom, installing and removing traffic management as required. Over 40 trees had fallen across the roads in the Tuam Municipal District with the majority of the roads reopened by the Monday evening.



WORKS CARRIED DURING THE MONTH IN TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Widespread pothole repair works continued throughout MD following separate high rainfall, storms and low temperature periods in the past month. Large numbers of potholes formed in many roads and our roads crews were fully occupied patching and repairing these potholes.



NEW LINE
MARKING



A new yellow box was inserted in High Street, Headford to improve the traffic flow within the town



Additional line markings, road markings and slow down road markings were put in place at Castlehackett National School

N84 AT HEADFORD



Drainage and Pavement Works carried out as part on the National Road Maintenance.

RECENT UPGRADES AT THE BALLYGLUNIN STATION'S ENTRANCE



The parking entrance to Ballyglunin Railway Station has been freshly paved with new tarmac, accompanied by the installation of a brand-new footpath.

These improvements are not just about enhancing the visual appeal but also prioritizing safety for all pedestrians. The addition of new street lighting will further ensure a safer environment for walkers.



HEADFORD TOWN FOOTPATH WORKS

Footpath works were carried out by the Headford roads crew at the entrance to Moyne Villa Soccer club to improve access to their new pitches. This will allow safer access for both motorists and pedestrians.



COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SCHEME TUAM TOWN



Works continued with the Tuam Town CES crews with general cleaning of walk routes and repairs to footpaths around the town.

THE SHAMBLES MARKET REGENERATION TUAM



At the approval of the Part 8 planning for the Shambles Market in Tuam which will transform the area to a covered casual trading area and all-weather community space were: L-R Brent Mostert Executive Architect Galway County Council, Cllr Donagh Killillea, Cllr Stephen McHugh, Cllr Peter Roche, Cllr Andrew Reddington and John Coyle SEE Tuam MD



Mise, le meas,

Chief Executive

Galway County Council

12 February 2024