



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

TURASCÁIL BAINISTÍOCHTA MANAGEMENT REPORT



Iúil 2025

July 2025

CORPORATE SERVICES

THE NORTHERN & WESTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Northern & Western Regional Assembly was held in Galway on 20th June 2025. Below are some of the photos from the event.



LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNCIL, MINISTER SEAN CANNEY, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

L-R: SENATOR ANNE RABBITTE, MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, AND CLLR. MARY HOADE

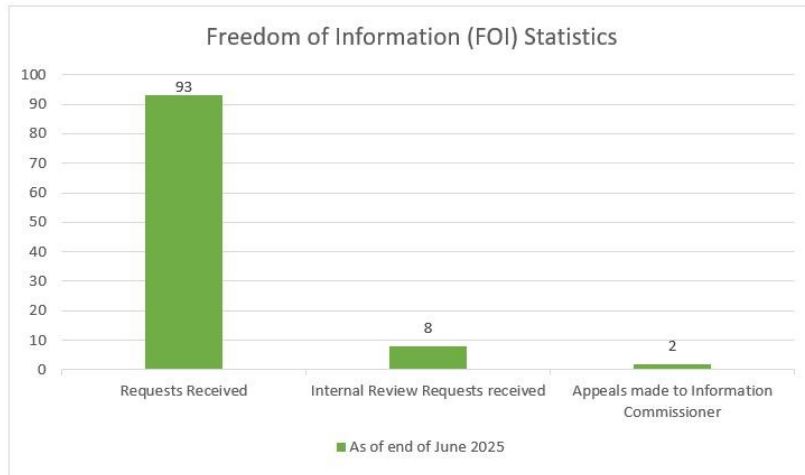


L-R: SENATOR SHANE CURLEY, MR. ALBERT DOLAN, T.D., SENATOR ANNE RABBITTE, CLLR. JIMMY MCCLEARN, CLLR. MARY HOADE, MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, SENATOR P.J. MURPHY, AND MR. LOUIS O'HARA, T.D.

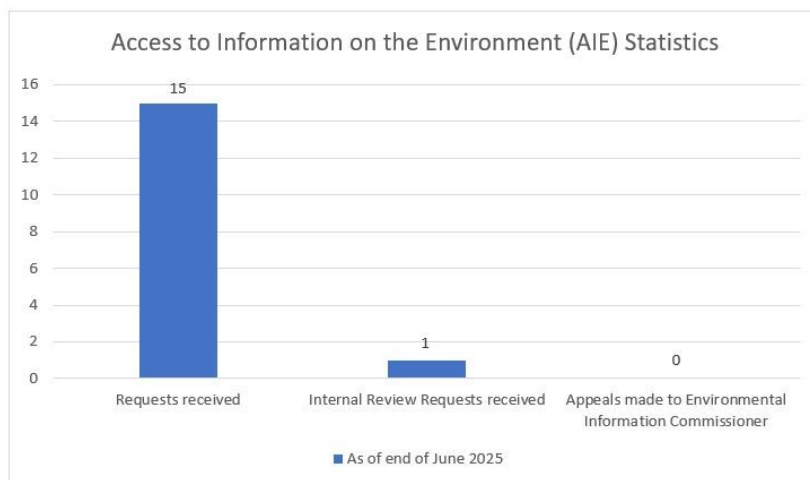
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION & DATA PROTECTION

2024 YEAR TO DATE STATISTICS TO 30.06.2025

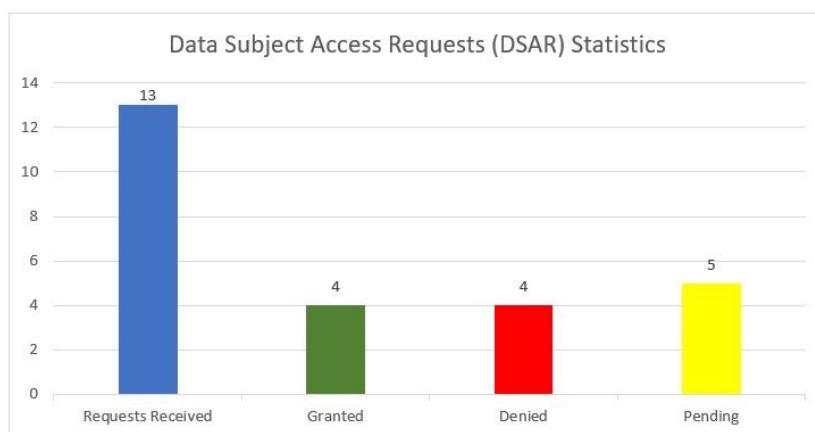
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT



DATA PROTECTION



- 13 Subject Requests received:
 - 9 Data Subject Access Requests
 - 1 Data Subject Erasure Request
 - 1 Data Subject Rectification Request
 - 2 Third Party Subject Access Requests, e.g. An Garda Síochána
 - 4 granted, 4 denied, 5 pending decisions.
- GDPR/Data Protection Training:
 - Online Induction Training issued to all new Staff
 - Online GDPR Staff Awareness Training issued to all new Staff
 - Online Training on Cyber Security issued to all new Staff
 - In person training provided to Lifeguards Staff

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORAL REGISTRATION SYSTEM

The LGERS project is an initiative led by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to create a centralised, modernised electoral registration system for Ireland.

Ireland's electoral registers have historically been maintained separately by each local authority, leading to inconsistencies and inaccuracies. **Voter.ie** will become the new national registration system and is due to come into effect by the end of 2026 replacing the current checktheregister.ie.

OBJECTIVE

The project aims to improve the accuracy, accessibility, and efficiency of Ireland's electoral register, addressing longstanding issues such as duplicate entries, redundant records (e.g., deceased individuals or electors who have moved away), and fragmented data management across local authorities ensuring a more reliable foundation for democratic processes.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The project aligns with the Electoral Reform Act 2022, which provides the legal basis for modernising the electoral process, including voter registration.

KEY FEATURES

- Centralised System - LGERS will transition local authorities to a shared national electoral registration system by the end of 2026, replacing separate local databases. This will streamline voter registration and updates.
- Identity Verification - A significant feature is the use of Personal Public Service Numbers (PPSNs) to verify voter identities.
- Accessibility - The LGERS system will build on the checktheregister.ie platform, allowing voters to register or update details online easily.

- Data Integrity - LGERS enables cross-checking with the Department of Social Protection to confirm identity details (name, date of birth, PPSN), ensuring the register's accuracy while protecting sensitive data like PPSNs from public disclosure.

FUNDING AND RESOURCES

In 2025, the government allocated over €3 million to local authorities for LGERS, including €1.7 million for data quality improvements and funding for two additional staff members per local authority to address data issues before the 2026 transition.

The Electoral Commission's first "Oversight Report on Electoral Registers" in May 2025 noted that while LGERS will help centralise and streamline the registration process, it alone will not fully resolve legacy accuracy issues. Additional work is required to address data gaps and discrepancies between local authority registers.

Galway County Council's franchise team have intensified data cleanup efforts in recent weeks to remove duplicates, verify identities and prepare for the transition to a national system.

THE FOLLOWING WORK IS CURRENTLY ONGOING IN THE REGISTER OF ELECTORS

- 1,500 letters have issued to potential duplicate electors in recent weeks
- Deaths recorded by the General Register Office are cross referenced against electoral register on a weekly basis to ensure deceased electors details are removed from the register.
- Preparing data from polling cards returned during the 2024 electoral events to identify and remove redundant entries from the register.
- All townland names (5,000 approx.) are being translated in advance of the transition to LGERS in line with the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021 and an Scéim Teanga.

Galway County Council are currently on track to have LGERS fully implemented by the end of 2026.

CIVIC RECEPTION

The Cathaoirleach on behalf of the Elected Members and people of Galway honoured Evan O'Brien, Irish Dancer on successfully retaining his World Championship title for the third year at the Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne held in Glasgow, Scotland 2024.



EVAN O BRIEN, WORLD CHAMPION IRISH DANCER WITH MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY AND THE CATHAOIRLEACH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND ELECTED MEMBERS OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

The Cathaoirleach on behalf of the Elected Members and people of Galway honoured Athenry Rounders Under 14, Under 15 and Minor teams on their successful All Ireland title wins.

MEMBERS OF ATHENRY ROUNDERS UNDER 14, UNDER 15 AND MINOR TEAMS WITH THE CATHAOIRLEACH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND ELECTED MEMBERS OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



The Cathaoirleach on behalf of the Elected Members and people of Galway honoured Michael Cronnelly on winning Conriocht Gym, Athenry's first World Amateur Title in MMA.



MICHAEL CRONNELLY WITH HIS FAMILY, TRAINER, THE CATHAOIRLEACH AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND ELECTED MEMBERS OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



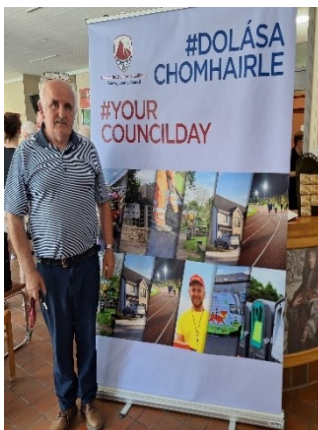
MUSIC AT THE CIVIC RECEPTION WAS PROVIDED BY LACKAGH COMHALTAS AND EVAN O BRIEN TREATED THE CROWD TO SOME OF HIS AWARD-WINNING DANCING



RECREATION AND AMENITIES

BATTLE OF AUGHRIM VISITOR CENTRE – 2025 LAUNCH OF MONTHLY HISTORIC TALKS

As part of our 2025 seasonal programming, we successfully launched our monthly historic talks at the Centre. Our 2025 inaugural event took place on Friday, 20th June 2025, themed "A Rich Harvest of Irish Musical Creativity & Composition."



To complement the theme, the event included a vibrant celebration of the legacy of The Aughrim Slopes Céilí Band. The traditional Irish music played on the day, brought the Centre to full life. A few spontaneous dances added to the wonderful and authentic atmosphere, making the event both educational and celebratory and allowing a community come together to share in the legacy.

The event was attended at maximum capacity and received highly positive feedback from participants, many of whom expressed interest in future talks. The combination of historical insight and live traditional music proved to be a very successful format for community engagement in the lead up to Your Council Day 2025 paying full dividend to the LGMA's National Theme of "Building Stronger Communities".





WATER SAFETY AND LIFEGUARD SERVICES – SUMMER 2025 UPDATE

County Galway boasts a stunning and diverse coastline that continues to attract water enthusiasts throughout the summer months. As schools break for the holidays and visitor numbers increase, ensuring a safe and enjoyable aquatic environment is a top priority.

With the bathing season now underway, Galway County Council is committed to promoting water safety and providing high-quality supervision at designated bathing areas. The Council employs a full-time Water Safety Awareness and Development Officer who oversees the management of bathing areas and coordinates the delivery of the seasonal lifeguard service across both Galway County and City.

Lifeguard services have officially commenced in line with the **Summer Ready Plan 2025**. Lifeguards are now on duty at **16 designated beaches**. It is important to note that **no flag displayed means no lifeguard is on duty**.

DESIGNATED BATHING AREAS

Galway County has ten recognised bathing areas:

- Cill Mhuirbhígh (Inis Mór)
- Inis Óirr
- Loughrea
- Portumna Lake
- An Trá Mhór
- An Cnoc, Indreabhán
- Trá an Dóilín, An Cheathrú Rua
- Cloch na Rón
- Trácht, Cinn Mhara
- Céibh an Spidéil, An Spidéal
- Bóthar an Spidéil, An Spidéal

Galway City has six designated bathing areas:

- Ballyloughane, Renmore
- Grattan Beach
- Palmers Beach

- Ladies Beach
- Blackrock, Salthill
- Silverstrand, Bearna

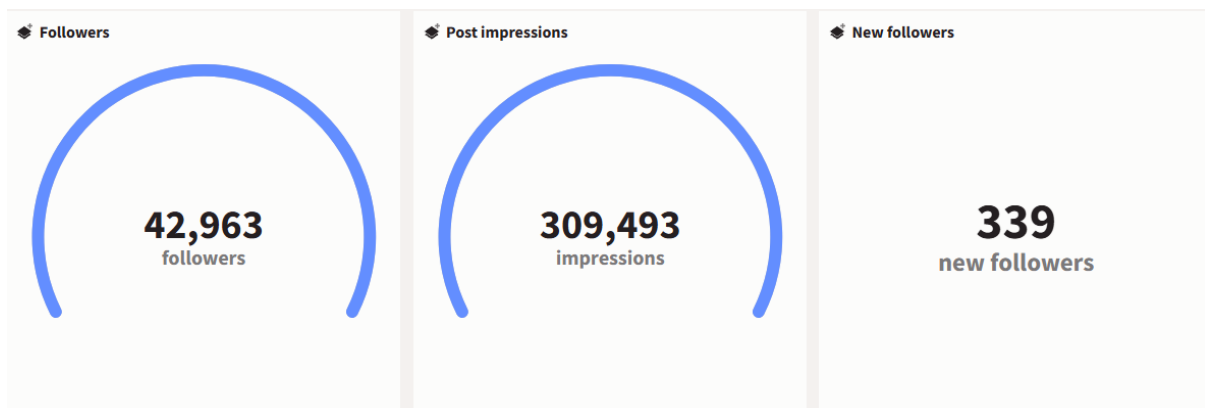
As we move further into the busy summer season, the presence of lifeguards and continued public awareness of water safety remain essential to safeguarding all beachgoers.

SOCIAL MEDIA

OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY

Our Customer Services team, part of Corporate Services, continue to diligently monitor and update the Council's social media content daily towards enhancing our engagement with the Public.

JUNE 2025 FULL MONTH STATS



***Posts Impressions** - The number of times that posts on our Galway County Council Facebook, X, Instagram and LinkedIn accounts appeared on someone's screen. Content viewed includes posts, videos, and reels.

JUNE OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY

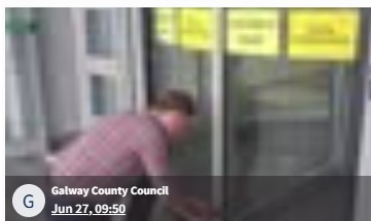
Social Media Audience Metrics		Number of Posts	Monthly Post Impressions
	www.facebook.com/galwaycounty	148	237,620
	www.x.com/galwaycoco	98	20,655

	www.instagram.com/galwaycountycouncil	163	49,652
	www.linkedin.com/galwaycoco	4	1,566
Total Number of Posts		413 (116 posts in Irish – 28%)	
Fans & Followers across Social Media Platforms		42,963  0.7% from 42,663 Fans & Followers	

FACEBOOK

JUNE TOP THREE POSTS

Top posts



A morning peek into a life within our internal community 🧑🏻 Tommy, our distinguished caretaker, plays an indispensable role in maintaining County Hall. His dedication and diligence ensure its smooth operation, and without his steadfast support, our work would not be possible. Léargas na maidine ar shaol laistigh dár bpobal inmheánach 🧑🏻 Tá ról fíor-riachtanach ag Tommy, ár gcúramóir oiriúne, ag cothabháil Áras an Chontae. Cinntíonn a dhílseacht



A Proud Day for Portumna and County Galway! 🎉 Galway County Council is thrilled to announce the official reopening of the historic Portumna Courthouse, now a vibrant arts, community, and enterprise hub. 🌟
#GalwayCountyCouncil #BuildingStrongCommunities #YourCouncilDay2025

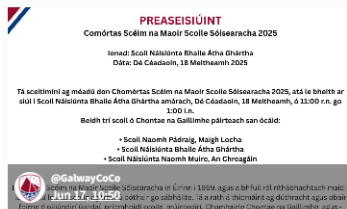


Civic Reception Held by Galway County Council on Monday 23rd June 2025 in honour of: Evan O'Brien, Champion Irish Dancer Athenry Rounders Club Michael Cronnelly, World Amateur Title in Mixed Martial Arts Music: Lackagh Comhaltas

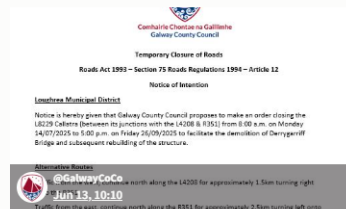
X (PREVIOUSLY TWITTER)

JUNE TOP THREE POSTS

Top tweets



<https://twitter.com/GalwayCoCo/status/1934926560093462602/photo/1>



<https://twitter.com/GalwayCoCo/status/1933466934038716835/photo/1>



The construction of the next phase of the Athenry Northern Ring Road will commence in the coming weeks with a completion date of late 2025. @GalwayCoCo has signed contracts with Tower Plant and Civil Engineering to deliver the scheme.
<https://twitter.com/GalwayCoCo/status/1934630627996799051/photo/1>

INSTAGRAM

JUNE TOP THREE POSTS

Top posts



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Illegal Dumping at Bringbanks - Please Respect This Service The pictures attached illustrate what our area office and CES teams have dealt with this week. Galway County Council continue to see an increase in illegal dumping across its network of bringbanks in the County With particular pressure on the clothes bank service. Galway County Council again appeal to all users of bringbank services in the County not to misuse them and to keep them clean by doing the following:- Only deposit clean clothes suitable for reuse in the banks provided. Check the date if it appears full. It is so simple to be



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LINKEDIN

JUNE TOP THREE POSTS

Top posts



A Proud Day for Portumna and County Galway! Galway County Council is delighted to announce the official reopening of the historic Portumna Courthouse—now transformed into a vibrant arts, community, and enterprise hub. Thanks to a €3.2 million investment, including over €2.9 million from the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund, this iconic building has been lovingly restored and reimaged for a new generation.



Regional Solutions

Join our Stakeholder meeting

BIA Innovator Campus, Athenry, Co. Galway H65 DDB

Monday 23rd June 2025 9.30 - 13.00

Registration required - limited space!



Stakeholder Meeting on Regional Food Waste Solutions. Galway County Council, as a partner of the CIBUS Interreg Europe Project, is pleased to invite key actors and stakeholders from the food and retail sectors to a Stakeholder Meeting focused on addressing food waste at a regional policy level. We are delighted to partner with FoodCloud, who will present their innovative FoodCloud Kitchen initiative. Demonstrating practical approaches to curbing



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"YOUR COUNCIL DAY" 27TH JUNE 2025

Your Council Day 2025 was a major success, both in preparation and delivery.

In the build-up to June 27th, our Customer Services team working in close collaboration with our Customer Services Officers Group (cross directorate) launched a targeted, tailored and tangible campaign highlighting the breadth of services Galway County Council provide. This included service spotlights, staff features, and community stories, all aligned with the 2025 LGMA National theme: **"Building Stronger Communities"**

On Friday 27th June 2025, we shared a vibrant mix of content, behind-the-scenes insights,

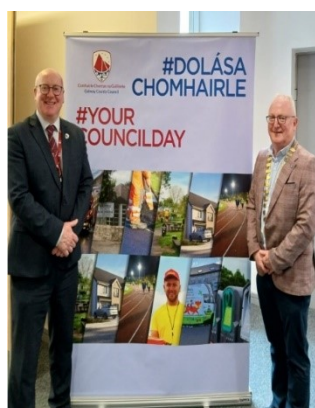


and community engagement posts.

A standout moment was the post titled "**Building Business Helps Build Communities**", which received an outstanding **12,791 views**, making it our top-performing post of the week.

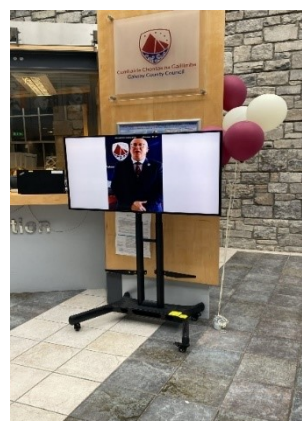
The campaign significantly boosted our online visibility, deepened public

engagement, and reinforced the council's commitment to community development.



Our Chief Executive Liam Conneally and Cathaoirleach David Collins engaging with community members during "Your Council Day", demonstrating leadership and commitment to building stronger communities. The Atrium displayed vibrant banners newly designed for Your Council Day, creating an inviting atmosphere for staff and the public, with county colour balloons adding a festive flair. A large screen

proudly showcased the breadth of services provided by Galway County Council, offering the public a dynamic glimpse into the Council's impactful work.



COMMUNITY, RURAL & TOURISM DEVELOPMENT & INTEGRATION

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

The next LCDC committee meeting was held in person and online on Tuesday 15th July at 10.30 a.m. Items on the agenda included approval of the SICAP Mid-Year Review with presentations from each Programme Implementor. Three subcommittee meetings took place at the end of June to discuss the SICAP Mid-Year Reports. The SICAP Case Study themes were also discussed.

LOCAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME 2025

The Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Jerry Buttimer, on Friday 13 June announced the successful projects under the Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2025. Staff in the Community Department contacted the successful applicants and grant payments will be processed accordingly.

Please see link below of all the groups throughout Galway County who have been awarded the grants through the Current and the Capital Funding strands.

<https://www.galway.ie/en/media/Galway%20County%20LEP%202025%20Awarded.pdf>

Also please click on link below for the full press release from the Minister.

[Our Rural Future: Ministers Jerry Buttimer and Minister Dara Calleary announce support for over 5400 projects countrywide benefitting almost 4500 community organisations under the Local Enhancement Programme 2025](#)

COOP4RURALGOV, COOPERATION FOR RURAL GOVERNANCE RURAL PROOFING

Interreg
Europe



Co-funded by
the European Union

Coop4RURALGov



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimh
Galway County Council

COOP4RURALGOV, COOPERATION FOR RURAL GOVERNANCE RURAL PROOFING

Cooperation for better sparsely populated rural, coastal and mountain focused governance.

On June 17–18, 2025, Galway County Council welcomed partners from Spain, Ireland, Estonia, and Bulgaria for an interregional workshop on the topic “Building on the steps required to Embed Rural Proofing at Local, Regional and National Level.

The workshop focused on embedding Rural Proofing in policy design and delivery at local, regional, and national levels.



PICTURED BERNIE DONNELLAN, RURAL COMMUNITY, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT & INTEGRATION WITH PARTNERS FROM SPAIN, ESTONIA AND BULGARIA

The workshop brought together policymakers, technical experts, and rural development practitioners to test and refine a practical impact assessment tool designed specifically to make rural sensitivities visible in policy planning. The first day began with an overview of the assessment process led by Maria Hall (Hub Planning).

The goal: to ensure that rural voices and realities are considered from the earliest stages of decision-making. The workshop provided a valuable opportunity to assess whether this approach is clear, usable, and practical—and whether it can help policymakers identify risks and opportunities early, especially those unique to rural settings.

Rural communities face distinct challenges, but those challenges are often overlooked in policy planning. This workshop aimed to build a stronger foundation for evidence-informed, people centred policy design by piloting an impact assessment tool and examined a Structured, Hands-On Methodology which was Presented by Maria Hall, Hub Planning utilising existing Data and Consultation feedback and utilisation of Artificial Intelligence Bot.



Galway Ireland – 17 – 18th June 2025

**Inter- regional workshop - Partners:
Spain, Bulgaria, Estonia**



This process was designed to test and refine a practical method for assessing the potential impacts of rural policy projects on people and places. By applying an Impact Assessment Matrix

to a case study policy scenario, (Case Study to test the impact of closure of Post Offices in Rural Areas) participants explored how structured evaluation tools can support better rural-proofed decision-making.

WHAT WE DID

Over two days, participants worked in small groups, applying a step-by-step method:

- Scoping Potential Impacts: Identifying possible social, environmental, and economic effects of a policy scenario.
- Deepening Understanding: Using data and consultation findings to understand who might be affected and how.
- Assessing Significance: Rating the scale, duration, severity, and likelihood of impacts using a clear, structured matrix.



- Developing Mitigation Strategies: Identifying practical measures to reduce negative impacts and enhance benefits.

KEY LESSONS

- Structured Does Not Mean Rigid: Using clear steps and rating tables allowed participants to focus on real impacts while maintaining flexibility to discuss what matters most for rural areas.
- Data and Local Knowledge Are Equally Important: The process highlighted the power of combining statistical data with lived experience and consultation insights.
- Data and Local Knowledge Are Equally Important: The process highlighted the power of combining statistical data with lived experience and consultation insights.
- Actionable Outcomes: The matrix helped groups move from identifying impacts to concrete mitigation and enhancement measures, ensuring that discussions translated into practical next steps.
- Early Assessment Helps Avoid Later Problems: Testing impacts at the design stage, rather than after decisions are made, can help prevent negative consequences for rural communities.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Rural proofing is not just a policy aspiration; it requires methods that are clear, usable, and useful for governments, local authorities, and communities. The workshop in Ireland showed that a structured Impact Assessment approach can:

- ✓ Identify rural-specific sensitivities early
- ✓ Guide practical mitigation strategies
- ✓ Build confidence in rural-proofed decision-making
- ✓ Ensure people-centred policies

A Structured, Hands-On Methodology

Our two-day workshop in Ireland piloted an Impact Assessment Matrix to see whether structured tools could help surface these issues early and guide practical mitigation strategies.

The group brainstormed practical responses: what can be done to minimise harm, enhance positives, or make adjustments that reduce community risk?



Identifying any positive or negative social impacts that are likely to result from the development application with respect (*examples could include*):

Community values - potential implications to cultural and community wellbeing as a result of the project including impacts on residents and surrounding properties, social exclusion, social cohesion, community safety and health.

Safety and amenity - analysis of potential adverse impacts on local amenity (both short and longer term) including noise, air quality and visual impacts, with particular focus on the how the demolition/transition phase of the development would be managed.

Aged care demand - actual or projected population growth within the catchment and aged care demand

Access and connectivity – presence or absence of safe and accessible public transport for patrons, availability of car parking and time restrictions on car parking (if any)

Community facilities – identify if the increased demand for supports and services.

Demand on services – such as public transport, convenience food, medical centres and community services and identify if the communal facilities would have the capacity to service residents during the transition stages of the development.

Suitability of type, mix and capacity – nature and extent suitability.

PRESENTATION BY MARIA HALL, HUB PLANNING

Insights from Ireland: Participation and Policy in Practice

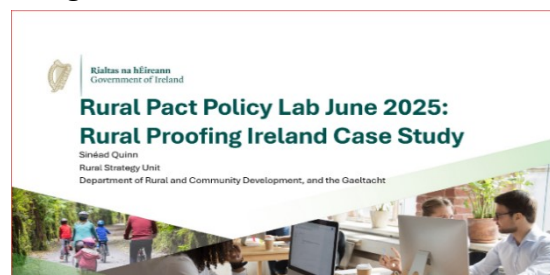
Provided a deep dive into the Irish experience with *Public Participation Networks* (PPNs). Maria Hall presented findings from a recent review of PPNs, which serve as formal platforms for civil society to engage with local authorities. Discussions explored their effectiveness in representing diverse groups—such as older persons, people with disabilities, and members of the Traveller community—and their role in shaping inclusive policy.

Later in the day, Sinéad Quinn, from Ireland’s Department of Rural and Community Development, shared the national approach to Rural Proofing as outlined in the strategy *Our Rural Future*. Her presentation illustrated how over 150 cross-government commitments are being mobilized to foster economic diversification, reverse rural decline, and strengthen rural resilience.

Presentation by Sinead Quinn, Rural Strategy Unit, Department of rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht outlined the following.

Background - Framework for Rural Proofing in Ireland

- Government Decision in 1999
- Government Handbook amended
- Requires Memo for Government to indicate the impact on rural communities
- Rural referred to ‘towns and villages and in smaller urban centres outside of the five major urban areas (Cork, Dublin, Galway, Limerick and Waterford)



NEW APPROACH TO RURAL PROOFING

Government commitment: Our Rural Future 2021-2025 (Measure 148) to develop “an effective rural proofing model to ensure that the needs of rural communities are considered in the development of Government policies”

DRCDG commissioned research, including looking at the international experience, and developments by OECD and EU.

KEY LEARNINGS:

- Rural proofing has been difficult to successfully develop
- No ‘one size fits all’ approach

PILOT ON RURAL PROOFING:

- Pilot exercise to apply rural proofing concepts to four key initiatives
- Led to an understanding that Rural Proofing is not a policy or a model
- Rural Proofing is a process to view policy development through a rural lens
- To help ensure government policies and services understand and take account of specific needs and capacity of rural communities

PILOT LEARNINGS:

- Early consideration to identify issues and capacities of rural areas
- Public consultations should systematically prompt rural communities to reflect and advise on policies/proposals
- Place-based approach to rural development can enable meaningful engagement with rural people and business
- Policy makers should be supported by guidance material to undertake Rural Proofing

GUIDE TO RURAL PROOFING FOR POLICY MAKERS:

- Pilot showed that a level of Rural Proofing is being undertaken within the current system, although not always expressed as Rural Proofing
- Any new approach needed to be practical and implementable
- Objective was to build on and strengthen those approaches

Developed a **“Guide to Rural Proofing for Policy Makers”**

Core aim is to clearly and simply explain what rural proofing is, what is meant by rural, and provide guidance and assistance.

ONLINE PRESENTATION BY URSZULA
BUDZICH TABOR – RURAL PACT
POLICY LAB

OUTLINING KEY INPUTS FROM THE
RECENT RURAL PACT CONFERENCE
– HELD ON 12TH JUNE 2025



RURAL PACT – WHAT IS IT

A framework for cooperation between public authorities, civil society, businesses, academia and citizens, at the European, national, regional and local level; the aim of which is mobilize stakeholders to act on the needs and aspirations of rural communities by 2040 (European Union, n. da). Rural Pact was launched by the European Commission in 2021 as part of the *Long-Term Vision for the EU's rural areas* (European Commission, 2021b).

DIALOGUE, COORDINATION, AND NEXT STEPS

Day two of the workshop focused on refining the assessment results and reflecting collectively on the process. A partner Steering Committee meeting closed the session, offering space to consolidate learning and discuss next steps for integrating this methodology into real policy settings across regions.

By bringing together diverse experiences from Spain, Ireland, Estonia, and Bulgaria, the Galway workshop reaffirmed the power of collaboration in advancing rural-sensitive governance. More than a technical exercise, it marked a step forward in building policies that not only reach rural areas—but are rooted in their voices, knowledge, and needs.

Next Steps: Review Comparative Study, which incorporates feedback from Partner Countries through Questionnaires completed in April and Focus groups interviews held in May 2025.

HEALTHY IRELAND

HEALTHY COUNTY GALWAY – JULY 2025



MEN'S HEALTH WEEK 2025 – A GREAT SUCCESS

We are delighted to share that Men's Health Week 2025 was a tremendous success. Across the county, individuals and communities came together to take in a wide range of activities promoting men's physical and mental well-being.

From group walks and health checks to workshops community events, the week was filled with positive energy, connection, and meaningful conversations. enthusiasm and participation from all involved truly made this a memorable and impactful week.

Thank you to everyone who supported and contributed to making Men's Health Week 2025 such success.



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CONNEMARA MEMORY CAFÉ INITIATIVE

Another Memory café launched in Connemara in July of this year.

This **Memory Café** is hosted at The Wild Goat Café in Letterfrack, offering a warm, welcoming space for people living with Dementia, Alzheimers or Cognitive Impairment, and their carers.



The café provides refreshments and snacks for those attending. Live music and an aerobics instructor have also been organised to facilitate some exercises. The café commenced on the 7th of July at 11.30am until 1pm.

These gatherings are a chance to connect, share experiences, and enjoy a relaxed atmosphere with others who understand. Whether you're a carer, a family member, or someone living with dementia, you're warmly invited to join.

HELP SHAPE CONNEMARA MEMORY CAFÉS

We are currently gathering feedback through a Microsoft Form from the community in Connemara to help shape the memory Café initiative. This feedback will ensure that the needs of those attending the cafes are met and ensure that barriers to attending are resolved for those who would benefit from the space. If you or someone you know might be interested, please get in touch with Healthy County Galway for further information by emailing arankin@galwaycoco.ie.

A screenshot of a Microsoft Form titled "Memory Cafe / Caifé Cuimhne". The form asks if the respondent is interested in attending a dementia or memory café in their area. It includes a feedback section with a star rating and a comment box.

TAKING STOCK' FARMERS HEALTH PROGRAM

HEALTHY COUNTY GALWAY AT THE TEAGASC SHEEP EVENT

Healthy County Galway hosted a well-attended stand at the recent Teagasc Sheep Event, offering free health information and promotional materials to attendees throughout the day.



Croí health checks were made available to farmers, providing on-the-spot cardiovascular assessments and expert health advice. The service saw strong engagement and uptake, highlighting the value of accessible health supports for rural communities.

The event provided an important opportunity to promote health and wellbeing among the farming population, aligning with Healthy County Galway's ongoing commitment to supporting healthier lifestyles across the county.

WOMEN'S HEALTH PROGRAMME

The Women's Health Programme has progressed into its second strand, with a focus on fostering social connection and wellbeing among women in island communities. This phase involves the rollout of community-based activities designed to provide opportunities for women to convene in supportive, social settings.

These initiatives aim to strengthen community ties while continuing to promote health and wellbeing among women in the local community.



POSITIVE AGEING WEEK 2025

Work is progressing on planning the Local Heroes Campaign to be delivered during Positive Ageing Week 2025 (29th September – 3rd October), to promote positive and healthy ageing and combat ageism. Positive Ageing Week is an annual initiative to emphasize the positive aspects of ageing and highlight the significant roles older people play in our families and our communities. The SICAP Programme Implementers – Galway Rural Development, Forum Connemara, Comhar na nOileán and Galway City Partnership, together with the HSE and COPE, are identifying older people to take part in the campaign. Galway will shine a light on 30 people from across the City and County who are wonderful examples of positive ageing with their biographies and photos on display during October. An event will be held on Tuesday 30th September 2025 @ 1pm (venue to be confirmed) to celebrate the exhibition, where the City Mayor and the Cathaoirleach of County Galway will present participants with a memento of their biography.

PRIDE OF PLACE COMPETITION

Entry Summaries have been completed and submitted to Cooperation Ireland for the two Pride of Place entrants representing County Galway in the All-Island competition in 2025. These are Clarinbridge Tidy Towns in the Population Category 300-1,000, and Marconi Mens' Shed, Clifden in the Community Wellbeing Initiative Category. The Pride of Place judging date has also been confirmed for Thursday 11th September at 2.00 pm in Clifden and Friday 12th September in Clarinbridge at 9.00 a.m.

AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

AGE FRIENDLY AMBASSADOR DAY JUNE 2025



AGE FRIENDLY
AMBASSADOR'S DAY ON
JUNE 18TH IN CARLOW
WITH THE GALWAY
COUNTY'S OLDER
PERSONS COUNCIL
BEING REPRESENTED BY
THE CHAIRPERSON MS.
MARY CRONIN.

FUNDING FOR AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY AMENITIES

Galway County Council's annual funding scheme to promote voluntary activity in economic, community and cultural development are the Community Support Schemes. In line with feedback from the Older People's Council, a priority area for funding was accessibility improvements at community amenities which resulted in funding for a variety of projects including age friendly seating, lighting at community amenities, accessibility improvements and repairs at community & sensory gardens.

AGE FRIENDLY STRATEGY

The age friendly strategy is currently in draft and a presentation on this will be provided at a few key meetings over July. During the week commencing July 21st an update on the strategy will be provided to the County Galway Older Persons Council and the Community, Irish Language, Gaeltacht, Tourism and Integration Strategic Policy Committee. Moreover, Galway County Council are in the process of establishing an interdepartmental team within the Local Authority and this group will be convened before the end of July. Lastly the Age Friendly Alliance are scheduled to meet on July 30th where the strategy will be presented to them.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

The July PPN newsletter has been sent to all member organisations, council staff, and Elected Members. The newsletter is available on the PPN website - <https://www.galwaycountyppn.ie> - and PPN social media - <https://www.facebook.com/GalwayCountyPPN/> . The PPN's weekly news bulletin, the 'PPN Weekly Digest' is sent each Friday to all PPN members. Updates are shared frequently on PPN social media.

PPN Stakeholder Training – The online self-paced training videos programme for PPN stakeholders is provided by Social Justice Ireland on behalf of the Department and is intended for self- directed learning at the learner's own pace. Social Justice Ireland will provide some support via the webform on each Module page. To register, please complete the Registration Form at the following link:

[Ireland https://www.socialjustice.ie/register/register-training](https://www.socialjustice.ie/register/register-training)

This training is available to the following PPN Stakeholders:

- PPN Workers
- PPN Secretariat Members
- PPN Representatives
- PPN Member Groups
- Local Authority Staff
- Elected Councillors

The PPN has extended the deadline for nominations for four vacancies on the Secretariat. The elected nominees will represent the Athenry/ Oranmore, Ballinasloe, Loughrea and Tuam Municipal Districts.

Currently we are in receipt of two nominations under Community and Voluntary Pillar and Environmental Pillar. These nominations will be reviewed at the next Secretariat Meeting which is scheduled to take place on 14th July. Several meetings took place in June and PPN were represented at the following: in early June, The Marine Institute was the venue for unveiling of Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2024-2030, the Intercultural working group meeting also took place. A National workers meeting was also attended as was Community Integration Forum meeting.

Galway County PPN will be represented at the forthcoming National PPN event "Building Community Resilience for Times of Emergency", at the Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise on July 17th.

ARTS OFFICE

ÁRAS ÉANNA 25 YEAR ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION

Since Áras Éanna opened its doors as an Arts Centre on Inis Oírr in 2000 it has welcomed



artists to the island to spend time on residences or to exhibit their work at their gallery or at site specific locations. Visual arts and the promotion of artist has been backbone of Áras Éanna's mission

To celebrate 25 years of Visual Art, Áras Éanna are presenting an exhibition that reflects the broad range of visual artwork that has been either produced during residencies or exhibited on Inis Oírr over the past 25 years.

The exhibition, curated by Fiona Hession and Dara McGee features work by Seán Ó Flaithearta, Mick O'Dea, Geraldine O'Reilly, Carel Lanter, Mick Mulcahy, Daniel Coleman, The Clarin Arts Group, Scoil Náisiúnta Chaomháin, Maureen Fleming, John Behan, Mary Fahy, Joey Mason, Url Manfred, Tess Urbanska, Dara McGee, Dan Ó Flaithearta (RIP), Margaret Tuffy, Mary Lee Murphy, Togra Muintir na nOileáin/Áisitheoir Ceara Conway, Cecilia Danell, Pat Quinn, Cyril Ó Flaithearta, Máirtín Taimín Ó Conghaile, Aisling Nic Craith,



Mara Zsuzsanna, Dolores Lyne, Trish Coneely, and Hughie O'Donoghue. The exhibition will also feature a selection of currachs from the 2021 Curacha Exhibition and a selection of buoys from the 2023 Buoys Exhibition. The exhibition was opened on 12 July at 1p.m. by Áras Éanna's first Director Val Balance.

[Áras Éanna's full programme for their 25th anniversary can be found here.](#)

CURRACH BY JOHN BEHAN. PHOTO: CORMAC COYNE

INCANT BY CEARA CONWAY AT INTERFACE – GIAF

We were delighted to support Incant by Ceara Conway at Interface on July 20th at 2pm, in association with Galway International Arts Festival.

Incant is a live performance; a song cycle featuring Ceara Conway's contemporary vocal works, Grief Spell, Dátheangach and Viriditas, along with newly arranged traditional folk songs and poems that explore themes of language, loss, and the environment. For this performance, Conway was joined by acclaimed musicians Matthew Nolan (electric guitar and synth) and Lisa Dowdall (violin/viola d'amore).

[For more information click here.](#)

CEARA CONWAY. PHOTO: DRAGANA JURISIC



THIS TOO WILL PASS CURATED BY VALERIA CEREGINI AT INTERFACE – GIAF

Inspired by Richard Long's **This Too Will Pass**; this exhibition explores the transient nature of life and the interconnectedness between humans and the Earth. Through the use of decay materials, the featured artists highlight the cycles of transformation in nature, emphasizing the fragility and resilience of the environment. The proverb Bíonn siúlach scéalach, meaning 'a walk is a story' reinforces the idea that each journey reveals new insights about the world. The exhibition encourages reflection on sustainability, urging us to adapt



to nature's rhythms and act with urgency to address environmental challenges, fostering a hopeful path toward a harmonious, sustainable future. The exhibition includes artwork by Thomas Brezing, Luke Casserly, Ceara Conway, Naomi Draper, Aisling Dunne, Richard Long, Darran McGlynn and Katherine Sankey. Exhibition open 12-6 daily, 13th - 27th July.

[THIS TOO WILL PASS AT INTERFACE](#)

CULTURE NIGHT

Save the date for Culture Night which will take place on Friday 19th September across our five Municipal Districts. Following an open call for Culture Night funding, 47 events have been awarded funding. We're working with all our wonderful event organisers, artists and

community groups to gather all the details over the coming months. The full programme will be published at the end of August.

The Arts Office has secured additional Culture Night Late funding to create an exciting event in partnership with Kylemore Abbey. It will blend soundscapes, choral music, light installations, and performance to reflect the ecology and cultural heritage of Conamara. The project will feature a diverse lineup of artists and community groups including Aoife Dunne, Alannah Robins, Cantairí Conamara, Jane Cassidy, Linda Schirmer and Youthreach Letterfrack. We are delighted to work with producers Culture Works to create this exciting Culture Night experience for County Galway audiences again this year.

KYLEMORE ABBEY, CULTURE NIGHT LATE



OUGHTERARD COURTHOUSE ARTS PROGRAMME – SUMMER SEASON

Sharon O’Grady, Galway County Arts Officer launched the OCAP summer season on June 13th with the opening of the annual uachtarArts group show, 'Lough Corrib, Our Legacy, Ár Crói'.

There have been three exhibitions of visual art set against the stunning backdrop of the Courthouse Gallery in Oughterard:

In June, 'Blas', a vibrant mother-and-daughter exhibition by Patricia Byrne and Niamh Daniels took place.

In July, 'Connacht Call Out', an exhibition resulting from an open call to all Connacht artists with a diverse display brimming with surprises and artistic flair was held.

'Conamara UnConstrained' by local artist Geraldine Folan, who is set to deliver an unforgettable experience will be held July 25th to August 4th.

[For more information click here](#)



ARTS OFFICER SHARON O'GRADY
WITH UACHTARARTS ARTISTS AT THE
LAUNCH OF THE OCAP SUMMER
SEASON

ÁRAS ÉANNA AUGUST ARTIST RESIDENCY

Congratulations to Olan Monk who has been awarded the Áras Éanna August Artist Residency. Olan will produce new writing, music and record performances in different sites around the island. They are keen to learn more about the singing traditions and instrumental music specific to Inis Oírr and Árainn and the musical and cultural exchanges of the islanders with the mainlands of Connemara and the Burren. Olan also plans to share a work-in-progress in collaboration with local and visiting musicians by developing a performance for Áras Éanna's theatre space while on residency.



OLAN MONK. PHOTO: FEDERICO OM

GALWAY CITY OF FILM/ CEANTAR SCANNÁN & WRAP FUND AT GALWAY FILM FLEADH

David McDonagh and Kimberly Gray Ennis are two filmmakers that have been supported by the Arts Office through our Galway City of Film programmes in recent years. David and Kimberly were selected by Galway Film Fleadh to screen their latest short films.

Jane's a Junkie by David McDonagh.

This short film shares the story of a recently released criminal who jeopardises the safety of a female addict, and the livelihood of a small-town drug dealer. David was the 2021 recipient of our Misleór Short Documentary Bursary and is based in Tuam.

[Fís an Iarthair](#) – 12:00, Wednesday 09 July at Town Hall Theatre.

Caoineadh by Kimberly Gray Ennis.

This short documentary, set in South Connemara is a lyrical exploration of grief, a reclamation of our ancestral practice of keening. Kimberly was the 2024 recipient of our Ceantar Scannán Short Documentary Bursary.

[Irish Documentaries 1](#) - 12:00, Thursday 10 July at Town Hall Theatre.

Also programmed in this year's Galway Film Fleadh:

Reality Check by 'Team Allsorts'.

This short horror film was made as part of the 2024 Little Cinema/ Galway City of Film 48 Hour Challenge. Filmed in Athenry over a weekend last August.

[Fís an Iarthair](#) – 12:00, Wednesday 09 July at Town Hall Theatre.

WRAP Fund Supported Screenings & Events at Galway Film Fleadh.

In partnership with Screen Producers Ireland the WRAP Commission showcased Connemara's stunning locations as well as local companies and institutions such as TG4 to a delegation from the Canadian Media Producers Association (CMPA) on a FAM Tour around Galway County.

WRAP participated in The Film Office AGM by Fís Éireann/Screen Ireland on Friday, 11th July. The event featured presentations on tourism, tax incentives, funding, and training, plus a private networking session for film officers – concluding with a workshop on the impact of regional film productions.

On the return leg of the [Bradford-West of Ireland Screen Producer Exchange](#), our visitors from Bradford were in Galway to connect with Irish producers, take part in the Galway FAM tour, and attend Fleadh events and screenings.

WRAP also took meetings at the [Film Fair](#) Marketplace and saw the best in new Irish and International film and talents.

WRAP Executive Gar O'Brien-Collins hosted the annual [Pitching Competition](#) on Sunday, July 13th. Ten finalists were selected for the event sponsored by Wild Atlantic Pictures – to pitch in front of an audience and a panel of judges.



WRAP PANEL AT GALWAY FILM
FLEADH 2024

CREATIVE IRELAND

Drawdown of the Cruinniú na nÓg payments is at an end with recoupment occurring in mid-July. Valerie Kelly, Creative Communities Engagement Officer attended a post-Cruinniú de-brief meeting in Dublin on July 16th where she presented to a gathering of Local Authority and Creative Ireland staff on building programmes in hard-to-reach areas, specifically focusing on Galway County Council's success on the Aran Islands.

Outside of Cruinniú na nÓg, there are a number of Open Call projects currently concluding, as well as a Creative Health and Wellbeing project which has just begun. Details are below.

CUAN BEO – SHARING THE OYSTER

Sharing the Oyster celebrated and nurtured marine and freshwater health by bringing together older generations from oyster fishing villages and school children. Through storytelling, archaeology, and art, *Sharing the Oyster* connected participants to the rich cultural and ecological heritage of oysters, fostering a shared sense of responsibility for the environment.

The project has involved a visit to a shell midden accompanied by an archaeologist to help understand the meaning of these sites as well as intergenerational storytelling where older members of the community spoke to school children about their experiences with fishing throughout their lives. A key creative component of *Sharing the Oyster* is the collaborative creation of a modern-day shell midden using clay. Working under the guidance of a professional artist, Claire McLaughlin, the older and younger participants are together crafting individual clay shells carrying a personal wish or message for the health of the environment. These wishes are being inscribed onto the clay, blending creativity with heartfelt intentions for the planet. This project is ongoing, and we are very excited to see the finished product.



LIVING, CREATING AND LEARNING WORKSHOPS AT GALWAY'S LIVING BOG



Over the past several weeks, Galway's Living Bog has been running a variety of creative workshops inspired by the bog, its wildlife, and biodiversity. These workshops have been incredibly popular and have drawn attendance from a broad spectrum of the community in Mountbellew.



MUSIC IN THE AFTERNOONS

Earlier this year, Galway County Council were successful in securing **€25,000** of additional funding to run a series of live music performances in residential healthcare settings as part of Creative Ireland's *Creative Health & Wellbeing* pillar. The first of these concerts have begun in Inis Mór and Clifden, with upcoming sessions in Carna and Ballinasloe, as well as three sites in the city. Residents, performers, and staff alike have all responded incredibly positively to the concerts, citing the benefits of live music for elderly residents in combating loneliness and helping to raise morale. At the session on Inis Mór last Monday there were several residents who sang songs, put in requests, and enjoyed the original compositions *as Gaeilge* from local singer-songwriter Pádraig Jack. This is the third year that Galway County Council has delivered this project in partnership with Galway Music Residency.

GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

MID-SUMMER FESTIVAL



Galway Sports Partnership took part in the Ballinasloe Multicultural Midsummer Festival on June 21st, supporting the “Give it a Go” sports zone. The event promoted inclusivity and active living, offering taster sessions in rugby, cricket, GAA, badminton, and more.

The festival also featured a family fun run, emergency services display, circus workshops, and multicultural performances. Galway Sports

Partnership's involvement helped highlight the importance of sport in building community connections and encouraging participation across all ages and backgrounds.

The event was a collaborative success, involving multiple community stakeholders including Ballinasloe Lions Club, SICAP Galway Rural Development, Ballinasloe Credit Union, Involve Youth Services, and several local schools.

NATIONAL PLAY DAY

Galway Sports Partnership hosted a National Play Day Event on 5th July at Tuam Palace Grounds to celebrate PLAY! This year's theme was “The Power of Play” and it was shown in abundance on the day with fun and laughter across the Palace Grounds. There was something for everyone on the day with a Sensory Area, Galway Community Circus, Gliondar, Drumadore, Ace High Cheerleading, Basketball, Orienteering, Tennis, Tug of War and fun games.





As part of National Play Day Galway Sports Partnership also delivered Play Packs to Family Resource Centres in Gort, Headford, Loughrea and Oughterard. These play packs will be given to vulnerable children currently supported by the Family Resource Centres.

INCLUSIVE TRIATHLON



On Wednesday, 17th July, the spirit of inclusion and community shone brightly at the 4th Annual Inclusive Triathlon, hosted in partnership by Galway Sports Partnership, Triathlon Ireland, and Brothers of Charity. The event welcomed over 80 enthusiastic participants with intellectual disabilities, each taking part in a fun and supportive triathlon experience.

The triathlon featured three accessible stages—swimming, biking or triking, and running or walking—designed to ensure that everyone, regardless of ability, could participate and enjoy the thrill of the event. The atmosphere was electric, filled with cheers from families, friends, volunteers, and supporters who lined the course to celebrate every achievement.

This initiative, which began in 2022, continues to grow in strength and impact, offering individuals with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to engage in physical activity, build confidence, and experience the joy of sport in a safe and inclusive environment.

HER OUTDOORS WEEK

2025 will be the fifth year of Sport Ireland's HER Outdoors week from 11th to 17th August 2025. Galway Sports Partnership is excited to highlight some fabulous outdoor activities, showcasing Galway's coastal and mountain landscapes. The initiative aims to encourage more females to participate in outdoor activities and highlights the importance of outdoor



recreation for physical and mental health, social inclusion, nature connectedness, environmental awareness, and community cohesion.

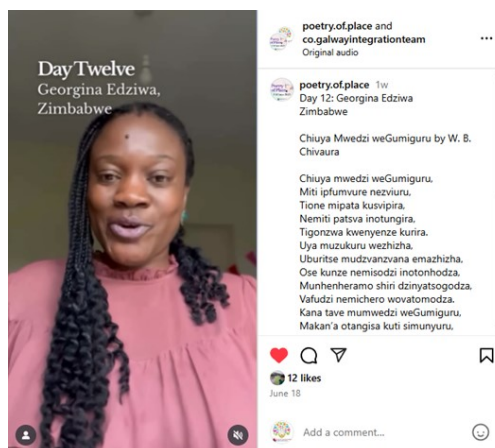
This year's focus extended to recognising those who deliver, volunteer, coach, educate, and instruct in clubs and the outdoor industry in Galway, with many female-owned and run businesses involved. Galway Sports Partnership collaborated with clubs and education centres with strong female representation. We have Kayaking, Orienteering, Coasteering, Dip and Saunas, Introduction to Open Water Swimming, Mountain Skills Courses and much more so make sure to check out all we have to offer on our website and social media as you do not want to miss out!

INTEGRATION

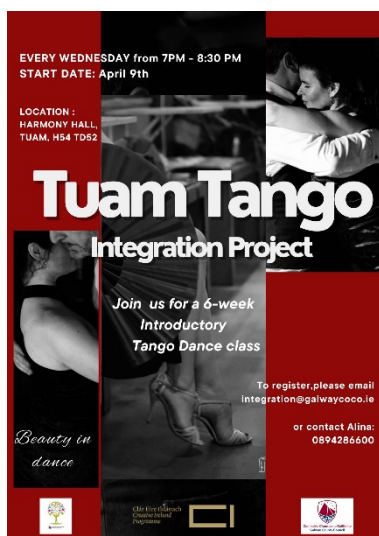
The Integration Team have been busy rolling out the One Million Stars Programme in Ballinasloe and Clifden. A display was left in Ballinasloe Library.

A Ukrainian dance instructor led Tango classes in Tuam in collaboration with Creative Ireland.

For World Refugee Week, the team worked with migrants and local poets to publish readings of international poems on Instagram. The event featured in the Irish Independent and on Galway



Bay FM.



In addition, the Integration team have continued to provide ongoing information clinics to Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection, International Protection Applicants and Persons with Status across the County.



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP: BRAZILIAN JOURNALISTS VISIT GORT

On the 17th July, as part of Ireland and Brazil's 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations, Gort welcomed a delegation of Brazilian journalists, accompanied by Maurice Nolan from the Embassy of Ireland in Brasília. The visit celebrated the town's strong Brazilian ties and vibrant multicultural identity.

The morning began with a welcome from the Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District, followed by a presentation at the Gort Resource Centre on the Brazilian community's history. Guests enjoyed a cultural showcase at the Hidden Gem Café, featuring live music and a reading from Lady Gregory's works.

A guided town walk highlighted Gort's heritage, concluding with lunch at the Brazilian-owned café "Cake by Passion." The visit wrapped up with the group's departure for the Cliffs of Moher, marking a successful day of cultural exchange and strengthened international friendship.

TOURISM

GERMAN TRADE EVENT 2025

The JTF Activator represented Galway County Council at the German Trade Event in Bonn last Thursday.

It was a fantastic opportunity to directly promote Co. Galway to the German travel trade and showcase the unique experiences on offer as part of Ireland's Hidden Heartlands. The activator was joined by three wonderful representatives from East Galway — Ahascragh Distillery, Portumna Workhouse, and Brackloon Castle — all offering authentic and memorable visitor experiences.

County Galway offers access to both the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, this really impressed the attending travel agents. The event also featured a taste of Ireland through the incredible local food showcased by Good Food Ireland.

This was a hugely successful event with valuable connections made. We look forward to welcoming more visitors from Germany to County Galway — especially via the direct route from Cologne to Ireland West Airport.



L-R: - EOGHAN O' REILLY, MANAGER OF AHASCRAUGH DISTILLERY, LORETTA RAFTERY, JTF ACTIVATOR GCC, DONAL BURKE, MANAGER OF PORTUMNA WORKHOUSE, ALISON HARNETT, OWNER OF BRACKLOON CASTLE.

GROUP PHOTO OF ALL LOCAL AUTHORITY
OFFICIALS AND BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES FROM
IRELAND



GROUP PHOTO OF ALL LOCAL AUTHORITY
OFFICIALS WITH CLODAGH CRONOLLY (IRELAND
WEST AIRPORT)

ITALY TRADE EVENT 2025

This networking event was held in Identità Golose Milan. There was approximately 50 Italian Trade and Tour Operators attended the event.



Representatives from Kylemore Abbey and Costa Gaelach Chonamara introduced County Galway. There was good awareness of Galway County - Connemara, Aran Islands and East Galway amongst the operators.

It was a speed dating format for the networking which meant the trade got to meet quite a few operators. Food /Drink experiences and historical/cultural themes were popular with the Italians. Good Food Ireland had a display showcasing Irish food and there was more opportunity to

network with the Italian operators as they enjoyed a taste of the West.

This is another successful event with valuable connections that will encourage further tourism for County Galway via the direct route from Milan to Ireland West Airport.

GROUP PHOTO OF ALL LOCAL AUTHORITY OFFICIALS AND BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES FROM IRELAND



MS. PAULA NI LOIDEAIN, COSTA GAELEACH
CHONAMARA AGUS ARAINN, MS. MARY O'
CONNOR, TOURISM IRELAND, WITH TWO
ITALIAN TOURISM OPERATORS

SLOWDOWN INTERREG PROJECT

Galway County Council is proud to participate in the Slowdown Interreg project, which promotes sustainable and immersive tourism across Europe. Our recent visit to Sibiu, Romania, was a valuable opportunity to exchange knowledge and best practices with our European partners. The visit highlighted the importance of community involvement and the preservation of cultural heritage in fostering sustainable tourism. We were particularly impressed by Sibiu's innovative approaches to promoting local gastronomy and traditional crafts, which align closely with our own goals for the Galway region. This collaboration not only strengthens our commitment to sustainable tourism but also enhances our regional development strategies, ensuring that we continue to support local communities and protect our natural and cultural assets.



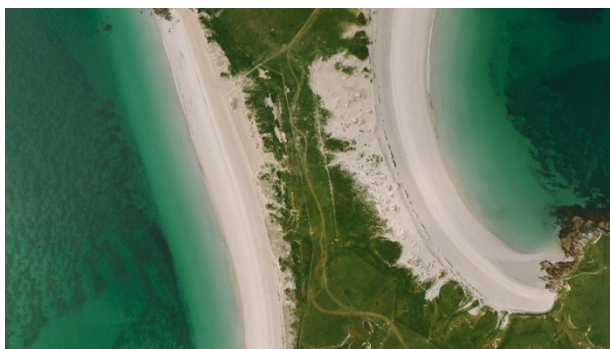
VISIT TO HISTORICAL VILLAGES



GALWAY STAFF EXCHANGE DELEGATION

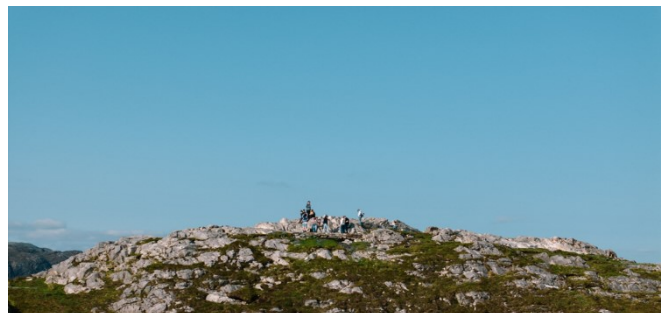
VIDEO FOR CONNEMARA GREENWAY

Development of a promotional video for the Connemara Greenway is at draft stage with a



significant amount of work already completed, final production is expected soon. The video is aimed at showcasing the wide range of attractions and experiences that Connemara has to offer, while also encouraging greater public use of the Greenway itself.

This project has been supported through funding sought through the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)



DESTINATION EXPERIENCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Destination and Experience Development Plan (DEDP) for East Galway, is currently in progress as part of Ireland's Hidden Heartlands Regional Tourism Development Strategy. This five-year plan, supported by Failte Ireland and Galway County Council, aims to unlock the commercial potential of the area in a sustainable and strategic manner.

As a key outcome of the East Galway Networking Event was a request for an East Galway Visitor Map. This map will highlight the region's diverse tourism offerings and will be a valuable tool for visitors and locals alike.

The Tourism Department in Galway County Council will be leading the design and production of the East Galway Visitor Map.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

DOG FOULING

“If They Poop — You Scoop!”

Galway County Council would like to remind all dog owners: cleaning up after your dog isn't just polite — it's your responsibility.

Dog poo isn't just smelly and unpleasant — it can carry harmful parasites that can cause serious illness or even sight loss.

Nobody wants it on their shoes, in our parks, or stuck to buggies and wheelchairs. And no, rain doesn't make it disappear — it just helps it pollute our water.

So, let's keep Galway clean and safe for everyone.

If they Poop — you scoop!

Galway County Council are currently running an advert on Galway Bay FM as part of our Anti- Dog Fouling campaign.

The Council are also supporting the Leave No Trace campaign financially, and with a social media campaign calling on everyone to enjoy nature but to be careful while walking or in charge of dogs.



ANTI-LITTER AWARENESS

Galway County Council are supporting my Waste Anti-Litter summer campaign with ongoing social media campaign using bilingual assets provided.



ILLEGAL DUMPING AWARENESS

Dumping continues to occur at several Bring Bank sites throughout the county. Several initiatives have been put in place to highlight this and to encourage users to use the bring banks correctly and to keep the Bring Bank area Litter Free.



These include:

1. Regular social media posts with images of illegal dumping and messaging to respect the service.
2. Adverts in Connacht Tribune, Galway Advertiser, and Tuam Herald to highlight the issue of illegal dumping at bringbank locations and to encourage users to ensure that they use the service responsibly.
3. VMS installed at the Bringbanks in Tuam asking the users of the service to use the amenity responsibly and to report incidences of illegal dumping to the Council's Environment Section.
4. Galway County Council's Community Warden service have commenced carrying out of hours monitoring of bringbanks at sites where incidences of illegal dumping has been reported.
5. Messaging on Website:

ILLEGAL DUMPING AT BRINGBANKS - PLEASE RESPECT THIS SERVICE

Bring Banks and Household Textile banks are a very important resource in helping Galway County do its part for the environment. Unfortunately, we are seeing an increase in illegal dumping at these locations across the county of late and we appeal to all users of the banks not to abuse these facilities by leaving rubbish or waste at them.

There is particular pressure on the textile bank service at present and we continue to see misuse of the service with unsuitable bulky items being regularly placed in these banks blocking the chute mechanism or dumped beside them. Often the Council area staff find that banks are not near full capacity but blocked due to the type of waste inserted into them.

Littering is an offence under the Litter Pollution Act and liable to an on-the-spot fine of €150 and/or prosecution. Please bring your bags/boxes home with you and reuse them again.

Bring Bank sites across the county will continue to be monitored by Galway County Council mobile patrols in an effort to catch businesses or individuals who are dumping at these sites.

Even when banks are full, it is illegal to leave your items beside the bank - go to another site or return when the banks have been emptied.

If any bring bank is full please contact Galway County Council on 091-509510 or environment@galwaycoco.ie

ANTI-LITTER AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

Students from St. Joseph's NS, Kinvara, along with representatives from An Taisce Clean Coasts, Galway County Council and Galway Atlantaquaria recently became Anti-Litter Ambassadors. Under this initiative Anti-Litter Ambassadors commit not to litter and to support the numerous anti-litter initiatives supported by Galway County Council, including National Spring Clean, the Gum Litter campaign, dog fouling campaign and the Picker Pals programme.



DOG CONTROL

782 dog licenses were purchased during the month of June with 554 of those purchased at the local post office. Dog licensing campaigns were carried out in conjunction with the Community Warden Service in the following areas of the county; Turloughmore, Athenry town, Loughrea and Clifden.

1 fixed penalty notice was issued during the month of May for an offence under the Control of Dogs Act 1986 As Amended. 37 fines have been issued under the Act year to date. Of these fines, 14 have been paid in full, with 8 partially paid with the dog owners having entered a payment plan in respect of same. 1 file sent to Law Agents for prosecution under the Act for failure to pay a fixed penalty notice. The other fines issues are being processed through the system.

WATER QUALITY AND ENFORCEMENT

AGRICULTURAL INSPECTIONS

Galway County Council, with LAWPRO (Local Authority Waters Programme) and four other local Authorities, were selected to complete pilot inspections regarding farmers importing organic materials such as cattle slurry and farmyard manure. The new rules came into effect in 2025 and are aimed at combating the issues of slurry moving 'on paper' only. These inspections are to validate that manure is being moved as per notifications to the Department of Agriculture. Going forward, all local authorities will have to verify a percentage of slurry movements, with boots on the ground inspections. This will check to see the material is spread on fields of the importing farm as per notifications.

These types of movements are used by exporting farmers to remain within stocking limits and the exporting of these manures is to reduce pressures on water quality. Issues were identified on 3 farms inspected in June and feedback will be forwarded to LAWPRO and DAFM of the issues.

Galway County Council representatives attended two IFFPG (Irish farm film producers' group) collection dates in June. The aim of the inspections was to check compliance with the scheme and to verify that farmers were able to produce receipts for proof of purchase of plastic purchased with the recycling levy included. The contractor who organises the collection days carries out a clean up after the event within 2km of the centre to collect any lost plastic on public roads. Farmers were advised on the collection days of unsecured loads and to secure loads going forward to prevent material being lost.

Two staff from the water quality team are on the working group of the NAIP "National Agriculture Inspections Programme" and have provided feedback on proposed amendments to the Sewage Sludge and Good Agricultural Practice Regulations. GCC also attended a working group meeting in June regarding updates to storage requirements for livestock which will be used for NAIP farm inspections going forward.

A practical day was held in Gurteen College, Co. Tipperary, on the 18th of June. This was the final stage of a multi-day training program for Local Authority Farm Inspectors who carry out farm inspections under the National Agricultural Inspection Programme (NAIP). This day allowed novice inspectors to put the theory training into practice while in the company of many highly experienced inspectors. Prior to the practical day at Gurteen College, there was a two-day classroom-based theory stage and a follow up webinar which covered the relevant legislation, NAIP guidelines, common farm non-compliances and appropriate enforcement actions, including when to cross-report to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), and an introduction to the EPA farm storage calculator tool.



TRAILING SHOE SPREADER

DRIBBLE BAR SPREADER





Galway County Council attended court on the 22nd of June regarding a farm inspection conducted in 2023. The farmer was convicted in March 2025 but has not carried out works to stop the discharge of effluent to an open drain as well as to remove farm waste within the timeframe of the court order. The case is listed for hearing again in July.

SEPTIC TANK INSPECTIONS

30 inspections were carried out under the National Inspection Plan (NIP) within the Kilchreest river waterbody in June 2025. This region was targeted for inspections due to the dense concentration of households located in Zone 2, where bedrock is at or near surface, leading to elevated risks to Human Health through with contamination of groundwater wells. A compliance rate of 50% was achieved, with Advisory Notices issued to the non-compliant households.

7 open advisory notices were closed following verification inspections in June. 2 of these were west of the county (An Spidéal & Maigh Cuilinn) with the remainder east of the county, 1 near Clarinbridge and rest in Ballinasloe area.

CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

Staff attended online at the annual EPA Water conference on the 11th and 12th of June. Some of the presentations are listed below:

- Implementing the Water Action Plan, Policy challenges and opportunities
- Tracking action – a new approach for water
- Peatlands water quality benefits from the enhanced decommissioning, rehabilitation and restoration scheme
- Better farming for water campaign
- Behavioural insights – ASSAP water quality measure uptake

A meeting was held in relation to an application for a wastewater discharge to surface waters. The applicant will be required to complete a hydrological assessment to show that the discharge will comply with the Surface Water Regulations. A screening for Appropriate Assessment will also be required.

BATHING WATERS

A temporary bathing prohibition notice for East End Beach, Inishboffin was lifted on the 6th June after a water re-sample showed bacteriological levels were at compliant levels again.

As part of the blue flag programme, the Environment Section hosted a Seashore Event



on Wednesday 11th June 2025. Tara Noonan from the Galway Atlantaquaria brought the local pre-schoolers to the Old Pier, Traught

and the pupils from St Joseph's National School, Kinvara to Traught beach on an exciting adventure which included a Seashore Bio blitz and a Scavenger Hunt. The event at Traught beach concluded with a beach clean by Ollie O'Flaherty, Clean Coasts and our Community Wardens. This event connected the local school children with nature and promoted the rich biodiversity of the beach and its crystal-clear waters.

Waste Management AND ENFORCEMENT

5 litter fines issued by our Community Warden Services for offences under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 As Amended. 35 Litter fines issued year to date with 13 fines paid in full and 7 referred to the Law Agent to commence legal proceedings for non-payment of fines. A further 10 cases are still being processed through the system.

LIBRARY SERVICES

SUMMER AT THE LIBRARY: A SEASON OF CREATIVITY, LEARNING, & BELONGING

This summer, libraries have been alive with the sounds of storytelling, laughter, and creativity as people of all ages engaged in a wide range of enriching activities. From inclusive craft workshops and sensory experiences to music sessions and themed events, libraries have offered welcoming spaces where individuals could explore, learn, and connect.

Children participating in summer programmes enjoyed hands-on activities such as making windchimes, paper birds, clay sea creatures, and decorated stones—many of which now adorn library spaces, giving young creators a lasting sense of pride and belonging. Art workshops, including glass painting sessions, allowed children to contribute to community exhibitions tied to larger arts festivals, reinforcing the role of libraries as cultural hubs.

The Summer Stars initiative brought added excitement with themed events like Harry Potter-inspired workshops and storytelling sessions under the stars. Weekly rhyme time sessions continued to be a highlight for younger children and their caregivers, fostering early literacy and social interaction.

Libraries also offered a rich programme for adults and older generations. Weekly music sessions, including sing-alongs and rhyme time, provided opportunities for parents, grandparents, and toddlers to bond through shared musical experiences. Creative workshops, poetry readings, and bilingual storytimes welcomed intergenerational participation, while sensory resources such as interactive tables supported inclusive engagement for adults and children with additional needs.

Innovative events also made their mark, including a poetry reading where an AI-generated voice of a literary icon brought a modern twist to a traditional celebration. Puppet shows, author visits, and community art installations added to the vibrant mix of offerings.

Throughout the summer, libraries have demonstrated their vital role in supporting creativity, connection, and lifelong learning—making them essential spaces for joyful engagement across all ages.



DRIVING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION: GALWAY AND ESTONIAN LIBRARIES COLLABORATE UNDER ERASMUS 2025

Galway Public Libraries have successfully secured funding through the Erasmus Programme 2025 for a collaborative initiative with Estonian Libraries. This partnership is centered on the implementation of the EU Digital Strategy, examining its influence on library services and fostering cultural programming that promotes and celebrates native languages.

Estonia, recognized as a frontrunner in the digitalization of public services, plays a leading role in advancing the EU's digital strategic goals. Earlier this month, Galway Libraries hosted a delegation from the National Library of Estonia, whose focus was on cultural programming. Their visit included discussions on environmental and climate-related initiatives, the formation of strategic partnerships with academic institutions, and the use of local history to cultivate and celebrate cultural identity.

The second phase of this initiative will take place in September, when a further Estonian delegation will visit Galway. During this phase, public librarians will participate in a week-long programme dedicated to exploring youth engagement, creative cultural development, and civic empowerment through language



LIBRARY STAFF MEETING WITH NATIONAL LIBRARY OF ESTONIA REPRESENTATIVES

RIGHT TO READ

SUMMER STARS LAUNCH



Summer Stars launched on Saturday 14th June in Ballinasloe Library, with Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Martina Kinane.

Summer Stars is a free national programme that encourages children to read for fun during the school holidays. Whether it's picture books, graphic novels, or audiobooks, every child can take part and enjoy reading at their own pace.

Children can sign up while visiting their local library, and they'll receive a Summer Stars bag, activity book and seeded bookmark on registration. They can set their own reading goals and will receive a certificate of participation from the library at the end of the summer. Over 2,100 children have joined the challenge in Galway libraries so far this summer.

As part of the initiative, Galway Public Libraries will host a wide range of events and activities, including story times, workshops, farm safety talks, and more. We are also inviting children aged 8-12 to take part in a poetry competition on the theme of nature, with prizes awarded to winners in each municipal district. Entry forms are available at your local library.



L-R: MS. RUTH BROWNE AND MS. BRÍD GREHAN OF GALWAY PUBLIC LIBRARIES, WITH CATHAOIRLEACH OF THE COUNTY OF GALWAY, CLLR. MARTINA KINANE AND MS. ELIZABETH KEANE, COUNTY AND CITY LIBRARIAN

CRINNIÚ NA NÓG

Cruinniú na nÓg 2025 was successfully celebrated across the libraries in County Galway, featuring a vibrant programme of free creative workshops for children and young people. This initiative fostered artistic exploration in welcoming community spaces, led by skilled facilitators and library staff, and warmly supported by local families. This year's programme was funded by Creative Ireland County and their support is greatly appreciated.

All sessions reached full capacity, reflecting strong community engagement and a growing demand for creative opportunities. A diverse range of artistic disciplines provided enriching, imaginative experiences for participants.

Highlights by Library Branch are as follows:

BALLINASLOE LIBRARY



Kids' Cooking Workshops with Deirdre Doyle of Cool Food School Children made apple donuts with cream cheese frosting and explored multisensory elements like popping seeds and apple slicing.

CLIFDEN LIBRARY

Chess for Children led by library staff

Storytime with Musical Instruments by Lynn Saoirse of Ceol Na Mara. A dynamic blend of rhythm, music, and imaginative narration.



LOUGHREA LIBRARY

Bookmark Design Workshop with Serena Molloy. Participants explored poetry and illustration.

ORANMORE LIBRARY

Origami Workshop with artist Tom Cuffe. Engaging hands-on paper-folding experience.

PORTUMNA LIBRARY

Origami Workshop with artist Tom Cuffe

Paper Folding & Book Art Workshop with Hayley Aldous. Two sessions focused on tactile crafting and handmade book creation.

LEABHARLANN AN SPIDÉIL

Yoga trí Ghaeilge do leanaí . Bhí spórt agus spraoi ag na páistí.



HEALTHY IRELAND

Healthy Ireland at Your Library in collaboration with the HSE hosted a hybrid event on the topic of 'Retirement Reimagined'. The presentation was available online and to a live audience. The venue for the event was Porter Shed a Dó, Market Street, Galway and there were three keynote speakers. Professor Brian Hughes, University of Galway, spoke about the psychosocial aspects of retirement. Pat McMahon, former County and City Librarian and Keith Finnegan, former CE and broadcaster with Galway Bay FM, spoke about their personal journey to retirement. The event was well attended both online and in person, and a recording is available on Galway Public Libraries' social media.



L-R: MR. LAURENCE GAUGHAN, HSE, MR. PAT MCMAHON, RETIRED GALWAY COUNTY & CITY LIBRARIAN, MS. SIOBHÁN ARKINS & MS. COLETTE DEMPSEY, GALWAY PUBLIC LIBRARIES, PROFESSOR BRIAN HUGHES, UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY, MR. KEITH FINNEGAN, FORMER CE AND BROADCASTER WITH GALWAY BAY FM

The latest addition of stock for the Healthy Ireland at Your Library collection arrived in library HQ for processing. This health and wellness collection is chosen by experts and is available to borrow from every library branch in the county. The collection contains over 260 titles for adults, teenagers, and children.



HEALTHY IRELAND – NEW BOOK STOCK

ACQUISITIONS

The acquisitions team have been busy buying and processing new stock in time for our children's reading programme, Summer Stars. Most of the purchasing is done via our suppliers' websites, however there's nothing like being able to leaf through a book before you buy it, so library staff recently travelled to IES booksellers in Kildare to top up our children's fiction and visited O'Mahony's bookshop in Limerick to check out the adult non-fiction selection there.

The new stock has been arriving in library HQ, so we've been busy unboxing it, processing it and getting it out to branches for our readers. The deliveries have included large print adult fiction and non-fiction, leabhair Gaeilge and manga for teens.



LEABHAIR GAEILGE



LIBRARY STAFF AISLING NOONAN AND SHARLEEN MCANDREW VISITING O'MAHONY'S IN LIMERICK

NEW LARGE PRINT FICTION



NEW CHILDREN'S STOCK.

SCHOOLS' LIBRARY SERVICE

GROW YOUR IMAGINATION SCHOOLS PROJECT (APRIL – JUNE)

The Schools Library Service successfully hosted two engaging and educational events for 3rd class pupils from local schools. This nature-themed project began in April in Dunmore and Portumna libraries. The sessions began with a talk and readings by popular children's author Mary Murphy. Following the storytelling, the children took part in a hands-on planting activity. They sowed a variety of flowers and vegetables, including lettuce, leeks, celery, and

radishes. Herbs such as parsley, mint, and rosemary were also planted, along with strawberries and sunflowers, bringing a burst of life and colour to the library spaces and introducing children to basic gardening skills.

Each child received a custom menu card featuring simple, tasty recipes using the herbs and vegetables they planted. They also took home packets of wildflower seeds, sunflower seeds, and pea seeds—encouraging them to continue growing both at school and at home.

In early June a special story time session with library staff focused on themes of biodiversity, planting, and gardening. Children enjoyed stories, a themed crossword, and a word search—all designed to spark their imaginations and deepen their connection to nature. Harvesting the veggies and herbs began and the children were delighted to see how quickly all the plants had grown and blossomed and were happy heading back to the classroom with all their own fresh produce.

Before the schools closed in June for their summer break, local artist Maria Hitchcox led creative workshops where children crafted beautiful eco-friendly crafts. Using twigs, sticks, flowers, leaves, seeds, and wooden beads, the children created colourful suncatchers that can be hung in windows to catch the sunlight—or placed in gardens to naturally reseed when no longer needed indoors.

Overall, 52 children took part in the project. These events successfully combined storytelling, literacy, creativity, and environmental awareness. They transformed the libraries into lively, colourful welcoming spaces and fostered a deeper connection with nature. The Schools Library Service is proud to have delivered such a meaningful and memorable experience for local school children, kindly funded by Creative Ireland.

2024/2025 ACADEMIC YEAR

As the Schools Library service takes its summer break, the following figures for the academic year have been collated

School visits	274
Books issued	27,349
Books returned	27,671
Class novel sets issued	333



GROW YOUR IMAGINATION PROJECT IN DUNMORE



GROW YOUR IMAGINATION IN PORTUMNA

LOUGHREA LIBRARY

Between Tuesday 10th June and Wednesday 25th June, a total of **138 children** from local schools visited the library as part of their class outings:

St. Ita's National School

- 5th Class (C) – 20 children
- 5th Class (R) – 20 children
- 4th Class – 20 children
- Junior Infants – 35 children

St. Brendan's Boys National School:

- Both 5th Classes – 43 children

These visits are a vital part of fostering a love of reading and learning from an early age. School trips to the library not only introduce children to the wide range of books and resources available, but also help them develop essential literacy skills, curiosity, and a sense of community. They provide a welcoming space where young minds can explore, imagine, and grow.





CELEBRATING EARLY LEARNING AT THE LOUGHREA LIBRARY

The library recently hosted two joyful events that highlighted the importance of early learning through play and creativity:

TODDLER STORYTIME & PLAY-DOH FUN

 *Thursday 3rd July, 12:00–12:45pm*

 *37 children and parents attended*

This lively session combined storytelling with hands-on Play-Doh play, encouraging toddlers to explore language, imagination, and fine motor skills in a fun, social setting. Events like this help to build early literacy and foster a love of books from the very beginning.

LEGO FREE PLAY DAY

 *Saturday 28th June*

 *Approximately 35 children participated*

Children of all ages enjoyed open-ended play with LEGO bricks, sparking creativity, problem-

solving, and collaboration. Free play is a powerful tool for learning, helping children develop spatial awareness, patience, and confidence.

These events are part of the library's ongoing commitment to supporting early childhood development through engaging, educational, and inclusive programming. By creating welcoming spaces for families to learn and play together, the library plays a vital role in nurturing young minds.

PORTUMNA LIBRARY

A WELCOMING SPACE FOR ALL: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS MONTH AT THE LIBRARY

The library continues to be a hub of creativity, conversation, and community for people of all ages and interests. Here are some highlights from this month's engaging and inclusive programming:

-  **1000-Piece Jigsaw Corner**
On display throughout the month, this collaborative puzzle proved to be a big hit with visitors of all ages. It offered a relaxing, screen-free activity that encouraged casual conversation and cooperation among patrons.
-  **Ciorcal Comhrá agus Cupán Tae**
Our weekly Irish language circle continues to thrive, offering a friendly space for people to practice their cúpla focal over a cup of tea. Whether fluent or just beginning, all are welcome to join in this celebration of Irish culture and conversation.
-  **Monthly Book Club**
This month's book club meeting brought together **12 passionate readers** to discuss the latest title. The group shared insights, laughter, and lively debate—reminding us of the joy and connection that reading can bring.

These activities reflect the library's commitment to being a **welcoming, age-friendly, and culturally rich space** where everyone can find something to enjoy. Whether you're puzzling, chatting, or reading, there's always something happening at your library.

SUMMER STARS SHINE BRIGHT AT THE LIBRARY!

The library has been buzzing with excitement as part of our Children's Events and Summer Stars programme, offering fun, creativity, and learning for young readers during the summer months.

Storytime with Portumna N.S.

A special storytime session was held for 3rd class of Portumna National School, hosted by Gaby from the school's Library Service. 30 children and their teachers enjoyed a lively reading session that sparked imagination and a love for books.

Lego Freeplay, Puzzle Time & Board Games

These drop-in activities have been a hit with children of all ages, encouraging creativity, problem-solving, and social interaction in a relaxed and playful environment.

Portumna N.S. Summer Camp Visit

 25th June

Children attending the school's summer camp enjoyed a fun-filled visit to the library, exploring books and games as part of their summer adventures.

Kilbaron N.S. Visit

 3rd July

Another enthusiastic group of young learners from Kilbaron National School visited the library, taking part in activities that support literacy and a lifelong love of reading.



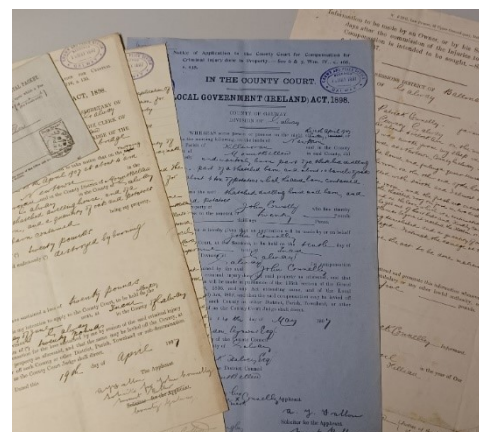
These events are part of our commitment to making the library a vibrant, welcoming space for children during the summer holidays. Through storytelling, play, and exploration, we're helping young minds grow and shine.

ARCHIVES

Galway County Council Archives processed (cleaned, listed & arranged) a small but interesting collection of Court material dating from c. 1907 to 1920 (GC/C).

It includes applications for Compensation for Criminal Injury to Property, ranging from the destruction of crops, livestock and buildings. An application for compensation following the destruction of a thatched house and crops, includes for instance an affidavit from Patrick Connelly, Newtown, Mountbellew Co. Galway, a farmer's son, who stated that at 4 am

'I awoke from my sleep in an almost unconscious state, in my father's house at Newtown, County Galway. I occupy a room by myself in the lower end of the house and feeling a queer sensation I called out to my mother, who occupies the room on the other end of the house, and when she entered my room, it was filled with smoke and I almost suffocated. My mother helped me out of the room, and the fresh air outside revived me....' (1907, GC/C/1/47).



For more details see the online [catalogue](#).

Music Generation continues to support local parents and toddlers with their sing-a-long sessions each Wednesday. In the last few weeks this group has grown steadily with approximately 23 parents/grandparents and 30 children now attending.

The Brothers of Charity local Day Care centres and supported houses attend the library at least twice a week to use our Sensory Tower Tafel Table. Many of the users, adults and children, are wheelchair users.

On Saturday the 14th of June one of our local second level schools, Galway Community College, availed of a quiet corner in the library and the use of our whiteboard to give extra tuition to local students undertaking their Leaving Certificate in Biology.

SCHOOL VISITS WITH STORYTELLING BY LIBRARY STAFF

In June 182 children from Renmore school visited the library in their class groups and each group was entertained by staff storytelling sessions.

Four ASD classes from Renmore and Mervue schools visited the library this month comprising approximately 20 children in all.



Ballybane library works with the local schools to provide a safe space for the Summer Provision camps. This June and early summer we hosted 160 children and their teachers and support workers. Library staff read stories and had lively discussions with the children.

For the purposes of promoting the themes of Summer Stars children enjoyed various craft making workshops in the Maker Space and

created windchimes, paper birds, insects, clay sea creatures, butterflies and decorated stones with life affirming messages.

Many of the children donated their completed works of art to decorate our Library Book Tree.





This means that each of these children will have a permanent footprint in their local library, and this gives them a sense of belonging and ownership.

CREATIVE IRELAND

On Saturday 28th of June Julie Ann de Brun facilitated a successful bilingual Storytime and this was attended by 60 parents and children.



On Thursday July 3rd Puppeteer Jay Ryan entertained 70 children from the Summer Provision camp in Renmore. This was a lively and joyous occasion enjoyed by 70 children along with the 20 accompanying adults.

PUPPET SHOW IN BALLYBANE LIBRARY



SUMMER STARS LAUNCH FOR GALWAY PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Summer Stars was launched on Saturday June 14th in Ballinasloe Library, by Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Martina Kinane, with Ruth Browne, Librarian, and Elizabeth Keane, County & City Librarian, along with all the wonderful staff at Ballinasloe.

Attendees: 41



L-R: MS MARY HEALY, MS. ABBIE MCGOWAN, MS. BRÍD GREHAN AND MS. RUTH BROWNE OF GALWAY PUBLIC LIBRARIES



AGE FRIENDLY INITIATIVE



An Age Friendly Parking Space has been installed just outside Ballinasloe Library. Pictured is Cllr. Dr. Evelyn Francis Parsons.



BABY RHYME TIME



Veronica from Music Generation Galway County entertained babies and toddlers at Ballinasloe Library with music and rhymes on Wednesday June 25th.

AROUND THE HOUSE AND MIND THE DRESSER

An afternoon of lively rhythms and distinctive melodies filled the Gallery at Ballinasloe Library on Saturday June 21st as we listened and reflected on the musical traditions and heritage of North and South Galway from the Conlons of Milltown to the Whyte sisters of Ballinakill. With social and historical commentary from both Mairín Fahy and Áine Sheridan on their respective musical heritage, the day was further enhanced by the vibrant and unique sounds of the fiddle, concertina,



button accordion and uilleann pipes played by the various musicians present. This event was funded by Creative Ireland Galway County.

EUROPE DIRECT @ BALLINASLOE LIBRARY

MAKE THE LINK EXHIBITION

Library staff attended the 'Make the Link' exhibition in Ballinasloe to promote Europe Direct and the library service. The event was organised by Galway Rural Development.

Attendees: 40+



MOBILE LIBRARY

LITTLE LIBRARY BAGS

My Little Library Bag is a national initiative and runs from May to October. The scheme is aimed at children (ages 4-6) who start school in September 2025.

The mobile library service has delivered 165 books to 11 childcare facilities since May.

MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE REQUESTS

A request was received from The Brothers of Charity Day Centre in Baile Chláir, requesting that the mobile library make a specific stop for their service users to come onboard and borrow books.

St Brendan's Nursing Home in Loughrea has requested to have a specific mobile stop for their residents. Although Loughrea has a library in the town, it is not possible for service users to travel to the branch library.

OUTREACH EVENTS:

GORT - MAKE THE LINK 13TH JUNE

In conjunction with Galway Rural Development, the mobile library staff attended and set up a pop-up outreach information stand showcasing the services of the Galway public library, the Europe Direct programme and the many educational courses available through our online resources. There was plenty of engagement with attendees and 12 new members were signed up.



COLETTE DEMPSEY, GALWAY PUBLIC LIBRARIES, AT THE 'MAKE THE LINK' EVENT IN GORT

LOCAL STUDIES

VISITS

There were approximately 10 drop-in visitors to the Local Studies Department, who had various queries, including how to gain access to the Irish news Archive, and the British News Archive. There were queries about graveyard records, and one person wanted access to a copy of "M'asal Beag Dubh," from our Páraic O'Conaire special collection. This person is

planning an English translation of the book. Another library patron requested the lyrics of an old Galway song, “Here’s a toast to you Claddagh”, which we were able to provide for him. He also needed information on the old Claddagh hurling team.

PHONE CALLS

Phone queries ranged from enquiries about the school's folklore collection, the map collection, and there was a query about the school catechism from the 1950’s, which was referred to the Diocesan Archive.

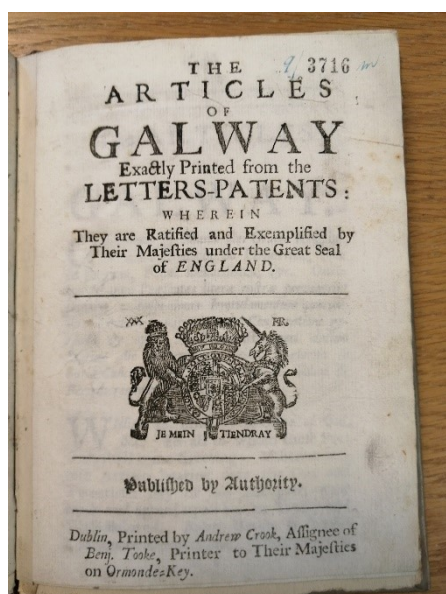
BOOKINGS

7 Bookings for access to the Irish News Archive. There was a request for access to the Encumbered Estates court rental books, and access to a copy of “Galway Roots”, which had an article on the Shee Rent Rolls. There was a booking to view the Killeely Graveyard headstone memorial book, and a request to view maps and any information on Cillíns in the Connemara area.

EMAILS

There were over 25 emails on a wide range of topics. These included several genealogy requests, including information requested on the Cunningham and Carlson families. There were requests for access to maps, and requests to forward links to the map collection. There was a request for information on St Nicholas Collegiate Church, and the Eyre family of Eyrecourt. A patron in the United States was looking for access to old Galway newspapers, which might throw some light on the tragic drowning of the Nevin family, the parents and

five children, from the Eyrecourt area, as they were on route to Australia in the years after the famine, when they were involved in a shipwreck. A search of the Old Galway Newspapers available on the British news Archive has not produced any specific information so far, though some information was helpful, and the search is ongoing.

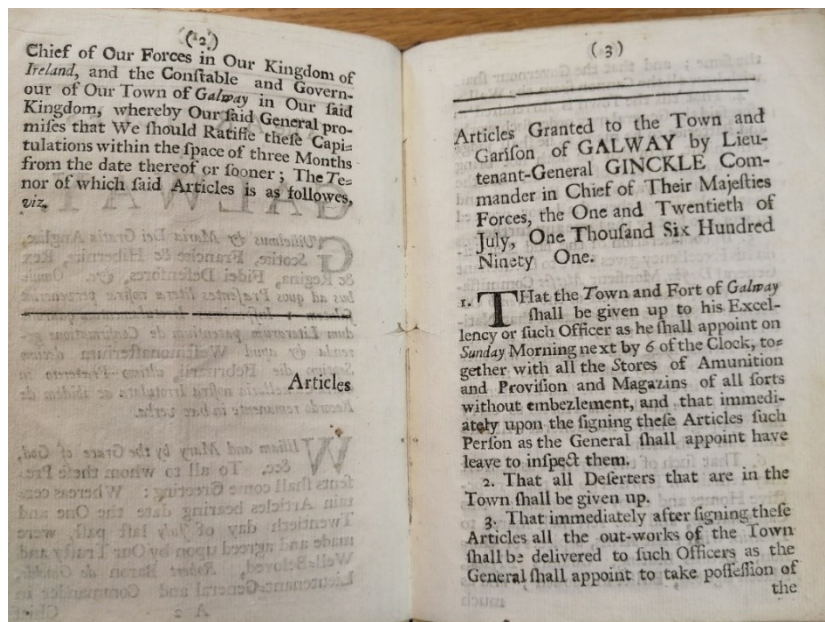


This document pictured left and below, dated 1691, and of unknown provenance, is one of the significant items held by the Local studies section of Galway Public Libraries, and it dictates the terms of surrender of the population of Galway to the army of General Ginckle, one of the Generals who fought for the Williamites

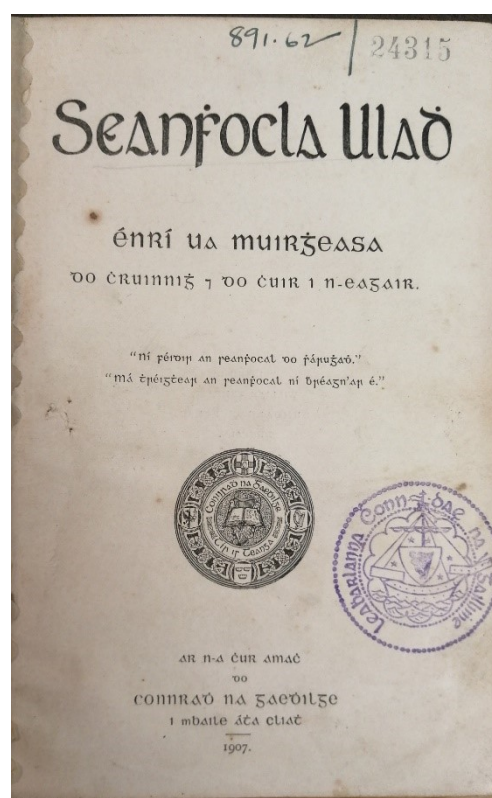
during the battles of the Boyne and Aughrim. Galway capitulated to Ginckle's forces; its garrison was permitted to retire to Limerick.

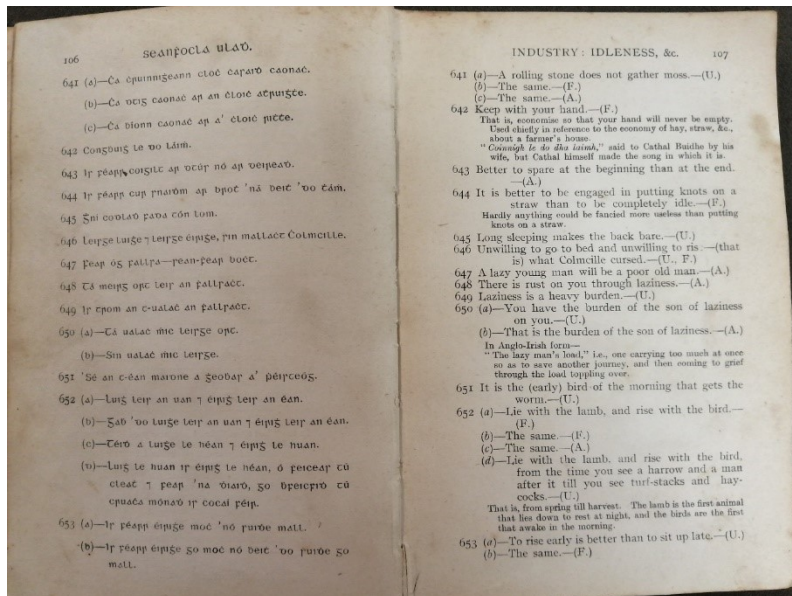
Ginckle, a Dutch General, was rewarded for his services by the English King, being made 1st Earl of Athlone, and Baron of Aughrim, and given large estates also, once the conquest of Ireland was complete. This unique

document gives insight into this sad chapter in the history of Galway City.



The Local Studies Section of Galway Public Libraries has recently re-added to our Special Collections the original 1907 copy of "Seanfhocla Uladh", by Énrí Ua Muirgheasa. This book was returned after being out on loan for 85 years. It was last borrowed in 1940, in the early months of World War 2, by a noted German Celtic and Gaelic Studies scholar, who was visiting Galway at the time, and who perhaps had to leave hastily due to the outbreak of war, though he subsequently spent much time in the West of Ireland in later years. His collection was donated by his family to a Galway Educational Institution after his death, and included this book, which was then returned to Galway Public Libraries. The earliest date on the label is 1934, and the last date stamped is 11th October 1940. The rules of the library beside the date label are rather strict and specify a loan period of 14 days only. The book has been kept in great condition, and is bilingual, with Cló Gaelach script on one side, and English on the



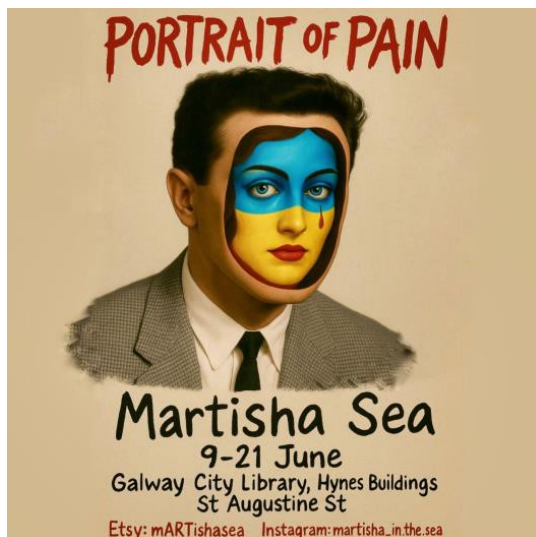


other. The Gaelic proverbs themselves are delightful to read and contain many gems of Old Irish wisdom.

The second social media post on the book returned after 85 years, gained some media attention, and the Irish Independent included it in their online version of the paper for June 13th, 2025.

GALWAY CITY LIBRARY

Two new art exhibitions and a series of engaging events brought creativity and community spirit to the library this month. Ukrainian artist Martisha Sea showcased *“Portrait of Pain”*, a powerful collection exploring mental health, while Galway-based artist Elaine Cunningham presented her unique encaustic paintings—created by layering and blowtorching wax—at a launch event attended by 49 people.



Weekly Rhyme Time sessions with Music Generation Galway and GRETB continued to thrive, drawing 119 participants. On Bloomsday, June 16, the library hosted a standout poetry event where poet Michael Quinn read his *Rathgar Odyssey*, followed by an AI-generated

voice of James Joyce reading the same poem—an innovative tribute blending literature and technology.

The Summer Stars programme featured magical moments, including a Harry Potter-themed workshop with Professor Lori LeGrand on June 14, and a star-themed storytelling and navigation session with author-illustrator Lucy Desmond on June 21. Throughout the month, class visits and storytimes added to the lively atmosphere, making the library a hub of learning and imagination.



Artist Elaine Cunningham, a Galway-based artist who works in a variety of media had an exhibition of encaustic painting which is a unique artform creating by layering, and blowtorching, wax. Elaine had a launch event for her exhibition on Tuesday 24 June, which was attended by 49 people.

Rhyme Time with Music Generation Galway and GRETB continues weekly with parents and children enjoying the chance to socialise and learn. A total number of 119 participants took part in Rhyme Time in this period.

On 16 June, Bloomsday, the library hosted a poetry reading with a difference. Modern poet Michael Quinn, read his poem Rathgar Odyssey, a tribute to James Joyce. Then an AI version of James Joyce read the poem to the audience. The technology cloned Joyce's voice from a recording of his story Finnegans Wake thereby enabling a dead writer to read the works of a live poet!



There were class visits and storytimes throughout the month



SUMMER STARS



Harry Potter fans had a treat on Saturday 14 June when Professor Lori LeGrand showed up with wands, quizzes and some lessons from Hogwarts. Once the students were sorted into their houses, the real work began! This programme was funded by Creative Ireland Galway



On Saturday 21 June, author and illustrator Lucy Desmond taught participants how to navigate by the stars, as well as reading to them from her book *The Horse, The Stars and the Road*. This event was funded by Creative Ireland City.

CREATIVITY AND CONNECTION: WEEKLY ACTIVITIES FOR SENIORS

The library continues to be a welcoming and vibrant space for older adults, offering weekly programmes that inspire creativity, conversation, and community.

- **✂ Creative Crafters Group**

With a total of **41 attendances** this month, the Creative Crafters group has become a cherished weekly gathering. Participants enjoy knitting, crochet, card-making, and other hands-on projects in a relaxed and social setting. It's a wonderful opportunity to share skills, spark creativity, and enjoy meaningful connection.

- **ABCD Scrabble for Seniors**

Our weekly Scrabble sessions saw **36 attendances**, bringing together word lovers for friendly games that challenge the mind and encourage laughter. These sessions are a great way to stay mentally active while enjoying the company of others.

Both programmes are part of the library's commitment to **Age Friendly programming**, supporting wellbeing, lifelong learning, and social inclusion for older adults in our community.

ORANMORE LIBRARY

Following on from Crúinniú na nÓg, Summer Stars has been extremely popular at Oranmore Library this year. We have registered approximately 375 participants to date. The Little Library Bag initiative has also been popular with approximately 129 bags collected from Oranmore Library.

CELEBRATING WORLD OCEAN DAY – JUNE 8TH

To mark **World Ocean Day** on June 8th, the library created a vibrant and educational display to raise awareness about the importance of protecting our ocean environment. The ocean plays a vital role in sustaining life on Earth—it produces over half of the world's oxygen, regulates climate, and supports an incredible diversity of marine life.

In preparation for the day, **Mary reached out to the Marine Institute in Oranmore**, who generously supported our efforts by sending a wonderful selection of **posters, activity books, and puzzle sheets**. These materials were shared with children visiting the library, helping them learn about marine ecosystems, ocean conservation, and the small actions we can all take to protect our blue planet.

The display and activities sparked curiosity and conversation, reminding us all of the beauty and fragility of our oceans—and the importance of working together to preserve them for future generations.



ORANMORE LIBRARY MARKS REFUGEE WEEK WITH POWERFUL BOOK DISPLAYS

From **June 16th to 23rd**, Oranmore Library proudly took part in **Refugee Week**, a time dedicated to raising awareness, fostering understanding, and celebrating the resilience and contributions of refugees around the world.

To mark the occasion, library staff curated **thoughtful and visually engaging displays** featuring books that explore themes of displacement, identity, belonging, and

hope. These displays included both adult and children's titles, offering stories that reflect the diverse experiences of refugees and encourage empathy and dialogue.

The response from the community was remarkable—the displays had to be replenished twice during the week, a clear sign of growing interest and engagement with the topic. By spotlighting these important stories, the library helped create a space for reflection, learning, and connection.

Oranmore Library's participation in

Refugee Week is part of its ongoing commitment to inclusivity, diversity, and supporting meaningful conversations within the community.



Galway County Council Urban and Rural Regeneration team Public Consultation. Thursday, July 3rd.

Drop-in Consultation from 2-4pm. Workshop from 5-7pm. The drop-in consultation was attended by about 40 people and the workshop by a further 38.

The team were delighted with the venue and wish to hold 2 further workshops relating to the Rinville Park Development Plan, at Oranmore Library. They “felt the space worked well and the location in the town centre works well for the event.”



Rinville Park Sustainable Development Plan

Galway County Council is pleased to launch a non-statutory public consultation and engagement process on the development of a new Sustainable Development Plan for Rinville Park. The aim of the new plan is to identify a series of projects aimed at improving the Park for the benefit of all its users.

Get involved and share your ideas by coming to the first event on Thursday 3rd July.



Workshop 01 UNDERSTANDING THE PARK

Thursday, 3rd July - Drop-in 2pm - 4pm / Workshop 5pm-7pm

Establishes a collective understanding of Rinville Park and defines key themes and objectives for further development.

Workshop 02 DEFINING THE PARK

Thursday, 7th August - Drop-in 2pm-4pm / Workshop 5pm-7pm

Encourages expansive and long-term thinking to inform Rinville Park development proposals and actions.

Workshop 03 ENABLING THE PARK

Thursday, 2nd October - Drop-in 2pm-4pm / Workshop 5pm-7pm

Explores short, medium and long term phasing for the chosen Rinville Park development proposals and actions.



Oranmore Library
Main Street, Oranmore,
H91 PCS9

DISCOVER MORE HERE





An Buidéal Ionadair
Tuilleadh agallamh
Díospóirí, Ceardlábair
Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe



Eanáir 2025
Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe



CUNNANE STRATTON REYNOLDS
LAND PLANNING & DESIGN



ACT



SUMMER STARS ART WORKSHOP WITH KATHY ROSS



This enchanting workshop was well attended, and all enjoyed it immensely. We even had teachers on their summer holidays taking photos of the idea to use in their classrooms in September!



ARTIST KATHY ROSS





Oranmore Library hosted an exhibition by Ness Porter Kelly entitled “**Pencils, Pencils, Pencils**”, “a collection of pencils gathered over several years by family and friends travelling for work or pleasure.”



TUAM LIBRARY

Staff of Tuam Library continue to contribute weekly articles to the ‘Library Corner’ of the **Tuam Herald**. The articles are 500 words, on a topic that library members find interesting. It is a great way to advertise our service

WEEKLY

RHYME TIME

Every Wednesday morning @11am. 4 sessions were held with children attending. Branch Librarian Caroline facilitates. Great fun every week, no booking required, and all are welcome. We have an average of 20 attendees each week

LEGO

Lego is put out every Saturday in the children’s area for free play all day. It is very popular with all ages and is of benefit in the development of gross and fine motor skills, creativity and imagination. It is a big draw - Saturday June 28th we had 60 children throughout the day

COMMUNITY CONNECTS

Occurs every Friday 11-12pm. This is an open session for members of the public to come in, have a cup of tea and chat. It is overseen by staff. The numbers attending vary but average 4-8 each week. This is a lovely opportunity for those who experience limited socializing to come in and meet others. The integration of the craft group into the Community Connects group has worked very well.

TRINITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

A weekly class visit is facilitated each Wednesday morning 9.30-10.30am, with classes rotating their visits. It has proved very successful in introducing primary students of all ages from this large school to the library and all we offer. An average of 20 students plus teachers and Additional Needs Assistants come each week. Caroline has taken on the task of welcoming the groups to the library and giving them a short talk on what we offer.

SUMMER CAMPS

Classes from school summer camps came for library visits – two classes from Educate Together Tuam visited on July 1st and 3rd with 38 in each group

PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

A new **parent and toddler group** specifically for Polish mothers began on Friday July 4th

MONTHLY:

ADULT BOOK CLUB

Meets the last Friday of each month, facilitated by Branch Librarian, Margaret. There are 12 members in the book club. The May meeting took place on June 27th discussing *The Housemaid's Secret* by Freda McFadden

ADDITIONAL ADULT BOOK CLUB

Meets the first Thursday of each month, facilitated by Branch Librarian Caroline Greisbach Moran. There are 7 members in the book club. The July meeting took place on July 3rd discussing *Fire Starters* by Jan Carson

YOUNG ADULT BOOK CLUB

Meets the first Saturday of the month, facilitated by Assistant Librarian, Moira. The July meeting took place on July 5th, discussing Jonathan Stroud's *The Amulet of Samarkind*

SOUNDBITES

A gathering of local musicians, storytellers, singers and poets gather from 1-2pm on the last Thursday of the month for a lunchtime session. All are welcome; a member of staff remains to oversee. The numbers attending vary but average about 30 each month. This is a very special event in Tuam. For June the event took place on June 26th with 25 people attending. We had keyboards, a violin, guitars, singers and poetry reciters and two special guests from Peru singing local songs

BREAST FEEDING GROUP

Meet on the second Thursday of the month 10.30-11.30am. All are welcome to join, and the group manage themselves; they just require the space. It is facilitated by a local HSE public

health nurse/midwife. The group met last on June 12th. This is a beneficial time for new mothers to get expert advice from a midwife. Their next meetup will be on July 12th

STANDALONE EVENTS:

Make the Link – Margaret Garvey represented the library service at ‘**Make the Link**’ Tuam. This was organised by Galway Rural Development and held in The Árd Rí hotel, Tuam on June 11th. It was well attended, and Margaret made connections with local groups, informing them of the services available through the library. Galway County Council Integration Unit are interested in working with the library service and will be in touch to set up a meeting.



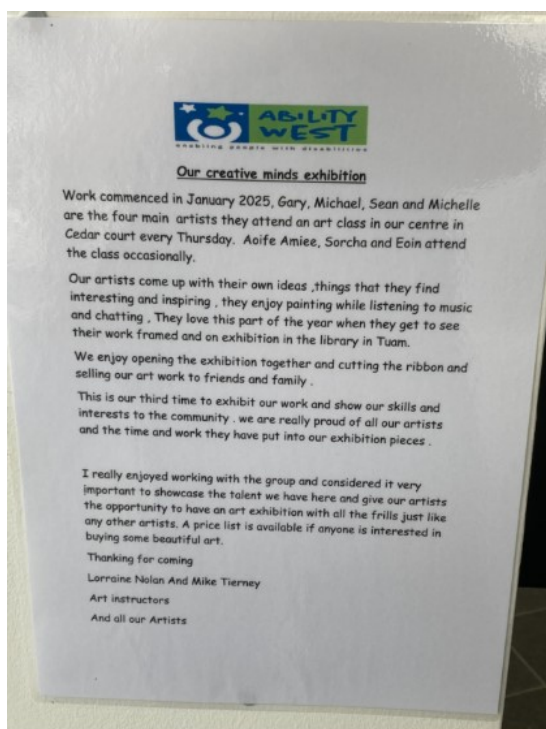
Parents Plus Tuam held their graduation certificate event on June 17th. Twenty parents and children attended

Scoil an Chroí Naofa visited the library to use the **sensory pod** on July 2nd.

Little Library bags for pupils starting school in September continue to be collected

Margaret continues to deliver book parcels to **housebound patrons** – delivering to 2 patrons this past month – this makes a total of 17 book drops this year so far

Exhibition – St Joseph’s Training Centre Ability West installed their exhibition on Monday, June 30th, launched on Wednesday July 2nd and will run for two weeks



LEABHARLANN AN CHEATHRÚN RUA

AN CEART CHUN LÉAMH:

CEARDLANN SCÉALAÍOCHTA & EALAÍNE

Bhí ócáid fíor-dheas againn ar an 21ú Meitheamh, Ceardlann Scéalaíochta & Ealaíne do ghasúir óga. Bhí sé seo mar chuid den tsraith imeachtaí Réaltaí Samhraidh. Léigh Nuala scéilín beag as Gaeilge agus ansin, chun an samhradh a cheiliúradh, bhí ceardlann ealaíne againn chun éiníní beaga ildhaite a dhearadh. Bhí deis ag chuile ghasúir a thóg páirt éinín a dhéanamh agus a thabhairt abhaile leo. (9 rannpháirtithe)

RÉALTAÍ SAMHRAIDH

Mar chuid den tsraith Réaltaí Samhraidh chomh maith, tháinig grúpa nua chugainn ó Scoil Náisiúnta Leitir Mealláin chun aithne a chur ar an Leabharlann, foghlaim faoi Europe Direct agus cloisteáil faoin gcomórtas filíochta atá á reáchtáil againn an tsamhraidh seo. Rinne Tara cur i láthair beag dóibh maidir leis an bhfilíocht agus an nádúr chun iad a spreagadh. Bhí spéis ar leith ag na múinteoirí sa mbord céadfaí agus thug Tara treoir dóibh cén chaoi len é a úsáid. Bhí gasúir do gach aois anseo, óna aois a 4 go 13 bliain **(15 rannpháirtithe)**.

CUAIRTEANNA EILE Ó SCOILEANNA & GRÚPAÍ (GASÚIR/DAOINE FÁSTA)

Mar is gnáth tháinig réimse leathan grúpaí isteach, ó na scoileanna náisiúnta, na scoileanna speisialta agus eagraíochtaí cúraim. Bhí cuairteanna againn ó ghrúpaí éagsúla ó Tí Nan Dooley, Bráithre na Carthanachta, Scoil Ros a mhíl agus Scoil Náisiúnta Mhic Dara

(292 rannpháirtithe)

ÉIRE SLÁINTIÚIL

- Bhí grúpaí isteach go rialta leis an mBord Céadfach a úsáid agus tá breis spéis ann an t-am ar fad ó ghrúpaí nua. **(26 rannpháirtithe ar fad)**

FIOSRAITHE Ó NA BPÁTRÚN I LEITH TAIGHDE:

- 11/06/25** Fiosrú ó phátrún maidir le stair eaglaise i bPort Laoise sna 1830aidí. Bhí muid in ann iad a threoiríú chuig na ceartlann digiteach chuí.
- 25/06/25:** Fiosrú ó ghrúpa phátrúin maidir le stair áitiúil, ag cuartú sonraí faoi sean teach tréigithe ar an mbaile agus an stair a bhain leis. Mar a tharla sé bhí an teach céanna mar an chéad leabharlann ar an mbaile, agus tá portráid again anseo den bhean a bhí i mbun oibre ann. Bhí muid in ann iad a chur i dteagmháil le saineolaí áitiúil.

Report (English Version)

RIGHT TO READ

STORYTIME AND ART WORKSHOP

We greatly enjoyed our storytime and art session for young children, which took place on 21st June. This was part of our Summer Stars strand of events. Nuala read from a simple Irish Language picture book and then we celebrated summer by making small colourful birds. Every participant got to design and make a bird to bring home.

SUMMER STARS GROUP VISIT

As part of our Summer Stars events, a new group from Leitir Mealláin National School visited the library to get a tour, learn about Europe Direct and hear details on about the children's poetry competition we are holding this summer. Tara gave a short presentation on poetry and nature to inspire them. The teachers showed particular interest in the sensory board, and Tara guided them on how to use it. There were children of all ages present, from 4 to 13 years old (**15 participants**).

OTHER VISITS FROM SCHOOLS & GROUPS (292 CHILDREN/ADULTS IN TOTAL)

As usual, a wide range of groups came in, from national schools, special schools, and care organizations. We had visits from various groups including Tí Nan Dooley, the Brothers of Charity, and Scoil Náisiúnta Mhic Dara.

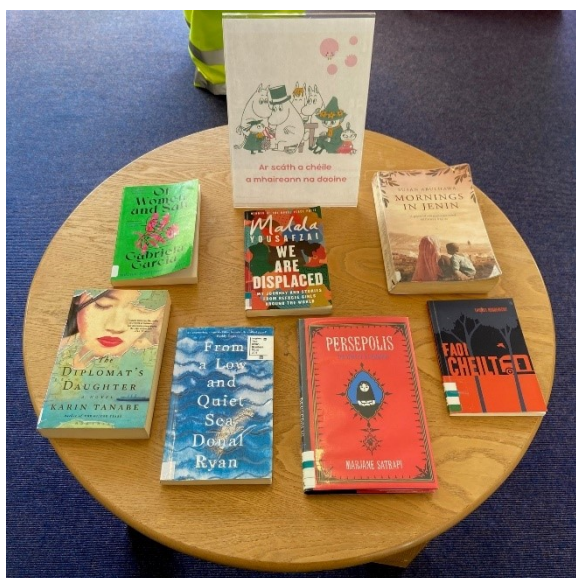
HEALTHY IRELAND

Community groups regularly engage with the Sensory Table, with visits most days of the week, and there is increasing interest from new groups all the time.

RESEARCH INQUIRIES FROM PATRONS:

11/06/25: Inquiry from a patron regarding church history in Portlaoise in the 1830s. We were able to direct them to the appropriate digital archive.

25/06/25: Inquiry from a patron group regarding local history, seeking information about an old derelict house in the town and the history associated with it. As it happens, the same house was the first library in the town, and we have a portrait here of the woman who was in charge there. We were able to put patrons in contact with a local expert.



TAISPEÁNTAS LEABHAIR I GCOMHAR
SEACHTAIN NA DÍDEANAÍTHE
(A DISPLAY FOR REFUGEE WEEK)

AM SCÉALAÍOCHTA LE NA GASÚIR
(STORYTIME FOR CHILDREN)



AG DÉANAMH ÉINÍNÍ LE LINN
AN SEISIÚN EALAÍNE
(CREATING BIRDS AT OUR
ARTMAKING SESSION)





IOMHÁ 4: NA CÉAD RÉALTA
AR AN GCRANN I
GCOMHAR RÉALTAÍ
SAMHRAIDH
(IMAGE 4: THE FIRST STARS
UP ON THE TREE FOR
SUMMER STARS)

WESTSIDE LIBRARY

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Westside Library hosted the following regular community groups: the Ukrainian After School Family Craft Sessions (GCP), the Alzheimer Support Group, the Speckled Eggs Dance Group, Cuidiú Breastfeeding Support Group, the HSE Weaning Workshop, the Community Choir, an English Conversation Class for speakers of languages other than English (LOTE) and a weekly knitting group.

REGULAR LIBRARY EVENTS

Our regular library activities, such as the monthly book club, Lego Free Play Session, Baby Rhyme Time (in cooperation with Music Generation), and staff-led Storytime, remain highly popular. This included a special Storytime by our County and City Librarian Liz Keane!



CLASS VISITS



Several school classes visited Westside Library before the end of the school year. We welcomed 1st class from Scoil Bhride, 2nd class from Scoil Chroí Íosa, 2nd and 3rd class from Cuan na Gaillimhe CNS and two 4th classes from GETNS for storytimes, book swaps and a library treasure hunt.



WORLD REFUGEE DAY:

Host of nationalities mark World Refugee Day in Galway

GALWAY residents from an estimated 40 different countries came to the Westside Library last Friday to celebrate World Refugee Day 2025 – and to highlight Galway city's role in supporting those forced to flee their home places.

Across the globe, the theme of this year's event was 'Community as a Superpower' and this was much in evidence as Galway City Partnership (GCP) and the Galway City Council Local Integration Team invited all to a festive celebration in Westside Library.

Activities included face painting, balloon twisting, creative art, refreshments, live music and an opportunity for all the whole community to celebrate diversity and the resilience it has forged.

"Community is indeed a superpower here in Galway where we have built bridges, spaces of resilience and places for healing. Huge journeys have been made, and major trauma has been and continues to be overcome," said GCP's Linda Sice.

"The process is challenging and ongoing, but it is important to take one day each year to celebrate. From shared meals to sports activities or making music, it's a chance to listen, learn and laugh together," she added.

The United Nations estimates that 120 million people,



Staff from Galway City Partnership and Westside Library with volunteers who organised the World Refugee Day 2025 activities in Galway.

or 1.5% of the world's population, have been uprooted or have involuntarily moved to escape conflict or persecution.

The BRIDGE Project delivered by Galway City Partnership is funded by the Irish Government and the EU through the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and is co-funded by Galway City Partnership, Galway City Council, IRSE, Tusla, Civil na Gaillimhe and University of Galway.

The overall aim of the BRIDGE Project is to provide reception and integration supports to Asylum Seekers and Third Country Nationals living in Galway.

There are just under 1,600 Asylum Seekers living in 19 International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) Centres in Galway City.

The BRIDGE Team provides practical information, referrals and resources to its clients addressing topics including English language training, the Asylum Process, Migrant Rights, Health and Wellbeing, the Labour Market, Education/Training Access and Sports/Leisure opportunities.

Most recently, the project has been offering Irish language classes.

Westside Library hosted the Bridge Project (Galway City Partnership) to celebrate World Refugee Day. The day was a huge success. Families from the community celebrated with live music, crafts, facepainting, a balloon twister and a multilingual storytime. The article below was published in the Connacht Tribune.

WESTSIDE ARTS FESTIVAL:

The 2025 Westside Arts Festival, themed *"Seeking Diamonds in the Sky,"* will take place from July 8th to 12th, marking the festival's 21st anniversary. Developed by Westside Library in conjunction with partners, with a strong focus on community engagement, the festival continues to celebrate and strengthen the spirit of Westside through the arts.

In preparation, the library hosted two vibrant glass painting workshops with students from Scoil Chroí Íosa, facilitated by former staff member and artist Kitty Walsh. The students' artwork will be proudly displayed in the library throughout the festival. This year's theme evokes a sense of wonder and aspiration, drawing inspiration from the lullaby *"Twinkle Twinkle Little Star"* and the symbolic strength and beauty of diamonds. It also invites deeper reflection on the elemental nature of diamonds—formed from carbon, the same element found in the air we breathe. Through this lens, the festival will creatively explore the role of carbon in our environment, the impact of climate change, and the opportunities that arise as we adapt to more sustainable behaviours and technologies.



Another workshop in preparation for the festival is a dance workshop for children aged 10 – 12 with dancer and choreographer Siobhán Flanagan. The children will create a 4-minute dance routine that will fit the theme 'Seeking diamonds in the sky' and perform the routine on Saturday the 12th for the Family Day of the Festival.

PUBLIC EV CHARGING HUB LAUNCH

Westside Library hosted the launch of the pilot electric vehicle (EV) charging hub. Attending the launch were the Mayor of the City of Galway, Cllr Mike Cubbard, and Minister of State at



the Department of Transport, Seán Canney TD, amongst others. This is the first EV charging hub in Ireland located right outside Westside Library!

ART COMPETITION

The winners of our 'Spring into Storytime' Art Competition collected their prizes in the library and the winning picture was put on permanent display in the 'cosy corner' of the children's library.



AISLING NOONAN, LIBRARY STAFF, WITH PRIZE WINNERS

SASKIA SCHNAUFER, LIBRARY STAFF, WITH PRIZE WINNER



HARRY POTTER WORKSHOP

Laurie from The Learning Garden School, Killimor, delivered a wonderful Summer Stars event at Westside Library. The children got to create their own wands, and all had a magical time.



SUMMER STARS CRAFT



Over 60 children attended the first Summer Stars Craft workshop hosted by library staff. They created stunning sparkly Jellyfish Suncatchers.

SUMMER STARS SIGN-UPS

The end of the school year also means the start of the Summer Stars Reading Challenge.

Already we have over 280 children signed up for the Summer Reading Challenge at Westside Library.



AGE FRIENDLY INITIATIVE

COMMUNITY PUZZLE

After the success of the Community Puzzle for Bealtaine we continued the Community Puzzle due to popular demand. This is now a permanent feature in our branch.



During the reporting time frame, Westside Library hosted 39 events with 732 people attending. The Sensory Room was booked for 46 sessions.

HOUSING

VACANT HOMES

VACANT PROPERTY REFURBISHMENT GRANTS

Galway County Council has received 589 applications since the start of the scheme with 379 approved to date to a value in excess of €21 million. 136 have been withdrawn or rejected due to ineligibility for the scheme, and 46 Vacant Property Refurbishment Grants have been paid to date to a value in excess of €2.5 million which represents a significant investment in local communities.

LONG-TERM LEASING

Galway County Council is seeking expressions of interest for the provision of suitable properties for long-term lease for the delivery of housing in Galway County. Details and a briefing document are available on Galway County Council's website:

<https://www.galway.ie/en/services/housing/> .

The latest date and time for receipt of submissions is 4.00pm Thursday the 31st of July 2025. Under this call, lease agreements must be completed and in place by the 01st of December 2025 in order to qualify for funding from the Department of Housing as the long-term leasing scheme is being phased out nationwide.

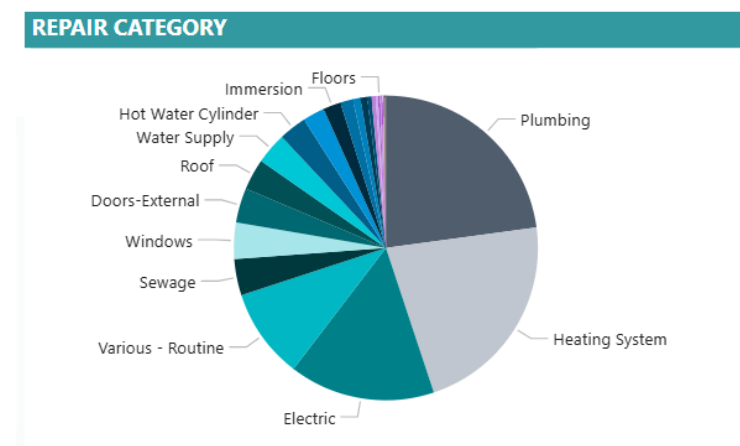
AFFORDABLE HOUSING

All offers on the 44 houses in Phase 2 of the affordable housing development in Garraí na Gaoithe, Baile Chláir have been accepted. The sales of the 17 houses in Phase 1 are almost completed and the successful applicants have started to move into the properties.

Galway County Council are currently engaging with Studio PKA which are providing architectural and design services for two sites in Athenry at Raheen and Páirc Na hAbhainn. It is scheduled to lodge planning for these developments later this year.

Galway County Council are investigating other possibilities for affordable housing in Tuam, Loughrea and Kinvara. Some of these are on Council lands and others are Part V. It is planned to run a survey to gauge the demand in these areas.

HOUSING MAINTENANCE



The Housing Maintenance Section has received a total of 3621 maintenance requests within the first 6 months of 2025 of which 1116 were sanctioned for action by Galway County Council. The balance was either refused and/or duplicate maintenance requests. The type of maintenance requests can be summarised in chart on left.

PLANNED MAINTENANCE

Tenders for have been sought by the Housing Maintenance Section for the Conditional Assessment of Galway County Councils Housing Stock via a new digital platform Addjust. The closing date for receipt of tenders is the 24th of July 2025 and it anticipated surveys will commence in September 2025. The new Addjust system established by the Department of Housing will give a good insight into the conditional of GCC housings stock and establish a planned programme of works for the next 5 to 30 years.

ENERGY RETROFIT PROGRAMME

The following table summarises the Galway County Councils successful delivery of the Energy Retrofit Programme to date.

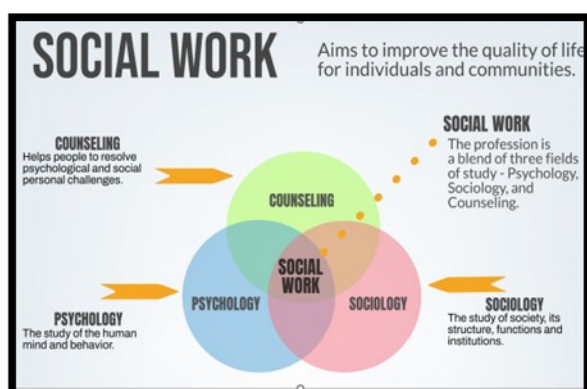
Year	Total	Programme	A1	A2	A3	B1
2020						
2021	56	MRP	21	33	2	
2022	120	ERP	13	65	41	1
2023	53	ERP	27	26		
2024	91	ERP	39	45	7	
2025	99	ERP	TBD	TBD	TBD	

The target for Galway County Council for 2025 is 67 units and as the above table outlines we are on course to exceed this target.

SOCIAL WORK

“Social Work is a profession based on principles of human rights and social justice that work to empower individuals, groups and communities to develop their full potential and wellbeing. The focus of intervention is the relationship between the individual and the immediate and wider social environment. Greater emphasis is placed on meeting the needs of vulnerable and marginalised individuals and groups.”

(Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Social Workers 2011)



SOCIAL WORK TEAM (HOUSING)

- Online Referral process for internal referrals, link available on the Intranet.
- External referrals can be discussed directly with Kieran Keon.
- Geographical areas of cover very busy with open cases and regular referrals.
- Currently, staff team of 3 with a high level of active/open cases.
- Additional posts have been identified and requested through the Workforce planning process.
- More complex cases being identified, and case managed.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL HOUSING FESTIVAL

Joint presentation with HSE on Mental health and housing needs. Kieran Keon presented alongside a panel to discuss the supports and outcomes for people with mental health needs who benefit from having their own door accommodation with supports in place. The MyHome project was discussed.

HOUSING FIRST CONFERENCE

The Annual Housing First conference took place in Cork City Hall on June 19th. It was a very informative event focusing on the impacts of homelessness on women in particular, the difference between men and women who experience homelessness, the significant differences in terms of the journey to homelessness, in addition to the different

interventions that are required. A very informative day. There were also presentations by individuals who have benefitted from Housing First and Myhome type programmes, this was very inspiring and informative.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY & PROCEDURES

The current Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Procedures were adopted in January 2023. Kieran Keon, Senior Social Worker Kieran Keon is the *Designated Child Protection Liaison Officer* for Galway County Council. He has reviewed the policy and procedures in January 2025 and confirmed that there are no legislative updates since that are required to be reflected in the policy at this time and therefore the policy continues to be fit for purpose. However, a review and updating under the Public Sector Duty is underway. Corporate services are leading out on this. All staff must complete the online Children's First Training.

SEXUAL OFFENCES LIAISON OFFICER (SOLO)

- SOLO role is attached to Senior Social Worker and Designated Child Protection Liaison Officer role.
- Changes to the Act in 2023, meaning additional responsibility for local authorities in this regard in terms of a 'single agency' response on some cases.
- Increase in cases identified in 2025. Complex Interagency case management is required with the Gardai, Probation services, Galway Simon, COPE etc.

DISABILITY / SOCIAL INCLUSION / HOUSING AGENCY

- Kieran Keon, Senior Social Worker is leading on the implementation of the Galway County Council Strategic Plan 2021-2026 along with Ger Scully, SEO. The G.c.co plan is underpinned by the National Plan.
- Considerable level of stakeholder engagement with the HSE and all of the main Disability services providers in the region.
- The Housing agency have established a *Social Inclusion Advisory Group* to incorporate Disability. Kieran Keon is the Galway County Council rep on the group, who will advise the Housing Agency on Social Inclusion issues such as Disability, 'At risk' Youth, Aftercare, Child Protection and relates issues.

CCMA – LOCAL AUTHORITY SOCIAL WORK REVIEW (NATIONAL)

Kieran Keon is one of three reps on the national review working group. The reports is almost complete and being brought by the chairperson Coilin Reilly, CEO Carlow Co.co to the Buildings & Land Use Committee who commissioned the report.

EVENTS / TRAINING

Members of the team attended the following events that took place in recent weeks.

- Galway Traveller Movement 30-year event held in University of Ireland Galway.
- Threshold Galway offices reopening by the Minister for Housing.

PART 8: COLD WEATHER RESPONSE AND MEDIUM-TERM SUPPORT UNIT AT VICAR STREET, TUAM

An application under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), was lodged on 28th March 2025 for a Cold Weather Response and Medium-Term Support unit at Vicar Street, Tuam, with a closing date for submissions on 28th April 2025.

The proposed development consists of: demolition of an existing single storey extension, construction of a 2 storey extension to the rear of an existing 3 storey mid terrace unit and construction of a 2 storey mid-terrace infill unit together with all ancillary siteworks and services to provide a cold weather response unit consisting of 10 no. beds together with associated facilities and a medium term response unit consisting of 2 no. 3-bed apartments, 1 no. 2-bed apartment and 1 no. 1-bed apartment, reception/office, staff accommodation and storage at Vicar Street, Tuam, Co. Galway, which is within the Tuam Architectural Conservation Area.

An AA Screening Assessment was carried out by Moore Group – Environmental Services and it was determined that the proposal does not require full Appropriate Assessment and can be screened out. An EIA screening was also carried out by Moore Group, and it concluded that the proposed development works are not considered likely to have significant effects on the environment and consequently does not require an Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

No submissions/observations were received from the public within the allocated period.

Further to a planning review and report, a Chief Executive Report was issued to the elected

members of Tuam M.D. This report was considered at the Tuam MD Meeting on 16th June, and it was approved to carry out the development as recommended in the report.



3-D Artist impression of exterior of new development

PART 8: RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT FARRANNAMARTIN, GALWAY RD., TUAM

An application under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), for a proposed 66 no. residential development at Farrannamartin, Tuam consisting of: 33 no. two-storey dwellings, 5 no. single-storey units, 11 no. duplexes, and 17

no. apartments to provide 11 no. 1-bed units, 10 no. 2-bed units, 43 no. 3-bed units and 2 no. 4-bed units, was lodged on 11th April 2025.

This proposal also includes for the provision of an electric substation, 2 no. bicycle shelters and ancillary parking, a playground, landscaping and boundary wall construction.

An AA Screening Assessment was carried out by Delichon Ecology, and it was determined that the proposal does not require full Appropriate Assessment and can be screened out. An EIA screening was also carried out by Delichon Ecology, and it concluded that the proposed development works are not considered likely to have significant effects on the environment and consequently does not require an Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

Twenty-nine (29) submissions were received from members of the public covering a variety of topics, with a lot of concerns relating in particular to overlooking/loss of privacy; overdevelopment/density, housing types out of character with area and environmental concerns.

Feedback was also received from both Councillors and the public that there were a number 'typos' on the Traffic and Transport Assessment submitted as part of the planning pack.

Further to a planning review and report, a Chief Executive Report was issued to the elected members of Tuam M.D. This report was considered at the Tuam MD Meeting on 16th June, and it was approved to carry out the development as recommended in the report, subject to the following two amendments:

AMENDMENT 1

To reduce the following units from Two Storey to Single Storey, and where space is required for a larger ground footprint to use an area towards the rear up to 3 meters and as required adjust width.

- From units that are at the boundary of existing bungalows fronting the Galway Rd. (from 66C1.1 to 54D2 on planning maps).

Reason - The built environment consists of long-established single storey dwellings and the new construction will hold that built environment.

AMENDMENT 2

To ensure that the proposed units built shall not exceed two-storey units.

Reason - The built environment does not have any three storey units. Restriction to a maximum of two storey units would be in keeping with the built environment.

The two amendments are significant, requiring a re-design of the scheme at two locations and resulting in a decrease in bed spaces. A new Part 8 application is required to implement these.

SOCIAL HOUSING PPP BUNDLE 7 - BALLYGADDY ROAD, TUAM

The Social Housing PPP (Public Private Partnership) Programme is a partnership between the DHLGH, participating local authorities, the National Development Finance Agency (NDFA) and a specially formed Project Company.

Under this type of contract, the PPP project company (PPP Co), as the private partner, designs, builds, finances, maintains and operates (DBFMO) social housing developments for a period of 25 years in return for a monthly payment (unitary charge) from the State.

The Programme is being rolled out in bundles. Galway County Council was successful in its application to be included in bundle 7 with a proposed housing development at Ballygaddy Rd. Tuam.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage recently advised that following an evaluation of the costs associated with the 486 homes which were to be delivered under PPP Bundle 3 they have decided not to proceed with contract award on a value for money basis.

The remaining PPP Bundles, including Bundle 7 which includes the Ballygaddy Road site in Tuam, are continuing but the delivery model may change. The Housing Capital Team are continuing to work with the Dublin City Council as the lead authority and the appointed integrated design team providing information as requested. GCC Planning have advised that the target number of units is 170 based on the residentially zoned area of the site.

CIRCULAR: HOUSING 14/2025. REVISED ARRANGEMENTS IN RESPECT OF CAPITAL FUNDING FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY PART V ACQUISITIONS

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage issued Circular 14/2025 to update Local Authorities on the revised arrangements regarding the acquisition of new build housing by LAs under Part V agreement.

Under these new arrangements Local Authorities will no longer need DHLGH funding approval in advance of finalising their Part V agreements, but instead are now required to notify the DHLGH by submitting relevant information on agreement (with template outlined in Appendix to Circular).

Part V are to be administrated separately to any Turnkey opportunity that may arise within the same development. Local Authorities are required to continue to forward Turnkey proposals in the normal manner, as previously, and include how the Part V requirement will be dealt with.

A letter was subsequently sent by the DHLGH to each Local Authority outlining Acquisition cost guidelines for social housing – Q2 2025 which gave an upper, lower and average range

of prices for different house types, as current cost guidelines for Part Vs under the new arrangements.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT, FIRE & EMERGENCY & CLIMATE CHANGE

N6 GALWAY CITY RING ROAD

A Response to a Request for Further Information was submitted to An Bord Pleanála on 14 April 2025. On 6 June 2025 the Board wrote to GCC advising that it considered that the Further Information contained significant additional data and that it required GCC to publish newspaper notices informing that the Further Information will be made available for inspection and inviting submissions/observations or objections to the Board in relation to the Further Information.

The latest consultation process commenced when newspaper notices were published in the Connacht/City Tribune (27 June 2025), Galway Advertiser (26 June 2025) and the Irish Independent (27 June 2025).

The Further Information may be inspected **up to 1st August 2025** at the following locations:

- The Offices of Galway County Council, Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway.
- The Offices of Galway City Council, City Hall, College Road, Galway.
- Galway City Centre Library, St. Augustine Street, Galway.
- Westside Library, Seamus Quirke Road, Galway.
- Galway National Roads Project Office (Galway County Council), Corporate House, City East Business Park, Ballybrit, Galway.

The Further Information can also be viewed/downloaded on the following website links:

- www.pleanala.ie/en-ie/case/318217
- www.n6galwaycityringroad.ie

‘An Bord Pleanála’ is now known as ‘An Coimisiún Pleanála’. This change does not affect how the public engages with the planning system in terms of the N6 GCRR applications.

- Galway National Roads Project Office (Galway County Council), Corporate House, City East Business Park, Ballybrit, Galway.

N59 OUGHTERARD FOOTBRIDGE

An application for development consent has been made to An Coimisiún Pleanála which includes the approval of a Natura Impact Statement and a Compulsory Purchase Order.

A copy of the application can be inspected up to **1st September 2025** at:

- The offices of Galway County Council, County Hall, Prospect Hill, Galway, H91H6KX
- The offices of Galway National Roads Project Office, Corporate House, Ballybrit Business Park, Ballybrit, Galway, H91KT67
- Oughterard Library, 2 Main Street, Fough West, Oughterard, Co. Galway H91W6R9
- <https://www.galway.ie/en/services/roads/roadsprojects/n59oughterardfootbridge>

TAKING IN CHARGE

The Taking in Charge target - 12 estates Taken in Charge and/or for Bond Release.

The Table A hereunder outlines output for 2025.

Table A – Taking in Charge

<i>Estates Taken in Charge</i>		3
<i>Estates pending Ratification of Minutes</i>		
<i>Estates for consideration at next MD meeting</i>		1
<i>Bond Release (Estates not Taken in Charge)</i>		2
<i>Total Taken in Charge/Bond Release</i>		5

In addition to the above, the following is position @ 01/07/2025

Estates – advertised for Taking in Charge	0
Estates – Works Complete – Pending Uisce Éireann agreement or Signed Final Report	
Estates – TIC Led Estates – Works in Hand	18
Estates – Developer led Estates – List of Remedials issued awaiting notification of completion	36
Bond Claims -	1

The taking in charge of an estate is a process and at times can be quite protracted.

I wish to thank and acknowledge the Taking in Charge team for their work to date.

BEECHLAWN FOOTPATHS SCHEME, BALLINASLOE TOWN – PH3

Footpath construction works are substantially complete. The Road Safety Audit (RSA) Stage 3 is scheduled. Once these construction works are complete, this will fully complete the Beechlawn Footpath Scheme.

The Scheme, which was funded by the National Transport Authority (NTA) was completed in 3 phases over the last 4 years. The main feature is a wide footpath with designated and safe crossing points. It will provide a safe means for pedestrians to walk about their daily business in Ballinasloe and it provides a direct east-west pedestrian connection to the south of Ballinasloe.

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pedestrian connection to the south of Ballinasloe.



ORANMORE ACTIVE TRAVEL – PEDESTRIAN CROSSING, L4103, OLD LIMERICK ROAD (NEAR LIDL)



Construction works are now fully completed, and the pedestrian crossing is in operation. A Road Safety Audit is scheduled for June to complete final Close-out, Phase 7 of NTA PAGs.



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL ROUND 1

ORANMORE AND ATHENRY SCHOOLS

The 5 schools in SRTS Round 1 are in Oranmore (Calasancius College, Gaelscoil de hÍde and Scoil Íosaif Naofa) and Athenry (Scoil Chroí Naofa and Athenry Boys NS).



Stakeholder Engagement is currently ongoing and the GCC SRTS Engineer has met directly with the Principal from each of the schools in Round 1 to

provide an overview of the proposed measures and to get some feedback from the school around the proposals.

An online Briefing was also held for the Elected Members of the Athenry/Oranmore MD in June 2025.

The Design Consultant, Clandillon, is finalising a document package to bring to the NTA for approval to complete Phase 3, the Preliminary Design phase, of this project. This will include a Design Report, finalised Preliminary drawings including Road Safety Audits Stage 1-2. It is intended to workshop the Preliminary Design proposal with the NTA and get



their approval to allow us to the next phase of the project, Ph 4 Planning. This is planned for July 2025.

SRTS R1 ST PAULS OUGHTERARD

These works are now fully completed, and we are awaiting Road Safety Audit Stage 3. This is the second only Safe Routes To School Scheme to be implemented in Co. Galway. It was funded by the NTA Active Travel Investment team, developed by An Taisce Safe Routes To School team and delivered on the ground by Galway County Council Active Travel team. The final total cost of the project will be in the region of €110, 000.



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL ROUND 2



5 schools are included in Round 2 - Scoil Sailearna (Indreabhán); Scoil Na bhForbacha (Furbogh); Ballinderreen NS; Gort Community College; St Brendan's NS (Loughrea).

We are currently at Phase 2 Options Selection for this project. Preliminary designs for each of the schools have been workshopped with NTA and are being finalised for inclusion with Phase 3 Preliminary Design documentation. A Surveying company (TST) have been appointed to carry out TOPO's for all 5 schools.

Stakeholder Engagement is currently ongoing. The GCC SRTS Engineer has met directly with the Principal from each of the schools in Round 2 to provide an overview of the proposed measures and to get some feedback from the school around the proposals. It is intended to extend this Stakeholder Engagement to other interested groups and persons by means of an online, non-statutory consultation in the coming weeks.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL ROUND 3

There are 11 schools included in SRTS Round 3. An Taisce SRTS team has visited all 11 schools to identify the issues pertaining to each location. All 11 Draft Delivery Plans have been received by the Active Travel team for information purposes. All TOPO surveys have been completed. The NTA has directly engaged with Active Travel Services Office (ATSO) to

complete a design for all Round 3 schools which we hope will be issued to GCC. Sometime in Q3 2025.

ATHENRY ACTIVE TRAVEL DESIGN SCHEME - CHURCH ST TO TUAM RD (VIA STATION RD)

We are currently at Phase 2 Options Selection for this project. There is ongoing and active Stakeholder Engagement with key parties along the proposed Active Travel route in Athenry. Bus Stops requirements have now been added to the overall scope of the project and the design was approved by NTA Bus Team. Consultation material has been prepared for review by Irish Rail. It is anticipated that there will be a draft of the Emerging Preferred Route by July 2025.

TUAM ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME - SEAN PURCELL RD TO SPORTS GROUNDS ON THE R332

We are now nearing the close out for Phase 2 of this project, the Options Selection phase. A draft Feasibility Study is in progress along with the Options Selection Report and associated drawings.

The Emerging preferred route has been identified and agreed in principle with NTA. It is intended that the Phase 2 Options Selection package will be made available to the NTA for approval in July 2025.

HEADFORD FOOTPATHS

The Active Travel team has been actively collaborating with Tuam MD Roads engineers to design, develop and resource the delivery of an Active Travel scheme on Church Rd, Headford. The scheme which has been proposed to NTA Active Travel team includes carriageway narrowing, widened footpaths, pedestrian crossings & junction tightening with areas of soft planting/ landscaping. GCC await NTA's decision to progress to the next steps of this project.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT ST. JOSEPH'S ROAD PORTUMNA

A Topographical survey was carried out in May. Approval in principle was given by the National Transport Authority for the location near junction with N65. We are developing the



Fig 1- Location of Proposed Scheme

design in-house and arranging for Road Safety Audit 1/2 before we can seek the next stage NTA approval and proceed to planning.

BUS STOP ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME (BESP)

Two packages are being progressed: bus shelter installation locations and flagpole installation locations. The design has been substantially completed on both packages. Road Safety Audit briefs are being prepared to seek an RSA team. Locations included in the bus shelter package include:

- Joe O'Toole Road Tuam
- Dunmore
- Bearna
- An Spidéal
- Oranmore Village
- Kiltartan Cross
- Letterfrack
- Oughterard
- Lackagh
- Caltra
- Glenamaddy

Each of these locations is still subject to final GCC and NTA design approval, road safety audit, TII approval (where applicable), therefore this list of locations may change prior to issue of tender package.

LOUGHREA ACTIVE TRAVEL DESIGN SCHEME

A workshop was held with NTA on 15th May, where NTA agreed with the identified routes presented by the GCC Active Travel team. A Grant Application Form has been submitted to NTA and is awaiting approval, however, approval in principle has been given by NTA to progress the scheme. A tender design brief and associated package is currently being prepared by GCC.

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION

LAUNCH OF KILCOLGAN / CLARINBRIDGE ENERGY MASTERPLAN



Under the Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs) programme the Climate Action Unit works with SEAI mentors to support the completion of community level Energy Masterplans (EMP) through the provision of bridging finance and procurement support. The Kilcolgan / Clarinbridge SEC committee with the support of Cathaoirleach Martina Kinnane launched their EMP on the 4th of June in the Clarinbridge GAA Clubhouse. The event included EV test drives and several presentations including information on GCC funding and case studies by Tina Ryan, Climate Action Coordinator.

GREEN CLUBS INFORMATION EVENT

GAA, LGFA, and Camogie clubs from across County Galway gathered for the county's first Green Clubs event, hosted at Ballinderreen GAA Club on June 17th. The event brought



together club representatives, environmental experts, and community advocates to explore practical ways sports organisations can lead on climate action as part of the national GAA Green Clubs Programme. By going green, clubs not only help the environment—they also cut costs, improve facilities, and deepen their connection with the local community. Galway County Council is proud to support clubs on this journey and encourages others to get involved.

The event featured expert speakers on key topics such as energy efficiency, waste reduction, biodiversity, and funding opportunities. Speakers included Galway GAA Chairperson Paul Bellew, SEAI Community Mentor Orla Ní Shuibhne, MyWaste.ie's Sinéad Ní Mhainnin, and Galway County Council's Biodiversity and Climate Action Officers.

Sustainability adviser Míde Ní Shúilleabháin discussed how sport can build momentum for climate action, while club representatives Brendán Ó Loinsigh (Ballinderreen) and Brian Healy (St Brendan's, Ballygar) shared their green initiatives.

OILEÁIN ÁRANN DECARBONISATION ZONE

The three islands of Oileáin Árann form the Decarbonisation Zone (DZ) for Galway County. The 1st in-person meeting of the DZ Stakeholder Group took place on 17th June. The group provides strategic direction and stakeholder engagement for the DZ and consists of representatives from GCC, Údarás na Gaeltachta, the 3 Comharchumann Fobartha, Comharchumann Fuinneamh Oileáin Árann, GFI, Athchursail Árann, local businesses and farming representatives.

FOOD WASTE



The third Regional Stakeholder Meeting of the EU funded CIBUS project was held on 23rd June at the BIA Innovation Campus in Athenry. Following informative presentations

in relation to local and national food waste initiatives, lunch was provided from the FoodCloud food truck. FoodCloud tackles climate change and food insecurity by connecting businesses that have surplus food with communities that can use it.

As part of the Ours to Protect programme on Galway Bay FM, Rebecca Mooney, Climate Action Officer, provided information on food waste including how to combat it, the roll out of brown bins, and potential funding of food waste prevention initiatives under the next iteration of the Community Climate Action Fund. The interview is available at:

[Ours To Protect Series \(EP 2\) Food Waste | GalwayBayFM](#)

FLOOD RELIEF SCHEMES

Minister of State for the OPW Kevin 'Boxer' Moran TD, recently attended a meeting in County Hall, where progress updates were provided on local flood relief projects. The Gort Lowlands scheme is nearing completion of its final environmental assessment and is due to be submitted to the OPW shortly.

Minister Moran confirmed at the meeting that the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme will advance to the planning phase during the first half of 2026.



PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE: DEPUTY JOHN CONNOLLY, DEPUTY MAIREAD FARRELL, MINISTER OF STATE NOEL GREALISH, MINISTER OF STATE KEVIN 'BOXER' MORAN, MINISTER OF STATE SEÁN CANNEY, CLLR. DAVID COLLINS (CATHAOIRLEACH OF THE COUNTY OF GALWAY) (BRENDAN MCDONAGH (EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL), AND ENDA GALLAGHER (SENIOR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL). CREDIT GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

OPERATIONS

A new Incident Command Unit (ICU) has been completed by Sidhean Teo in An Spidéal and is due for handover in the coming weeks. Construction of a new Hazmat Unit has started also in Sidhean Teo.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

LOUGHREA FIRE STATION

Approval to proceed to tender for a Main Contractor was submitted in early June to the NDFEM. A reply is awaited.



PROPOSED NEW FIRE STATION
LOUGHREA

BRIGADE MECHANICS WORKSHOP ATHENRY

Preliminary information has been sent to the Planning Section for comment. It is hoped to submit the Part 8 planning application by the end of July 2025.



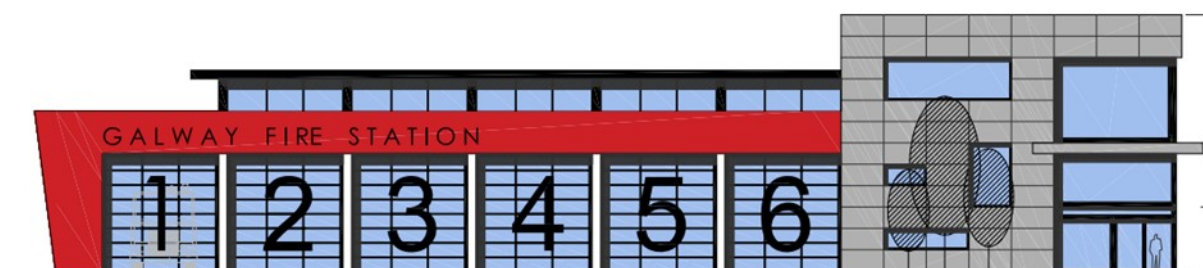
(Indicative Only)

PROPOSED NEW
BRIGADE
MECHANICS
WORKSHOP
ATHENRY

HEADQUARTERS AND GALWAY CITY FIRE STATION

An initial independent planning and flood risk assessment is underway and is expected by the end of July 2025. The capital appraisal is 99% complete and will be submitted to the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management once Chief Executive approval is confirmed.

A meeting has been arranged for 17th July between the CE Galway County Council, the CE Galway City Council, the Chief Fire Officer and officials from the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management to discuss the progression of the project.



PROPOSED NEW HEADQUARTERS AND CENTRAL FIRE STATION GALWAY CITY

PREVENTION

The information in the following is based on the June 2025 figures. The Fire Authority received 21 Fire Safety Certificate applications and issued decisions on 14 applications. 6 Disability Access Certificate applications were received, and decisions made on 7 applications. 10 new licences were issued in June and 25 inspections were conducted.

COMPLETED TRAINING

NDFEM URBAN SEARCH & RESCUE COURSE

Attendee: 1 x retained junior officer 1 x retained firefighter, 2 x full time junior officers.

Location: Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service Learning & Development Centre, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone.

Purpose: to assist fire authorities in developing and updating their ability to manage an incident involving significant structural collapse. This module provides the attending personnel with the initial core skills and knowledge necessary to effectively use USAR tools and equipment at such incidents.



URBAN SEARCH & RESCUE TRAINING BUILDING

NDFEM BREATHING APPARATUS INSTRUCTOR COURSE – ORIENTATION DAY

Attendees: 2 x retained junior officers.

Location: Clonmel Fire Station.

Aim: this training is to prepare trainees for the upcoming 10 day breathing apparatus instructors' course which will be taking place in June 2025.

NDFEM ACCREDITED HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COURSE

Attendee: 1 x retained junior officer; 1 x retained driver mechanic

Location: Limerick Fire Station

Aim: to enhance fire authorities' ability to respond efficiently and effectively to incidents involving hazardous materials. Attendance at the course is intended to assist officers in discharging their functions in relation to training for and effective command and control at such incidents. The two GFRS attendees are now deemed competent to deliver training in Hazmat.

NDFEM ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISION INSTRUCTOR COURSE

Attendee: 1 x full time firefighter

Provider: NDFEM.

Purpose: to assist fire authorities in developing and updating their ability to respond to road traffic collisions, and other incident types, through the provision of a course for trainers who are actively involved in training provided locally to brigades. The GFRS attendee is now deemed competent to deliver training in the area of road traffic collisions.

C CLASS DRIVING LICENCE TRAINING

Attendees: 2 x retained firefighters

Location: Galway city.

Details: training delivered to firefighters so that they will be deemed competent to drive C Class category vehicles (e.g. fire appliances).



FIREFIGHTER SEAMUS MCDONAGH (AN CHEATHRÚ RUA FIRE BRIGADE) AFTER HAVING SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED HIS C CLASS DRIVING LICENCE DRIVING TEST

NDFEM MANAGING FIRE SERVICE INCIDENTS MODULE 2 COURSE

Attendees: 1 x retained junior officer

Location: Sligo Fire Training Centre.

Details: 5-day training course conducted in May

Aim: to assist fire authorities in their ability to deliver efficient, effective and safe services by developing fire service officers with the relevant and necessary skills and knowledge. This course facilitates the participants to effectively develop and fulfil the command and officer-ship roles assigned to them at medium-scale fire service incidents.

ACCREDITED QQI USING BREATHING APPARATUS INITIAL WEARERS COURSE

Attendees: 6 x GFRS retained firefighters, 4 x Leitrim retained firefighters, 1 x Meath fire service retained firefighter

Location: Sligo Fire Training Centre.

Details: 10-day training course conducted in May/June. This was a GFRS led training course on behalf of LASNTG.

Aim: to provide the learners (trainee firefighters) with the skills, knowledge and competency necessary to wear Breathing Apparatus. This course is intended to develop the learners in the discharge of their roles as firefighters and to assist their Fire Authority in its function as a fire and rescue service.



CLASS PHOTO OF TRAINEES AND INSTRUCTIONAL TEAM WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE USING BREATHING APPARATUS INITIAL WEARERS COURSE.

NDFEM COMPARTMENT FIRE BEHAVIOUR TRAINER COURSE

Attendees: 1 x fulltime fire service junior officers

Location: Hacketstown Fire Training Centre.

Details: 10-day training course conducted in June

Aim: to enhance the training capability of fire authorities and training centre providers in Compartment Fire Behaviour Instruction through the provision of a course designed to provide officers with the necessary competency, skills and knowledge to devise, and deliver training on the technical aspects and the practical operational considerations involved in compartment firefighting.

NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE (USAR) PROJECT

To date 6 personnel have undertaken the USAR 1 Course at the NIFRS Learning and Development College. A further 3 students are scheduled to attend the course on the 01st September 2025. The national training kit has been delivered to and will be managed by GFRS.



USAR 1 COURSE - COOKSTOWN, NORTHERN IRELAND

NATIONAL USAR TRAINING KIT ON MFU-01



NDFEM HAZMAT COURSE

2 students attended the NDFEM National Hazmat Training course in Limerick on the 12th - 23rd May 2025. GFRS also demonstrated the new ROV capability.



ROV DEMONSTRATION – NATIONAL HAZMAT COURSE LIMERICK

There was approx. 197 person days (equivalent to approx. 1578 person hours) of training conducted in May / June.

JUNE / JULY TRAINING SCHEDULE

In addition to routine on station training:

- NDFEM BA Instructor Course
- Emergency Fire Responder Refresher Training
- NDFEM USAR Technician 1 course
- Remotely Operated Vehicle training
- Firefighting Skills (Recruit Firefighter) Course
- Trench Rescue Course
- NUROP Senior Officer Seminar – 15th July 2025

CIVIL DEFENCE

ACTIVITIES

Volunteers provided medical support to 2 Triathlons, in Portumna Forest Park and NUI, Galway. Safety Boat cover was also provided on the swim portion of the NUI event.

Safety Boat cover was also provided for the historic Cong to Galway Boat Race and for the Longest Day Swim on the River Corrib.

Medical support was provided at community events in Bullaun, Kilreekill and at Galway Airport Vintage Car Classis Fest.

TRAINING

6 Volunteers completed Information Manager training under the Western Region Major Emergency Management Working Group training programme. The 6 trained volunteers can now provide valuable support to the PRA's Information Managers when requested.

5 Senior boat crew volunteers completed a Boat and PPE Care and Maintenance Champion Course in Dublin.

6 Senior boat crew attended and completed a Personal Safety Techniques & Casualty Handling Course also in Dublin. These boat courses are pilot courses being trailed for Civil Defence boat crews with the intention of rolling out training nationally. Galway was one of the 6 counties selected for the above training.

Safety Boat skills training was also provided to operational boat crews over 2 days this month, as more activity on the water may require immediate response for assistance from our crews.

2 Instructors have completed Food Safety and You training with the FSAI in Dublin. These instructors are now engaging in training volunteers throughout the county. This training is at the request of the Civil Defence Branch to be included in the training programme.

MAJOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MEDC (MAJOR EMERGENCY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE)

The most recent Galway County Council MEDC was conducted 26th June 2025. The next MEDC in both County and City is scheduled for August 2025.

The review of the joint Galway County and City Major Emergency Plan is well underway, and it is hoped to have a draft for the next MEDC in August 2025. The joint plan will streamline ME response in the county and city recognising the unique situation which exists with 2 councils in the one county.

TYNAGH ENERGY / TYNAGH POWER STATION

Tynagh Power Station is a lower tier COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazards) site. Work is continuing on the finalisation of the external emergency plan. An inter-agency training session on-site was conducted on the 19th December 2024. In March 2025, the Site operator

provided revised Site details (Site Contents and Operations), and the draft External Emergency Plan is being revised to reflect same.

A multi-agency exercise is scheduled for early 2026 to test the External Emergency Plan.

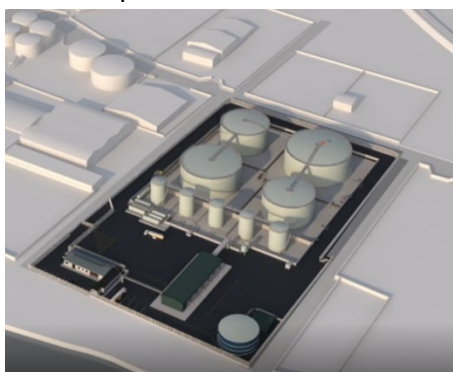


TYNAGH ENERGY LOWER TIER
COMAH SITE – TYNAGH, CO
GALWAY

CIRCLE K FUEL TERMINAL – GALWAY PORT

The Circle K terminal is an upper tier COMAH site. Work has progressed on the 2025 review of the external emergency plan which must be completed by end 2025. An initial inter-agency meeting led by Galway FRS was held in December 2024. Further interagency meetings were conducted in January and March of 2025. A draft copy of the revised External Emergency Plan was circulated to the Principle Response Agencies and other relevant stakeholders in March 2025. A table-top exercise to test the plan and the readiness of the local competent authorities and the site operator was held on the 29th April 2025. The exercise participants included Galway City Council, Galway Fire and Rescue Service, the HSE, An Garda Síochána, Galway Port Authority, Irish Rail, the Site Operator, and other relevant stakeholders.

The revised plan will be advertised for public consultation in mid-July and will then be signed-off. A full practical exercise at the site is scheduled for October 2025 to fully test GFRS response.



CIRCLE K UPPER TIER COMAH SITE - GALWAY
HARBOUR

NUROP AND SEVERE WEATHER EVENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SWEMS)

GFRS led an inter-county SWEMS exercise involving 7 local authorities on the 14th May 2025 in conjunction with the NDFEM and the Office of Emergency Planning. The exercise was conducted at the NECC Kildare Street and simultaneously in the 7 local authorities. Other

stakeholders in attendance were the HSE, An Garda Síochána, Met Éireann, the ESB, Irish Water, Civil Defence and a number of government departments.

GFRS were requested to repeat the exercise for the Department of Climate, Energy and Environment as part of their Storm Eowyn review, and this was conducted on the 23rd June 2025 at Beggars Bush. A number of government departments were represented and the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PLANNING

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL PLANNING DATA

KEY Statistics: 1 st JANUARY – 30 th June 2025	
Applications Received/Valid	1018/845
Granted	776
Grant Rate	92%
Refused	67
Breakdown of Decisions Granted Outline (6)	
Permission (611)	
Retention (143)	
Permission Consequent (4)	
Extension of Duration (12)	
Percentage of applications received via Portal/Hardcopy	85%
Stage 1LRD	1
Stage 2 LRD	0
Major Meetings	10
SID Meetings	1

COMMENCEMENTS AND COMPLETIONS 1 st JANUARY – 30 th June 2025	
Submitted and Validated Commencement Notices	355
Submitted and Validated Certificates of Completion	56

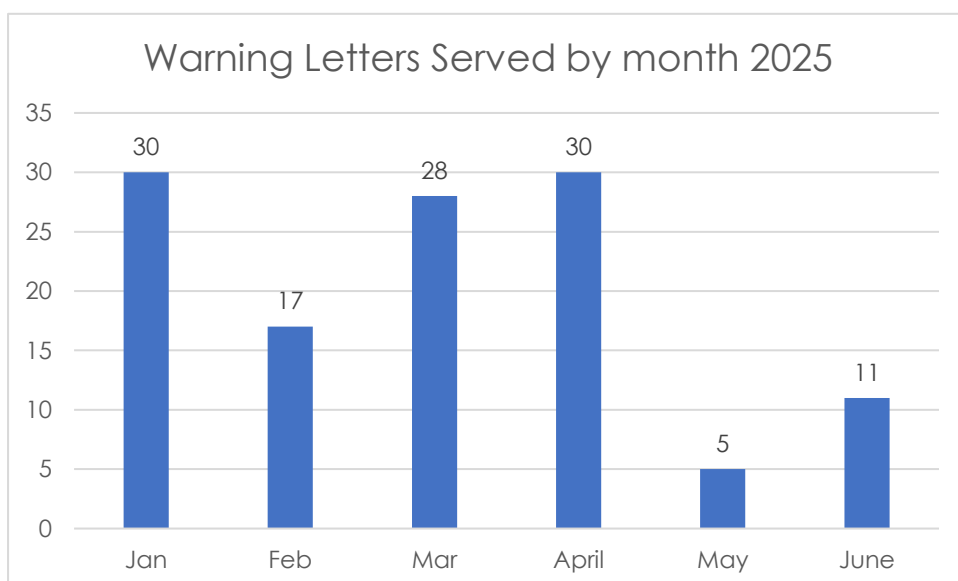
KEY STATISTICS 1st JANUARY 2025 –30th June 2025.

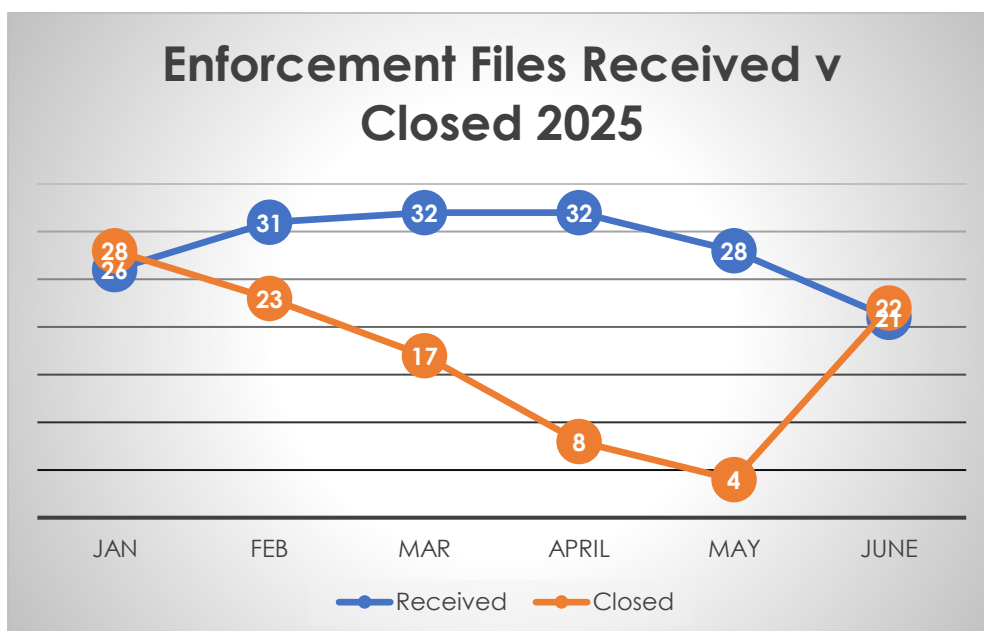
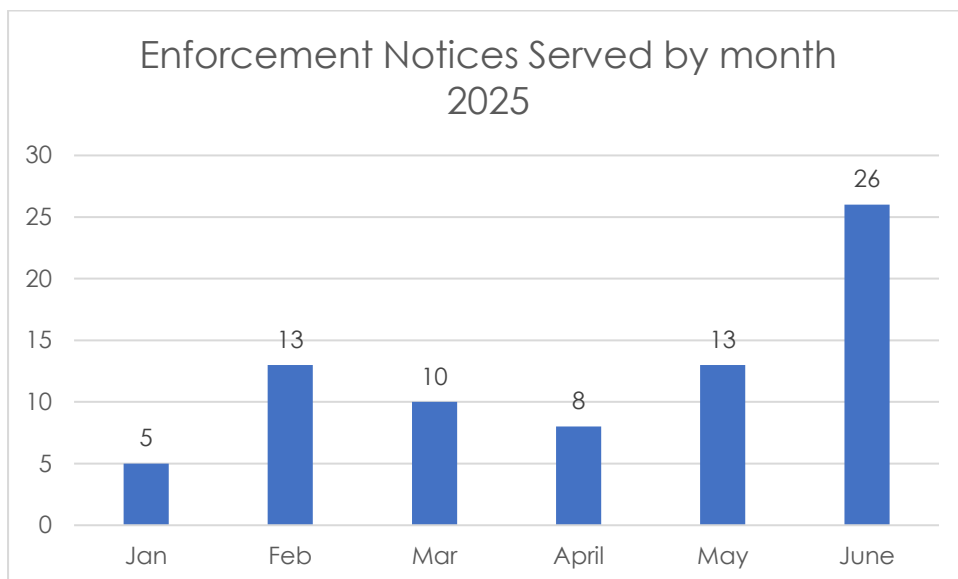
Exempted Development Applications (under Section 5)	90
Exempted	50
Not Exempted	30
FI	2
Withdrawn	
Decision Pending	6
Appealed	2

PRE PLANNING MEETINGS JANUARY TO JUNE 2025

PPM per MD per Month ▾	January ▾	Februa ▾	March ▾	April ▾	May ▾	June ▾
Ath/Ora	3	7	5	5	7	3
Ballinasloe	2	2	5	6	2	2
Connemara	3	4	6	7	3	0
Loughrea	8	9	9	5	2	6
Tuam	1	6	3	3	7	2
Total per month	17	28	28	26	21	13

ENFORCEMENT





KEY PLANNING UPDATES

GORT LOCAL AREA PLAN 2025-2031

Closing date for submissions on Material Alterations for Gort Local Area Plan 2025-2031 was 20th June 2025. Eleven submissions were received during the prescribed public display period. CE Report is currently being prepared on submissions received on Material Alterations and will be available in July 2025.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2024

Commencement Orders received with respect to the restructuring/renaming of An Bord Pleanála/An Coimisiún Pleanála and Urban Development Zones.

COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Ongoing monitoring and background work being carried out ahead of expected Variation. Framework of Environmental Consultants now in place in partnership with City Council.

MONITORING OF GALWAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028

Vacancy survey is now underway. The metropolitan towns have now been surveyed.

URDF

Works progressing with consultants with respect to design of local centre, ecopark and density typology study at Garraun with finalisation due in late August/early September.

SET enabling works now complete at Oranmore Train Station.

Tender documents being drafted with respect to car park design at Oranmore Train Station.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Tender brief being prepared for City/County Joint Economic Strategy to include city and entire County.

BRIARHILL URBAN FRAMEWORK PLAN LANDS

Works underway preparing design of local/nodal centre and density typology study at Briarhill with finalisation due in late August/early September.

JOINT RETAIL STRATEGY

Final edits and Strategy being drafted and agreed by City/County personnel. Joint SPC in September 2025 to include presentation of JRS.

DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Review of Development Contributions currently underway by the forward planning team. Report/Working Draft expected to issue to Executive Team.

RZLT (RESIDENTIAL ZONED LAND TAX)

The Annual Final Map - A total of 38 no. submissions were made on Final Map, of which 2 were subsequently withdrawn of which 12 of these submissions were Rezoning requests. 18 no. Determination Letters issued on 18/06/2025.

The Annual Draft Map – a total of 5 no. submissions was received, of which 2 was subsequently withdrawn. 1 no. submission was located in Galway City Council administrative area and 2 No. submissions related to the Annual Final Map.

CAHEROYN URBAN FRAMEWORK PLAN (ATHENRY)

In accordance with Policy Objective ASP 6 of the Athenry LAP quotations have been sought re delivery of UFP for lands at Caheroyn Athenry. Letters have also issued to landowners. Appointing of consultants mid-July.

An Coimisiún Pleanála granted permission with revised conditions to Burkeway Homes Ltd for 17 no. houses and pedestrian bridge structure at Trusky East Bearna.

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 tailored to meet specific business requirements. Please note our short training courses stopped on June 4th for the Summer months and will recommence on 9th September.



BUSINESS ADVISORY CLINIC

Our business advisory sessions enable clients to speak with one of our business advisors who will offer general advice to help on starting a new business or expanding on an existing business. Our advisor will discuss LEO related supports, training, mentoring and any other relevant services that may be available to aspiring or existing business promoters.



A business advisory is a free 30-minute consultation and runs weekly throughout the year. Our sessions are both in person and by phone. Please keep an eye on our website for the next upcoming available dates.

MENTORING

Our mentoring programme is designed to match up the knowledge, skills, insights, and



entrepreneurial capability of experienced business practitioners with clients who need practical and strategic one to one advice and guidance. The mentor contributes independent, informed observation and advice to aid decision making.

The Mentor Programme is open to both new and existing businesses located within the Galway region. Areas of mentoring include

business strategy, financial planning, market research, marketing & promotion, distribution, exporting, production planning, social media. A mentoring session consists of 3 hours support from the mentor.

START YOUR OWN BUSINESS PROGRAMME (SYOB)

LEO Galway organizes a SYOB programme monthly with up to 16 participants on each programme. The June SYOB evening programme commenced on the 9th of June 2025 and finished on the 3rd of July. Our current SYOB programme commenced on the 7th of July and will run until the 29th of July. Our SYOB programme will recommence in September.

LEAN LAUNCH



The Spring Lean Launch programme commenced on 27th February 2025. This programme is ideal if you are starting out with your business idea or just need that guidance to point you in the right direction to start making or increasing customers and sales. Our expert trainers will support you in carrying out real world sales and market research

to see if there is a business in your business. Market research is key in any business and while this programme is very hands on, you will get to see if your idea is viable. This programme will finish on July 16th. Our Autumn Lean Launch dates will be released in the coming weeks.

UPCOMING EVENTS

GRANT CLINICS WITH LEO GALWAY & THE PORTERSHED

Sandra Regan (LEO Galway) & Stephen Geary (PorterShed's Community & Funding Support Manager) will provide a special edition Grant Clinics in Portershed a Dó, 15 Market St. (H91 TCX3) on the first Wednesday of every month.

The July Grant Clinic was held on July 2nd from 1-4pm. The next Grant clinic will run on August 6th.

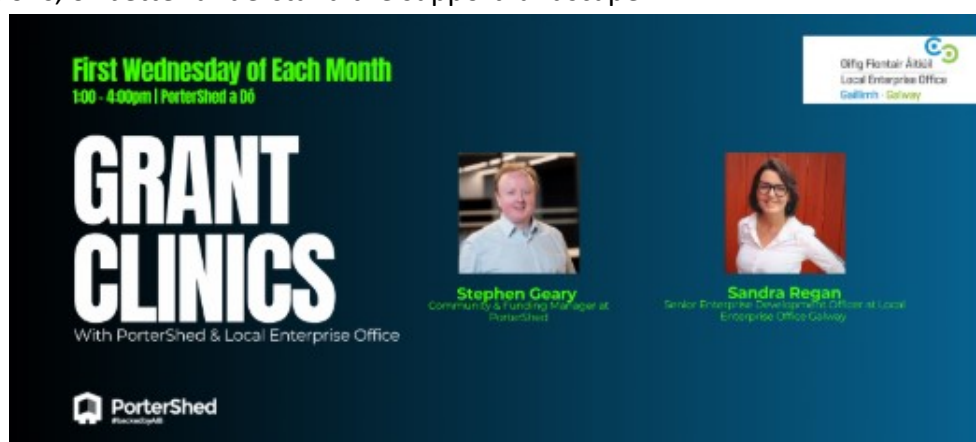
Whether you're just starting your funding journey or in the middle of a grant application, this session is designed to help you move forward with confidence.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Tailored guidance on specific grants and available supports
- Step-by-step advice on navigating the application process
- Direct feedback, evaluations, and hands-on proposal development

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Entrepreneurs, startups, and small business owners looking to access funding, improve their applications, or better understand the support landscape.



PAST EVENTS

OHH! BY GUM'S B CORP CELEBRATION & AWARENESS EVENT

Eoin Connaire (LEO Galway) recently attended the Ohh! By Gum's B Corp Celebration & Awareness Event on July 5th. This was a celebration and awareness community event in Clifden "From Local Roots to Global Impact". Ohh By Gum recently became B Corp certified and hosted a community event for B Corp awareness and education for businesses. B Corp certification, awarded by B Lab, signifies a company's commitment to meeting high standards of social and environmental performance, transparency, and accountability.





L-R: CLLR. EILEEN MANNION, MS. SHARON GRIFFIN, OWNER OHH! BY GUM, SUSTAINABLE CLOTHING, HOMEWARE & GIFTS BOUTIQUE, AND MR. EOIN CONNAIRE, LEO GALWAY

START 100

The University of Galway nurturing student entrepreneurs from all disciplines through the IdeasLab. The Start100 is a competition for students throughout all of the various University disciplines. The students are mentored by the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Galway. Noreen Donohue and Cailiosa Keaveney from LEO Galway recently attended the final of the pitching competition on July 3rd.



L-R: MS. NOREEN DONOHUE & MS. CAILIOSA KEAVENEY, LEO GALWAY

DR NATALIE WALSH, DIRECTOR OF ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT NUIG



NETWORK GALWAY BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Network Galway Businesswoman of the Year Awards took place on Friday, 20th June in the Radisson Red Hotel, Galway City. As a women's networking organization their membership is diverse and they welcome women from the public and private sector, entrepreneurs and employees, professionals and artists in all sectors. Local Enterprise Office Galway was one of the many sponsors for this event. Caroline McDonagh (Head of Enterprise) attended this event on behalf of LEO Galway. Sandra Madden (925Fit) was the overall winner of the 'Emerging Businesswoman Award' which was sponsored by LEO Galway.



L-R: MS. CAROLINE MCDONAGH, HEAD OF ENTERPRISE, LEO GALWAY, MS. SANDRA MADDEN, 925FIT, AND MS. MICHELLE RYAN PRESIDENT, NETWORK GALWAY

CREATIVE BUSINESS CUP IRELAND, NATIONAL FINALS

Sharon McNelis and Sandra Regan from LEO Galway recently attended the Creative Business Cup Ireland, National Finals in CREW on June 11th. After an incredible day of pitches from five outstanding creative start-ups, Dora Jean Gillespie, Founder of Starilum, was crowned the winner of this year's National Finals. Their bold vision, innovative approach, and inspiring presentation truly impressed the expert jury and audience alike. Finalists on the day included BigLook, Wonky Woolens, Magnate, SEQO, and Starilum. The Creative Business



Cup Ireland is in partnership with CREW, the Western Development Commission and Creative Business Network along with support from LEO Galway.

DORA JEAN GILLESPIE, FOUNDER OF STARILUM IN ACTION

NDRC FOUNDER WEEKEND

Caroline McDonagh (Head of Enterprise) recently participated as a judge for the NDRC Founder Weekend on June 15th in the Portershed, Galway. From learning how to validate your idea with customers, to understanding metrics that matter, the Pre-Accelerator will prepare you to pitch to accelerators and better understand pathways to funding.



The two winning teams on the day included TradeMate and Study Smith.

MS. CAROLINE MCDONAGH,
HEAD OF ENTERPRISE, LEO
GALWAY AND MR. KENNY
DEERY, WREP PROGRAMME
MANAGER

EVENT PARTICIPANTS

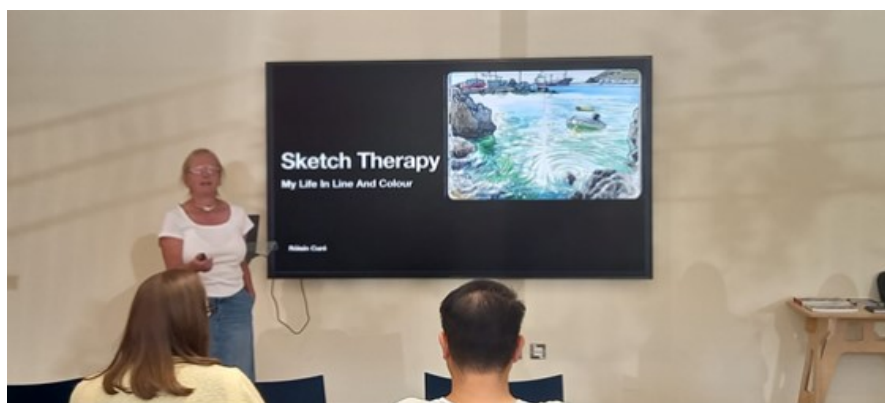


DESIGN MINGLE WITH RÓISÍN CURÉ

Róisín Curé spoke about her inspiring journey to success in CREW on Friday 20th June. Growing up on a mountainside in Wicklow, Róisín sold her first paintings at the age of 14. Her education included art in NCAD, a design HND in London and an MSc in Geology in Galway. Raising children and fielding endless rejections resulted in very little professional success for about twenty years. Thirteen years ago, while living in Mauritius, Róisín discovered urban sketching. She established Urban Sketchers Galway in 2014 along with two co-founders, which is going from strength to strength these days. She taught her first international urban sketching workshop in 2015 and in the ten years since she has taught across Europe and worked as a professional on-location sketcher for various government bodies.

Róisín Curé has represented Ireland on the world stage at USk Porto (2018), USk Amsterdam (2019), USk Switzerland in Bern (2021), and will carry the flag this year in Poznan, Poland and Geneva, Switzerland. Between 2019 and 2021 Róisín published three bestsellers with sketching as their theme: *An Urban Sketcher's Galway* (Currach Press 2019), reprinted as *Galway In Sketches And Stories* (Red Stripe Press, 2024); *The Urban Sketcher's Handbook: Drawing Expressive People* (Quarto, 2020) and *Dublin In Sketches And Stories* (Merrion Press, 2021 and 2024). All are in second edition and / or translation. Róisín started teaching sketching live online to her followers early in 2020. From 2022 to 2024 she hosted the Sketch Therapist podcast. She started broadcasting on YouTube in 2023 making videos about life as a sketcher. In 2023, frustrated by the shortcomings of sketching bags available, she started designing a bag for sketchers, and in 2024 her cactus leather SketchPocket hit the market, selling out in a few weeks. The Róisín Curé Sketch Club is in full swing, with subscription-only live classes twice weekly broadcast to a global community. She lives in Kilcolgan in south Galway.

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



RÓISÍN CURÉ IN
ACTION AT DESIGN
MINGLE

SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

FACEBOOK:

7.4K LIKES

REACH YEAR-TO-DATE: 13.5K

LINKEDIN:

1.4K FOLLOWERS

REACH YEAR-TO-DATE: 4.1K

INSTAGRAM:

3.3K FOLLOWERS

REACH YEAR-TO-DATE: 5.9K

X (TWITTER):

5890 FOLLOWERS

LIFE SCIENCES PILLAR - WREP

As part of the Life Sciences pillar of the West Regional Enterprise Plan (WREP), the programme manager of the WREP, Kenny Deery, hosted an industry workshop in collaboration with colleagues in Enterprise Ireland, the IDA and Údarás na Gaeltachta. The purpose of this workshop was to understand if there is a need in Galway, for a Hub for Medtech/Life Sciences, and what other industry needs the sector has.

This event happened on the 26th June 2025 at CREW Digital Hub and was centred around the following six questions:

1. Do you believe there is a need for a hub (physical building) for Medtech/LifeSciences in Galway?
2. What type of hub would you like developed and what general and specialist facilities should it have?
3. What additional supports, programmes and services would you consider are needed?
4. Where should this hub be located?
5. Would your organisation be open to providing support to develop this hub?
6. Is there anything else the sector needs to be successful in Galway and the West?

Following this industry workshop a report is being generated, which will then lead to a stakeholder workshop, at which industry needs will be presented and next steps will be agreed.



MR. JOE SMYTH, SVP OF R&D, AI, DIGITAL AND JOURNEY MANAGEMENT AT GENESYS, FACILITATING THE LIFE SCIENCES WORKSHOP HOSTED RECENTLY BY MR. KENNY DEERY, WREP PM.

RENEWABLES ENERGY PILLAR - WREP

As Part of the Renewable Energy Pillar of the Western Regional Enterprise Plan, PM Kenny Deery participated in and presented at a number of events, most notably a workshop

focused on the potential of a Renewables Hub, proposed to be located at the Port of Galway, which took place on 09th June 2025.

This work is being driven by PorterShed, who have secured priming funding through the Enterprise Ireland Smart Regions programme.



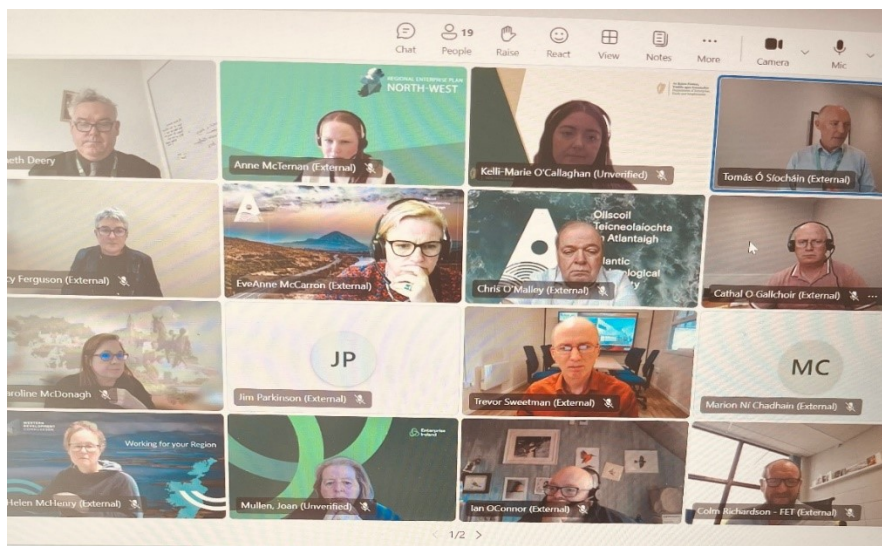
MR. LIAM CURRAN, ENTERPRISE IRELAND AND MS. CAIIOSA KEAVENEY, LEO GALWAY

MARY RODGERS CEO OF PORTERSHED
OPENING PROCEEDINGS AT THE
RENEWABLES HUB WORKSHOP IN GALWAY



A meeting was held on 12th June 2025 of the joint West / NorthWest renewable energy working group, the focus of which centred on the following topics:

- Presentation from the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment (DETE) on Powering Prosperity (Ireland's Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy)
- Government taskforce update
- AMETS (Atlantic Marine Energy Test Site) floating demonstrator update
- Electricity Constraints Study update
- PorterShed Renewable Energy Hub update
- Scottish / Irish collaboration



MEMBERS OF THE
RENEWABLE ENERGY
WORKING GROUP
ATTENDED BY MS.
CAROLINE
MCDONOUGH,
HEAD OF
ENTERPRISE, LEO
GALWAY AND MR.
KENNY DEERY, WREP
PM.

REGIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM (RE&I) - WREP

As part of the RE&I ecosystem a number of meetings and events took place in June, most notably WREP PM Kenny Deery travelled to Kaunas, Lithuania to participate in, and present at, a workshop centred around 'Funding and Financing Mechanisms for SME's'. This is part of an Interreg funded project entitled Viaduct, with partners from across Europe. The WREP PM travelled as a guest of the WDC and was accompanied by Fergus Doyle of the Disruptive Technologies Fund in DETE and Ian Brannigan, head of regional development at the WDC. The next meeting of this project group will be hosted in Galway in January 2026.



Galway played host to the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham), West and NorthWest Conference on June 19th where Mary Rodgers, CEO of PorterShed and Chair of the RE&I working group, delivered a keynote address focused on enterprise, innovation and collaboration across the region. Her presentation centred around the importance of the Regional Enterprise Plans as being a driver of our collective success.

The WREP PM Kenny Deery met with the CEO of the American Chamber Paul Sweetman, and the Head of Policy, Colm O'Callaghan as part of the conference. The focus of this discussion was on working collectively to understand the future energy, human capital and infrastructure needs of the Chambers members in the West of Ireland.



MS. LIZ CUNNINGHAM, PRESIDENT OF AMCHAM, MR. KENNY DEERY, WREP PM, MINISTER DARA CALLEARY, MINISTER FOR RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND THE GAELTACHT AND MR. PAUL SWEETMAN, CEO OF AMCHAM.

MR. LAURENCE MAY, HEAD OF KPMG WEST AND AMCHAM CONFERENCE SPONSOR, MS. LOUISE MONAHAN, CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT MANAGER, UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY, MR. KENNY DEERY, WREP PM AND MS. ELAINE MURPHY, SVP AND SITE LEAD AT SIGNIFY IRELAND, FORMER PRESIDENT AMCHAM AND RECENTLY APPOINTED INTERIM CHAIRPERSON OF THE WREP.



REGENERATION SCHEMES

TOWN CENTRE FIRST (TCF) PROGRAMME

ATHENRY

The Athenry Town team have been working closely with the TRO and Consultants LUC in the initial stages of evidence gathering for the TCF plan. The process of distilling the public feedback from the public engagement is complete and a further meeting with the town team has been arranged for June 17th. Dates for a further engagement evening where draft projects will be presented will be finalised shortly.

BALLINASLOE

The Ballinasloe Town Team continue to work with the Paul Hogarth Company in development the draft Town Centre First Plan. A further meeting of the Town Team will take place to reflect on the recent public consultation event and the feedback received. The process of drafting the final Town Centre First Plan will now begin.

AN CHEATHRÚ RUA

The Town Centre First Plan for an Cheathrú Rua is being led by Údaras and supported by Galway County Council. Allies and Morrison have been appointed to develop the plan. The Town Regeneration Officer, Brent Mostert will continue to liaise on behalf of Galway County Council.

PORTUMNA

PORTUMNA COURTHOUSE

The official opening of Portumna Courthouse took place on June 25th at 10am, performed by Minister of State, Sean Canney.



PORTUMNA COURTHOUSE THE MORNING OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING

REPRESENTATIVES FROM GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, OC&C ARCHITECTS, BRENDAN MERRY & PARTNERS, CATHAOIRLEACH DAVID COLLINS AND MINISTER SEAN CANNEY





DANCER PERFORMING AT THE
OFFICIAL OPENING

EVERYONE OUT ENJOYING THE
WEATHER IN THE COURTYARD BEING
SERVED ICE CREAM



LOCAL MUSICIAN JOHN LUKE
PERFORMING AT THE OPENING FOR THE
COMMUNITY THAT TOOK PLACE LATER
THAT EVENING

As part of our community outreach program, courthouse manager Karagh Kelly hosted several engagements over the past week including Redwood National School and the North Tipperary Artists Collective.



MEMBERS OF THE NORTH TIPPERARY ARTIST COLLECTIVE AND CHILDREN FROM REDWOOD NATIONAL SCHOOL MAKING USE OF REBURNISHED COURTHOUSE.



PORTUMNA PUBLIC REALM

The Portumna Public realm enhancement scheme part 8 planning application is approaching submission readiness.

Engagement is continuing with a view to purchasing 2no. town centre plots of land to increase the provision of off-street parking to support town centre businesses.

PORTUMNA TOWN TRAIL

OBFA Architects have produced a draft Town Trail strategy document following the successful public consultation event. The document is currently being reviewed and will be discussed with our partners in Portumna, Coillte, Waterways Ireland, and the Office of Public Works to determine appropriate funding streams.

LOUGHREA

RRDF PROJECT – LOUGHREA TOWN HALL

Finna Construction are progressing with demolition works ongoing. Work has commenced on the construction of the new build three storey rear extension to the original structure.

Agreement has been reached with the landowner to purchase the adjacent derelict property on Church Street. Future development plans for the property are currently being considered.



WORKS PROGRESSING ON SITE



ORIS PROJECT – LONG POINT

The Regeneration team are working with Consultants Helena McElmeel Architects to deliver the redesign of the Long Point swimming area in Loughrea Town. An Bord Pleanála have issued a request for further information. The consultant team appointed by Galway County Council are preparing our submission in response to the issues raised.

ATHENRY

RRDF PROJECT – PUBLIC REALM ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

Following a detailed application by the Regeneration Team, Athenry was granted €6,075,518.40 Rural Regeneration Development Funding for the Athenry Public Realm Enhancement Scheme Phase1 and the redevelopment of Somers House Burke's Lane to provide a Community and Enterprise Hub.

The detailed design of the scheme (drainage, m&e, alignment, pavement) continues, led by Tobin Engineers.

Current programming forecasts construction to commence early-2026. As part of the contract a community liaison officer will be appointed to manage engagement with local stakeholders both prior to and during works.

The contracts have been signed, and a booking deposit has been paid to purchase a site at the bottom of Bridge Street from the OPW to provide off street parking. Initial estimates are that approximately 30no. off street spaces could be provided at the location.

RRDF PROJECT – SOMERS SHOUSE

O’C & C Architects have been appointed to deliver the process through detailed design, tender and construction phases. It is the intention to investigate the provision of a meeting room facility to cater for meeting of the Municipal District as part of the project. The detailed design process has commenced.

OPW WORKS – ATHENRY CASTLE

Works are progressing on site and are expected to be completed within a couple of weeks.

TUAM

TUAM TOWN HALL

OC&C architects have been appointed as the design team that will deliver the process through detailed design, tender and construction phases. The detailed design process has commenced. It is expected that a contractor will be appointed for the project in early Q1 of 2026.

TUAM STATION BUILDING: REPURPOSING, RENOVATION AND EXTENSION

The renovation and extension of the Tuam Station Building has been designed inhouse by the Regeneration Team.

The Part 8 planning application was submitted on the 28th of March. A Meeting of Tuam Municipal District convened on May 29th to consider the Chief Executives Report on the planning file. The application was approved unanimously. A funding application to deliver the capital project has been made to the Northern and Western Regional Assembly under the European Regional Development Fund. The funding sought amounts to some €6.6 million euros. A decision on funding is expected in September of this year.

TUAM STATION QUARTER MASTERPLAN (THRIVE FUNDING)

Galway County Council is working in partnership with Iarnród Éireann and to deliver a transformational masterplan for the Tuam Station Quarter. Reddy Architecture and Urbanism have been formally appointed to develop the masterplan. The first public consultation has taken place. The findings are being collated by the consultants to inform the draft masterplan. Engagement with Iarnród Éireann has progressed in the past number of weeks, further exchange of information is scheduled to take place.

It is anticipated that a workshop with Elected Members will take place in the coming months. Further public engagement will also be held.

CLIFDEN

A Part 10 planning application has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála for the Public Realm project for Clifden Town Centre, Harbour Park and Beach Road Quay. Plans and particulars can be viewed online at <https://consult.galway.ie/en/consultation/clifden-public-realm-enhancement-scheme> . A request for further information has been issued by An bord Pleanala to Galway County Council. The design team appointed by Galway County Council are currently working on a response. It is anticipated this response will issue within 8 weeks.

GORT

GORT PUBLIC REALM

The Gort Public Realm scheme is ready to be submitted as a part ten planning application to An Bord Pleanála. We are engaging with our Law Agents to purchase lands in the town centre for additional off-street carparking space.

SISTERS OF MERCY CONVENT

An application for funding under Category 2 of the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund to purchase the former Convent property has been submitted. It is anticipated that a decision will issue within three months.

ORANMORE

RINVILLE PARK SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLAN



Cunnane Stratton Reynolds have been appointed to develop a sustainable development plan for Rinville Park. An initial stakeholder workshop took place on July 3rd (2pm – 7pm) at Oranmore Library on Main Street. The design team were on hand to discuss the project with residents and local community groups.





POSTER TO ADVERTISE THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT

HERITAGE OFFICE

HERITAGE COUNCIL VISITS GALWAY TO SEE COMMUNITY-LED HERITAGE PROJECTS FIRST-HAND

The Heritage Council and Executive visited Galway City and County on Thursday and Friday, June 19th and 20th, to witness the impact of Heritage Council funding on the ground and to meet with the passionate volunteers and heritage professionals leading this vital work.

The visit included a board meeting of the Heritage Council which took place in the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, Galway County Council. The Board and Executive of the Heritage Council were welcomed to Galway County Council by Liam Hanrahan, Director of Services – Economic Development & Planning. In his address to the Heritage Council, he said "The Heritage Council's support has been invaluable, funding the Heritage Office Post since 2000, the Community Archaeologist Project since 2004, and the Biodiversity Officer position initiated in 2023. Their contributions have enabled numerous Heritage and Biodiversity Plan Projects, including the Holy Wells Audit, Digital Mapping of Graveyards, and the Oral Heritage Audit. Additionally, they have supported the Irish Walled Town Network Projects, such as Athenry Walled Town Day, Athenry Town Walls Capital Works, Loughrea Medieval Festival, and Loughrea Walled Town initiatives. We are deeply grateful for their funding of various community projects across the county and their expert guidance in shaping our Heritage Policy, which has been instrumental in preserving and promoting Galway County's rich heritage."

VIRGINIA TEEHAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE,
HERITAGE COUNCIL, LIAM HANRAHAN,
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES – ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING AND DR
MARTINA MOLONEY, CHAIRPERSON,
HERITAGE COUNCIL



MARIE MANNION, HERITAGE OFFICER,
VIRGINIA TEEHAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE,
HERITAGE COUNCIL, LIAM HANRAHAN,
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES – ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING, DR MARTINA
MOLONEY, CHAIRPERSON, HERITAGE
COUNCIL AND ANN MARIE CUSACK,
ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION OFFICER

The Board and Executive of the Heritage Council then went on a guided tour of Galway City Museum, followed by a trip to Baile Chláir Castle to view recent conservation works led by Eamonn O'Donoghue. Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Sean Canney, and Leas Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council, Ollie Turner, also joined the visit at Baile Chláir Castle.

The tour continued to the medieval town of Athenry, where the board was welcomed by Galway County Council Heritage Officer Marie Mannion. The visit concluded in Kinvara, where the Council met with over twenty-five community heritage and Tidy Towns groups from across the county of Galway, who showcased the inspiring work they have achieved with support from the Heritage Council.

Martina Moloney, Chairperson of the Heritage Council and former Galway County Manager, said:

“Galway’s rich heritage is truly exceptional, and it was a privilege for the Heritage Council to meet the extraordinary individuals and community groups working tirelessly to protect and promote it. Visits like this are so important as they allow us to see first-hand the impact of our support and to fully appreciate the value of the incredible work happening at a local level. We are immensely proud to play a part in sustaining this vital heritage for future generations.”

Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Galway County Council expressed her gratitude, saying: “We are deeply thankful to the Board and Executive of the Heritage Council for coming to

the county of Galway and for their unwavering support to Galway County Council and the communities in the county of Galway who benefit from Heritage Council funding". She also extended a heartfelt thanks to the amazing heritage groups in the county who do incredible work in promoting and safeguarding the heritage of the county in a voluntary capacity.

The visit received extensive coverage in the local newspapers:



TUAM HERALD- HERITAGE COUNCIL BOARD AND EXECUTIVE MEETING GALWAY 19 AND 20 JUNE 2025



CONNACHT TRIBUNE- HERITAGE COUNCIL BOARD AND EXECUTIVE MEETING GALWAY 19 AND 20 JUNE 2025

CONNACHT TRIBUNE- HERITAGE COUNCIL BOARD AND EXECUTIVE MEETING GALWAY 19 AND 20 JUNE 2025

RESOUNDING SUCCESS OF THE ALEEN CUST SYMPOSIUM AT MOUNTBELLEW AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE



ANNE MARIE HAWE-MURPHY, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER AND GINA O'SHAUGHNESSY, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER LOOKING AFTER DELEGATE REGISTRATION AT THE ALEEN CUST SYMPOSIUM. PHOTO CREDIT: JACINTA FAHY.

The Aleen Cust Symposium, held on Friday, 4th July 2025, at the Agricultural College in Mountbellew, was a resounding success, drawing over 200 attendees throughout the day. The event celebrated the legacy of Aleen Cust, the first female veterinary surgeon in Ireland and the UK and featured an impressive lineup of speakers who delivered insightful and inspiring presentations. In addition to this numerous heritage groups and the North Galway and Mountbellew vintage clubs had excellent exhibitions and displays which added a unique and enriching dimension to the event.

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CONNACHT TRIBUNE
FRIDAY JUL 4, 2025

Helping to preserve

Heritage Council visits city and county to see community-led heritage projects first-hand

A HOST of heritage groups from across the city and county put their best foot forward when members of the Heritage Council visited Galway to witness the impact in funding was having on the ground.

The Heritage Council members and executive wanted to meet with the passionate volunteers and heritage professionals leading this vital work, and they were impressed with what they encountered.

The visit included a guided tour of Galway City Museum with Director Eilishie Verling and Galway City Heritage Officer Jim Higgins, followed by a trip to Changavoy Castle to view recent conservation works led by Eamonn O'Donoghue.

Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Sean Connolly, and then Lara Callaghan of Galway County Council, Cllr Turner, also joined the visit at Changavoy Castle.

The tour continued to the medieval town of Ashmole, where the local was welcomed by Galway County Council Heritage Officer Martin Mahoney.

The visit concluded in Kilmara, where the Council met with over twenty-five community heritage and Tidy Towns groups from across the county of Galway, who showcased the inspiring work they have achieved with support from the Heritage Council.

Martin Mahoney, Chairperson of the Heritage Council and former Galway County Manager, praised Galway's rich heritage as "truly exceptional".

"It was a privilege for the Heritage Council to meet the extraordinary individuals and community groups working tirelessly to protect and promote it," she said.

"It is like this on a personal level as they allow us to see first-hand the impact of our support and to fully appreciate the value of the incredible work happening at a local level."

"We are immensely proud to play a part in sustaining this vital heritage for future generations," she added.

Galway County Council Heritage Officer Marie Mahoney expressed her gratitude to all who made the visit such a success.

"We are deeply thankful to the Board and Executive of the Heritage Council for coming to the county of Galway and for their unwavering support to Galway County Council and the community in the county of Galway who benefit from Heritage Council funding," she said.

She also extended a heartfelt thanks to the amazing heritage groups in the county who do incredible work in promoting and safeguarding the heritage of the county in a voluntary capacity.



Chief Executive of the Heritage Council, Virginia Twyman (second left) with Kate Blake, Maria Berry and Clare McGillicuddy from Kilmara Tidy Towns.



Owner of Changavoy Castle, Dr Eamonn O'Donoghue with Lara Callaghan of County Galway, Cllr Orla Turner.



Marion Kenny, Woodhouse Heritage Group, Galway Community Archaeologist Bernice Doherty and Pauline Connolly, Miltown Heritage.



Profr. Mark Scott from heritage council with Ann Tierney and Frank Gann from Fohernagh pictured during the heritage council board meeting with Galway heritage group in Kilmara last Friday.



John Connolly, Eilish Kavanagh and John Griffin from Kilmara pictured during the heritage council board meeting with Galway heritage group in Kilmara last Friday.



Jack Connolly from Dughairead with Chief Executive of the Heritage Council, Virginia Twyman and Bernice Doherty pictured during the heritage council board meeting with Galway heritage group in Kilmara last Friday.



SOME OF THE AUDIENCE AT THE ALEEN CUST SYMPOSIUM, MOUNTBELLEW.
PHOTO CREDIT JACINTA FAHY



DONAL CONNOLLY, ALEEN CUST SOCIETY; EDNA CURLEY, PRINCIPAL, MOUNTBELLEW AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE; ERICA BORGE, VETERINARY OFFICER; JUNE FANNING CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER; DR ORLA FLYNN, PRESIDENT OF ATLANTIC TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY (ATU); AND JOANNE PERRY, VETERINARY INSPECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND THE MARINE. PHOTO CREDIT JACINTA FAHY.

Dr. Orla Flynn, President of Atlantic Technological University (ATU), expressed her institution's pride in being associated with the event. "ATU is delighted to be associated with this now annual event commemorating the first female vet in Ireland, especially in the context of ATU developments in this field. We look forward to the day when our own students will be in attendance! I want to thank Dr. Edna Curley and all the team at Mountbellew Agricultural College for the work in organizing the event, along with Galway County Council."



CLLR. PETER FEENEY, MÁIREAD MCGUINNESS AND PETER ROCHE, TD AT THE AILEEN CUST SYMPOSIUM. PHOTO CREDIT: JACINTA FAHY

The talks at this year's symposium were exceptional, covering a wide range of topics that are crucial to the advancement of veterinary and farming practices. The speakers provided deep insights into both historical and contemporary issues, making the event highly educational and inspiring.

MÁIREAD MCGUINNESS AND CLLR ALAN HARNEY AT THE AILEEN CUST SYMPOSIUM. PHOTO CREDIT JACINTA FAHY



The speakers included June Fanning, Ireland's first female Chief Veterinary Officer, Máiread McGuinness, former European Commissioner for Financial Stability, Financial Services and the Capital Markets Union, John Flaherty, a renowned veterinary historian, Erica Borge, an expert in animal welfare and John Cunningham, a leading authority on labour history. Each of these speakers contributed significantly to the symposium, offering valuable perspectives and knowledge that enriched the event.

MÁIREAD MCGUINNESS AND CLLR MICHAEL CONNOLLY AT THE ALEEN CUST SYMPOSIUM. PHOTO CREDIT: JACINTA FAHY



Donal Connolly of The Aleen Cust Society highlighted the importance of remembering and honouring Aleen Cust's contributions. "Aleen Cust broke significant barriers in her time, and it is vital that we continue to celebrate her achievements and inspire future generations."

Dr. Edna Curley, Principal of the Agricultural College, Mountbellew, expressed her delight at the turnout and the quality of the presentations. "We are thrilled with the success of this year's symposium. The talks were insightful and inspiring, reflecting the pioneering spirit of Aleen Cust. The heritage and vintage displays added a unique touch, connecting us with the rich history of veterinary and farming practices."

Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer at Galway County Council, highlighted the cultural and educational value of the lectures. "The talks at the symposium were a testament to the rich heritage of veterinary science and its evolution over the years. The speakers did an excellent job of connecting the past with the present, providing valuable insights that will inspire future generations." She added, "The heritage and vintage displays showcased at the symposium were exceptional. They played a crucial role in connecting us with our past and preserving the rich history of veterinary science and farming. She commended the heritage groups and vintage clubs for their outstanding work."



AOIFE GLYNN, DANNY GLYNN AND MÁIREAD MCGUINNESS AT THE ALEEN CUST SYMPOSIUM. PHOTO CREDIT: JACINTA FAHY

June Fanning, Chief Veterinary Officer at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, shared her thoughts on the occasion: "It is an incredible honour to serve as Ireland's first female Chief Veterinary Officer. As we gather to celebrate the legacy of Aleen Cust, who broke barriers over a century ago, we are reminded that progress is built on courage and a collective commitment to equality across the veterinary profession and beyond."

ANNE TIERNEY, OLD TUAM SOCIETY, FRANK GAVIN, FOHENAGH HERITAGE AND PAULINE CONNOLLY, MILLTOWN HERITAGE AT THE ALEEN CUST SYMPOSIUM. PHOTO CREDIT JACINTA FAHY



Joanne Perry, Veterinary Inspector, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine acted as Master of Ceremonies, while retired Vet James Linnane presented all those present with a rose from his award-winning rose collection.

HAZEL MORRISON, MAIGH CUILINN HERITAGE AT THE ALEEN CUST SYMPOSIUM. PHOTO CREDIT: JACINTA FAHY



The Aleen Cust Symposium continues to be a significant event, fostering a deeper understanding of the history and advancements in veterinary science while honoring the trailblazers who paved the way for future generations.

ATHENRY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT –2025 CONTRACTOR WORKS ONGOING – INTERNAL WORKS ONGOING

- Old Church St, Athenry (2024) – **Complete**
- RI R347 Laraghmore 2025 – RI Contractor – In Progress
- RI R348 Derrydonnell 2025 – RI Contractor – In Progress
- RI L4105 Millplot (Station Road) 2025 – RI Contractor
- RI L3106 Ballinvoer 2025 – RI Contractor – In Progress
- RI L2129 Drumgriffin 2025 – RI Contractor – In Progress
- RI L3107 Tysaxon (Monivea Rd) 2025 – RI Contractor – In Progress
- RI L2119 Baunmore 2025 – RI Contractor In Progress
- RI L6214 Clogher/Cahergowan 2025 – RI Contractor – In Progress
- RI L2134 Castlegar 2025 – City Contractor In Progress
- RI L6195 Liscananaun 2025 – **Complete**
- RI L6117 Mullaghtruttery 2025 In Progress
- RI L31026 Moor 2025 – **Complete**
- RI L71102 Carnmore East 2025 – In Progress
- RI L81031 Rinn 2025 **Complete**
- RI L71523 Toorkeel 2025 – **Complete**
- RI L31078 Carrantarramud 2025 – **Complete**
- RI L7168 Knockroe/Rafort 2025 – **Complete**
- RI L7130 Farravaun 2025 – **Complete**
- RI L7114 Kiltroque 2025 – In Progress

RESTORATION MAINTENANCE/IMPROVEMENT

SURFACE DRESSING – PREFERRED CONTRACTOR HAS BEEN APPOINTED – WORKS COMMENCED

- RM R354 Lackaghbeg 2025
- RM L7139 Corrafaireen 2025 - **Complete**
- RM L3110 Farmhill 2025
- RM L31104 Stonepark 2025 - **Complete**
- RM L71761 Gortnahultra 2025 – In Progress
- RM L3118 Cappanasruhaun 2025 - **Complete**
- RM L31043 Rathmorrissety 2025 - **Complete**
- RM L7108 Castlelambert 2025
- RM L2124 Ballybrone 2025
- RM L7104 Cregboy 2025 – In Progress

- RM L2117 Annagh West 2025
- RM L6194 Cregduff 2025 – In Progress
- RM L6202 Roanmore 2025 - Complete
- RM L6197 Waterdale 2025 – Complete
- RM L31021 Cahernashilleeney 2025 – In Progress

RECYCLING CONTRACT – CONTRACTOR APPOINTED

- RI L3117 Cormacuagh 2025
- RI L7115 Carheenlea 2025

SAFETY IMPROVEMENT WORKS

- Derrydonnell Beg Junction Road safety Audit complete. Further works include.
Contractor planning following works
 - o Tarmac works to alter turning circle towards Athenry
 - o Vehicle actuated sign - Complete
 - o Definition Posts repositioned
 - o Road lining and reflectors
 - o Signs Improvement
- Petrol Station Entrance works – Work's being Planned/designed to upgrade markings.
- Carnmore Cross Junction – Work's being designed to renew traffic lights.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- CC2024 N67/R446/L4105 Carrowmoneash GC/24/35508 – works to connect storm water completed, reinstatement works complete
- CC2025 L-2119 Auclogheen Drainage GC/25/009
- CC2025 L-3105 Coolarne Retaining Wall GC/25/012 – Options for works considered

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEME

- Maree Road @ Church – Complete
- New Line Junction Pedestrian Crossing – Contractor on site
- Ryehill Church – Road widening – Complete
- Coolarne – Road setback ongoing
- Caraun – Road bend - Complete
- Ballyboggin – Edge drainage – Complete

FIGURES AND PICTURES



DERRYDONNELL ACTUATED SIGN

BRIDGE CLEARANCE ATHENRY



NEW LINE ATHENRY
PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

SURFACE DRESSING - WATERDALE



SURFACE DRESSING - WATERDALE



CAHERGOWAN DRAINAGE



SURFACE DRESSING - LISCANANAUN



SURFACE REPAIRS - BAUNMORE

BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

During June 2025 Ballinasloe MD continued to deliver the primary elements of the annual roadworks programme, restoration improvement (RI) and restoration maintenance (RM). An outline of the current status is presented here, along with photos of works completed below.

RI - Contract No.1 is approximately 20% complete, with works in Clonbern, Creggs and Newbridge expected during July. RM is approximately 65% complete. Due to saving achieved in the procurement processes, additional roadworks projects are likely to be undertaken, which will be communicated to Ballinasloe MD Councillors shortly.

Separately, roadworks projects granted funding in 2025 under LIS (6), CIS(6), Climate-Change(3), Low-Cost-Safety(1), are all being prepared by the MD technical teams and by MD crews on site.

Road markings have been renewed on several town centre pedestrian crossings, and new directional markings installed in the vicinity of Moher and Garbally Roundabouts adjoining the M6.

Roadworks Programme:

RI	Date of Overlay Works
Project Name	
BN-25-01 - Cloonkeen	
BN-25-02 - Holygrove AL	
BN-25-03 - Tonacurra	
BN-25-04 - Castlegar	
BN-25-05 - Timadoonaun	
BN-25-06 - Aghanahil	
BN-25-07 - Drinaun	
BN-25-08 - Ballinruane	
BN-25-09 - Corgerry	
BN-25-10 - Scarreth	
BN-25-11 - Gortnadeeve	04/07/2025
BN-25-12 - Garraunmore	27/06/2025
BN-25-13 - Milford	24/06/2025
BN-25-14 - Croaghmill	20/06/2025
BN-25-18 - Gortacoosaun	
BS-25-01 - Sarsfield Road, Ballinasloe	
BS-25-02 - Dooros-Moaty, Laurencetown	
BS-25-03 - Poolboy	
BS-25-04 - Attibrisil, Aughrim	
BS-25-05 - Sheepwalk, Clontuskett	
BS-25-06 - Kilmacshane (Turbett), Clonfert	
BS-25-07 - Clonfert (D&M section)	
BS-25-07 - Clonfert (UGM A section)	
BS-25-08 - Castlegar East	

Tertiary Roads - RI	Date of Overlay Works
Project Name	
BN-25-15 - Annaghbeg	
BN-25-16 - Lisheen	
BN-25-17 - Lisheen	
BS-25-19 - Ochilmore	06/06/2025
BS-25-20 - Killagh More	
BS-25-21 - Liscune Lower	

RM	Date of Surface Dressing Work
Project Name	
BN-25-50 - Fohenagh	20/05/2025
BN-25-51 - Lenaloughra	21/05/2025
BN-25-52 - Clonbrock	21/05/2025
BN-25-53 - Cloonkeenkerill	17/06/2025
BN-25-54 - Gillick	13/06/2025
BN-25-55 - Menlough	13/06/2025
BN-25-56 - Lehanagh	22/05/2025
BN-25-57 - Laughaunboy	04/06/2025
BN-25-58 - Caltraduff	04/06/2025
BN-25-59 - Muckloon	03/06/2025
BN-25-60 - Derroghs	
BN-25-61 - Polleighter	03/07/2025
BN-25-62 - Bogtown	25/06/2025
BN-25-63 - Ballyedmond	25/06/2025
BN-25-64 - Cloonkeen	25/06/2025
BN-25-65 - Mountsilk	24/06/2025
BN-25-66 - Curraghlehana	
BN-25-67 - Hollygrove	
BN-25-68 - Carrownafreevey	
BN-25-69 - Mullaghmore North	26/06/2025
BN-25-70 - Cloonavahony	
BN-25-71 - Cloonavahony	
BN-25-72 - Cloonminda	01/07/2025
BN-25-73 - Moat	
BN-25-74 - Ballynahowna	07/08/2025
BN-25-75 - Moneenroe	
BN-25-76 - Cloonruff	01/07/2025
BN-25-77 - Ballyglass	01/07/2025
BN-25-78 - Cloonkeen	02/07/2025
BS-25-09 - Knocknagreena	18/06/2025
BS-25-10 - Cloverpark	18/06/2025
BS-25-11 - Esker	
BS-25-12 - Poolboy Road	
BS-25-13 - Poolboy	09/06/2025
BS-25-14 - Redmount Hill	08/07/2025
BS-25-15 - Kilcomadan/Tristaun	05/06/2025
BS-25-16 - Fahy	19/05/2025
BS-25-17 - Doon Upper	20/05/2025
BS-25-18 - Ballynabanaba	20/05/2025
BS-25-28 Lismany	
BS-25-29 Kylemore	

VERGE / HEDGE CUTTING

In recent weeks, maintenance works have begun throughout the MD on cutting back vegetation at junctions and at locations with safety concerns, on a prioritized basis.

ORIS GRANT

Ballinasloe MD has completed procurement and appointed consultants to undertake a feasibility study and preliminary design for an Outdoor Recreation Park, Ballinasloe.

CRF GRANTS

Tender docs are being prepared for the upgrade of 2 playgrounds in Ballinasloe (at Hymany Park & Leisure Centre). Early-stage survey work is beginning by the MD technical team in advance of design works on the Public Toilet upgrade project at St Michaels Square

BALLINASLOE MD FLOODING PROJECTS:

- Clonfert – Detailed design being completed – Next step: Procurement

- Glenamaddy - Hydrological Assessment Scoping completed. Next step: AA Screening
- Mountbellew Lake - Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) report and Preliminary Design Report completed. Next step: Non-statutory consultation with stakeholders & environmental assessments.

OCTOBER FAIR

Advance preparations being made to build on the recent year's successful events. Feedback from agencies and stakeholders to be taken in account in terms of trading permit areas and road closure times & dates.

CREAGH / TAGHMACONNELL JUNCTION

Continuing to liaise with the Department of Transport on the Specific Improvement Grant application

STREET CLEANING

Street Cleaning completed on prioritized sections of the Ballinasloe Town Centre, in advance of the Connacht Fleadh

CIVIC RECEPTION

Ballinasloe Municipal District members held a Civic Reception in May 2025 to recognise the achievements of the following:

- Louise Ward - in recognition of her individual sporting achievement in being named AIB Ladies Gaelic Football Club Player of the Year 2024-2025
- Niamh McGrath - in recognition of her individual sporting achievement in being named AIB Camogie Club Player of the Year 2024-2025

In bestowing the Civic Honour, Cllr. Michael Connolly, Cathaoirleach of the Ballinasloe Municipal District recognised the exceptional achievements of Kilkerrin/Clonberne Ladies Gaelic Football Team and Sarsfield Camogie Team, and the leadership displayed by Louise and Niamh which made them inspirational role models for their communities and county. Louise and Niamh were presented with a Certificate of Recognition and specially engraved Galway Crystal Trophy in recognition of their sporting achievements.



As part of the Civic Reception, Cllr. Connolly also made a presentation to Michael McGrath and Willie Ward in recognition of their ongoing work and commitment to Sarsfield Camogie Team and Kilkerrin/Clonberne Ladies Football Team respectively





BEECHLAWN ACTIVE TRAVEL PROJECT (PHASE 3) – SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE



CLONBROCK – (RM) SURFACE DRESSING & LINE MARKING – WORKS COMPLETED



MILFORD – (RI) DBM STRENGTHENING WORKS UNDERWAY (IN ADVANCE OF FINAL SURFACE DRESSING COURSE)



NEW ROAD EDGE KERBING COMPLETED AT HILLCREST (ABOVE)

POWER-WASHING COMPLETED BY SPECIALIST CONTRACTORS ON MAIN STREET AND DUNLO STREET, BALLINASLOE (RIGHT)



SURFACE DRESSING & DRAINAGE IRONWORKS COMPLETED AT FAHY (LEFT)

CONAMARA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

UPDATE ON ROADS PROGRAMME FOR CONAMARA – JULY 2025

CONAMARA MD – RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT (RI)			
Road Class	Road No	Road Name	STATUS
R	341	Ballyconneely Roundstone	Complete
R	344	Inagh	Complete
R	336	Leenane	Started - Base Course Complete
R	341	Bridge Street	Yet to Commence
R	340	Gleann Chatha	Complete
R	340-83	Doire Iorrais	Complete
R	336	Forai Maola	Started - Base Course Complete
L	11063	Mannin low rd	Complete
L	5132	Errislannin High Rd	Complete
L	51253	Faul	Complete
L	5116	Claddaghduff	Complete
L	5113	Cloone	Complete
L	51033	Rosroe	Started - Base Course Complete
L	51374	Glencoaghan	Started - Base Course Complete
L	11072	Ballyconneely Old Graveyard	Complete
L	5300	Gleantreague	Started - Base Course Complete
L	53262	Drumsnauv	Complete
L	1301	Finny	Complete
L	5327	Glann	Complete
L	1310	New Village	Complete
L	53283	Leam	Complete
L	1202	Doire Fhearta	Complete
L	52291	Leitir Caladh	Yet to Commence
L	52334	Trá Bháin	Yet to Commence
L	52346-2	Truscain	Yet to Commence
L	52332	Tobar Naomh Anna	Yet to Commence
L	5238	Camus Íochtar	Complete
L	5242-16	Garafin	Complete
L	52441	Ard Mhór O Thuaidh	Complete
L	12075	Domhras	Complete
L	1320-22	An Spidéal Maigh Cuilinn	Complete

L	5395	Baile an tSagairt	Complete
L	53951	Baile an tSleibhe	Complete
L	1200-24	Ros an Mhil	Complete
L	5366-19	Rocks Rd	Complete
L	5362	Gortmore	Complete
L	5345-17	Doon High Road	Complete
L	5361-8	Park, Roscahill	Complete
L	5376	Claideach	Complete
L	5347-10	Knockaunranny	Complete
L	53946	Pairc Thoir	Complete
CONAMARA MD – Restoration Maintenance GRANT (RM)			
Road Class.	Road No.	Road Name	Status
R	341	Ballinahinch	Yet to Commence
R	379	Cleggan	Complete
R	336	Bothuna	Yet to Commence
R	336	Minna	Complete
R	336	Na Doirriú	Complete
R	336	Leitir Mucú	Complete
R	374	Tuairín	Complete
R	374	Leic	Complete
L	1105	Bog Road	Complete
L	5132	Low rd Errislannin	Complete
L	5117	Aughrus Beg	Complete
L	51372	Imleach Mór	Yet to Commence
L	51372	Imleach Mór	Yet to Commence
CONAMARA MD – Restoration Maintenance GRANT (RM)			
Road Class.	Road No.	Road Name	Status
L	1104	Sky Rd Letterdean	Substantially Complete
L	1310	Gortdrishagh-Glann Rd	Complete
L	1103	Ballynew	Yet to Commence
L	5300	Bothán - Gleantreague	Yet to Commence
L	1304	Ardan Cong	Yet to Commence
L	5341	Maghera More	Complete
L	5101	Glennagevlagh	Yet to Commence
L	11031	Bannouges	Yet to Commence
L	11034	Ross Moyard	Yet to Commence
L	51101	Rossadillisk Salerno	Yet to Commence
L	11023	Rossadillisk	Yet to Commence

L	51311	Munga	Yet to Commence
L	11056	Inis Ni	Complete
L	5219	Trá an Doilín	Complete
L	1206-51	Maíros	Complete
CONAMARA MD –DISCRETIONARY GRANT (DG)			
Road Class.	Road No.	Road Name	Status
L	51255	Riverside Clifden	Complete
L	51372	Imleach Mór	Yet to Commence
L	11059	Inis Ní	Complete
L	52285	Leitir Caladh	Yet to Commence
L	1205-14	Doire Iorrais	Complete
L	5396-13	Baile Liam	Complete
L	5354	Garrynagry	Complete

The Conamara Municipal District Roads Programme is well underway. There are 76 roads in the programme for resurfacing. At the start of June 20 out of 76 were completed representing 26% completion. As of start of July 50 roads are completed out of 76 representing 65% completion.

On the 17th of June 2025 Inishbofin hosted the Coiste na nOileáin/Islands Committee meeting. These Islands meetings discuss issues relating to Inis Oírr, Inis Meáin, Inis Mór and Inishbofin. The Department of Rural and Community Development has announced funding for offshore islands for 2025.



R374, AN LEIC NEAR LEITIR MÓIR -
RECENTLY SURFACE DRESSED AND
LINED

RP2025 OVERLAY ON THE R336 -NA FORAÍ
MAOLA, WEST OF BEARNA VILLAGE



NEW SIGNAGE & ROAD MARKINGS AT SCHOOL-
TULAIGH MHIC AODHÁIN



VIEW FROM THE NEW BATHING
SHELTER, BLUE FLAG BEACH, AN
CHÉIBH NUA, AN SPIDÉAL



SAFETY
IMPROVEMENT
WORKS NA
FORBACHA –
STARTED LAST
WEEK – ROAD
MARKINGS
DONE –
FOOTPATH &
SIGNAGE
UPGRADE
WORKS TO
FOLLOW

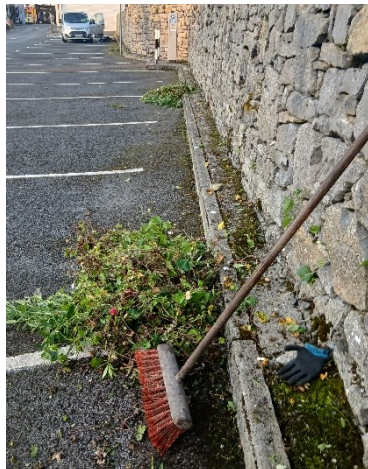


PRIMARY FOCUS OF ACTIVITY

Works on the Roads Programme are progressing well. Surface dressing is now almost complete and the bound overlay projects have commenced. A high-level overview is as follows:

- 48 Restoration Improvement Grant projects - 17 Complete (35%)
- 22 Restoration Maintenance Grant (RMG) projects - 18 Complete (82%)
- 8 Local Tertiary Roads – 2 Complete (25%)
- 5 No Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Schemes - 2 Complete (40%) and 1 On-going
- 3 No. Low-Cost Safety Improvement Works – 2 On-going
- 2 No. Former National Schemes – Yet to commence
- LIS and CIS Schemes – 1 commenced.

AN OVERVIEW OF OTHER WORKS ON-GOING



KEEPING LOUGHREA CLEAN AND TIDY



SURFACE DRESSING ON THE R380



EXPOSING ROAD STUDS ("CATS EYES") POST SURFACE DRESSING ON R380

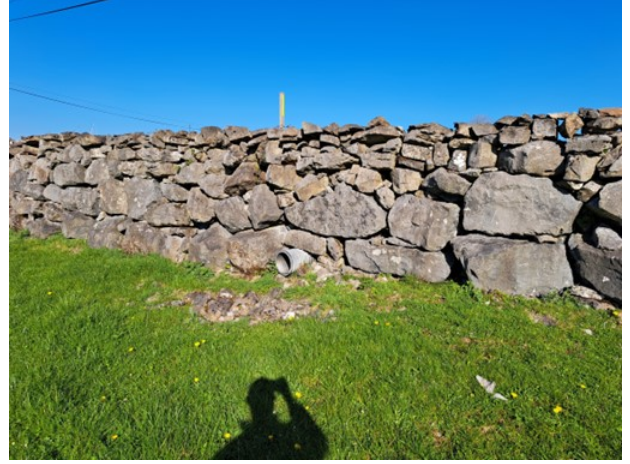


LINE MARKING AT RENVILLE



BALLYGEAGIN RIG PROGRAM
2025

ROAD RAISING WORKS AT GRANNAGH

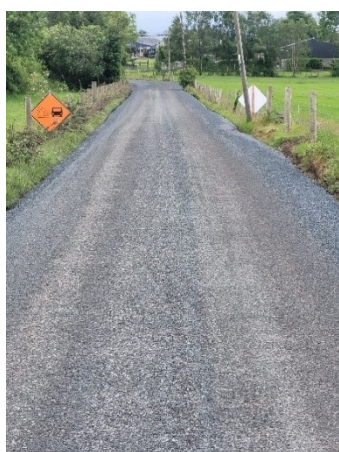
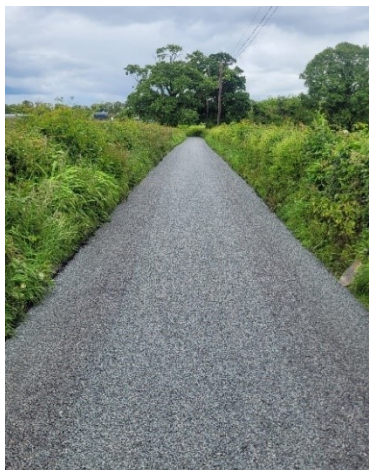


ROAD RAISING WORKS AT GRANNAGH (CONTINUED)



INSTALLATION OF ARTWORK ON OLD CRAUGHWELL BRIDGE





RECONSTRUCTION WORKS AT ROSSMORE, WOODFORD – LS8796 AND LS8797



STREET CLEANING AND REMOVAL OF OVERGROWN IVY AT ABBEY STREET, LOUGHREA



ERECTION OF SWIMMING SAFETY SIGNAGE AT LONG POINT, LOUGHREA



PREPARATORY WORKS FOR REINSTATEMENT OF DISABLED PARKING BAYS

TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

DISCRETIONARY CAPITAL FUND

The Municipal Districts Discretionary Capital Fund is a scheme to allow the members of Galway County Council support the delivery of large-scale infrastructural and capital projects. The allocation of funds under the scheme is determined by each Municipal District and are subsequently noted by Plenary.

The fund may be used on projects for:

- Local Authority Infrastructure Projects, approved by the elected members; and
- Community Capital Projects, based on a formal expression of interest and again approved by the elected members.

The following Local Authority Infrastructure Projects have been approved by The Municipal District of Tuam:

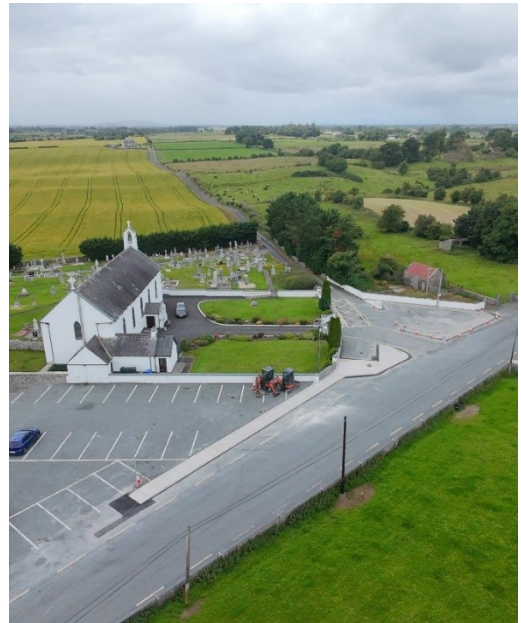
Public Lighting at Caherlistrane	€55,0000
Public Lighting at Kilcloghans, Tuam	€20,430

Applications for Community Capital Projects for 2025 have also been invited with a closing date of Friday, 18th July 2025 @ 4pm.

WORKS CARRIED DURING THE MONTH IN TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

The Roads programme continued in June in Tuam MD by both contract works and direct labour works. Currently the Tuam MD is ahead of schedule on all works.

- o Restoration improvement grants - overlay programme is 95% complete by Roadstone
- o Surface dressing contract is 100% complete by Colas Contracting
- o Direct labour roads jobs are 80% complete



ROADS PROGRAMME WORKS IN CORTOON AND TUAM TOWN



OTHER WORKS

Nighttime works were carried out in Tuam Town Centre on street pavement repairs and ironworks, specifically on Bishop Street and Weir Road, by Ward Brothers Contractor. These nighttime repairs address critical maintenance needs without disrupting daytime traffic.



ROAD REPAIR AND IRONWORK REPAIRS TUAM TOWN

New footpaths have been completed in Cortoon village, next to St. Patrick's Church, enhancing pedestrian safety and accessibility.



NEW PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES CORTOON

New street name signs have been installed in Dunmore, following the installation of signs in Headford and Tuam recently. The installation of new street name signs in Dunmore, Headford, and Tuam has been welcomed by the community, improving navigation and wayfinding in these areas.



NEW STREET SIGNAGE DUNMORE

PALACE GROUNDS

The Palace Grounds in Tuam have seen significant enhancements in their biodiversity initiatives, particularly with the creation of pollinator zones. These zones are designed to support local wildlife and promote ecological health, aligning with broader environmental goals.



KEY INITIATIVES AND DEVELOPMENTS:

POLLINATOR ZONES

Purpose: These zones are established to provide habitats for pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and other insects. Pollinators are crucial for the reproduction of many plants and the overall health of ecosystems.

Implementation: The zones include a variety of native flowering plants that bloom at different times of the year, ensuring a continuous food supply for pollinators. These plants are carefully selected to thrive in the local climate and soil conditions.

BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION BOARDS:

Educational Outreach: Information boards have been installed, such as the one by the River Nanny near the swimming pool. These boards educate visitors about the importance of biodiversity and the specific species found in the area.

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SCHEME:

Local community employment scheme is actively involved in maintaining and monitoring these biodiversity zones. This includes planting, weeding, and conducting biodiversity surveys.

INTEGRATION WITH HERITAGE PLANS:

Holistic Approach: The biodiversity initiatives are part of a broader Heritage and Biodiversity Plan launched by Galway County Council. This plan integrates biodiversity with cultural and built heritage, ensuring a comprehensive approach to conservation.

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES:

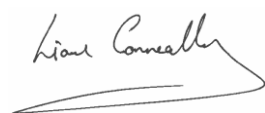
Eco-friendly Maintenance: The maintenance of these zones follows sustainable practices, such as reducing the use of pesticides and promoting organic gardening techniques. This helps create a healthier environment for both wildlife and people.

IMPACT AND FUTURE PLANS:

Ecological Health: The creation of pollinator zones and other biodiversity initiatives contribute to the ecological health of the Palace Grounds. They help increase the population of pollinators, which in turn supports the growth of various plant species.

These efforts in the Palace Grounds are a testament to Tuam's commitment to preserving and enhancing its natural heritage, ensuring that future generations can enjoy and benefit from a rich and diverse ecosystem.

Mise, le meas,



**Chief Executive
Galway County Council**

14th July 2025