



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

TURASCÁIL BAINISTÍOCHTA MANAGEMENT REPORT



Eanáir 2026
January 2026

CORPORATE SERVICES AND RURAL, COMMUNITY & TOURISM DEVELOPMENT & INTEGRATION

CORPORATE SERVICES



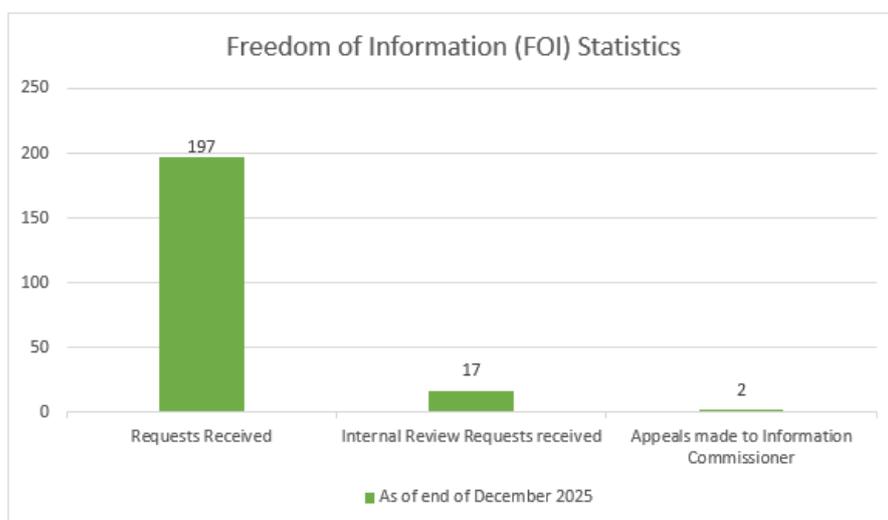
Ms. Ann Lawless from Chicago visited Galway in December and met with the Chief Executive and the Leas-Chathaoirleach.

L-R: MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, MS. ANN LAWLESS, CHICAGO, CLLR. MARY HOADE, LEAS CHATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY

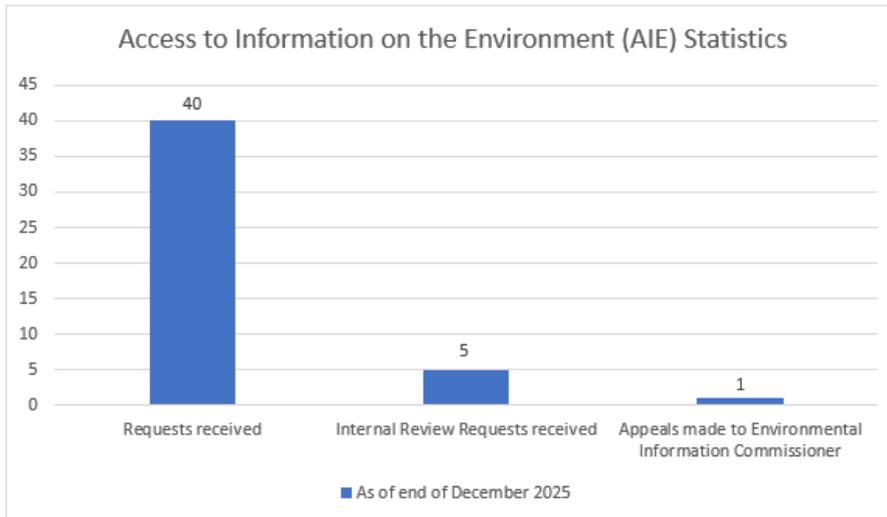
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION & DATA PROTECTION

2025 YEAR TO DATE STATISTICS TO 31.12.2025

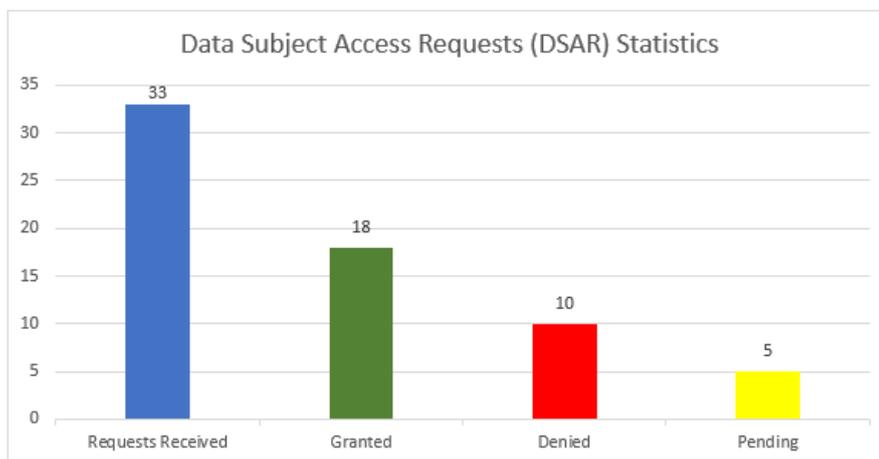
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



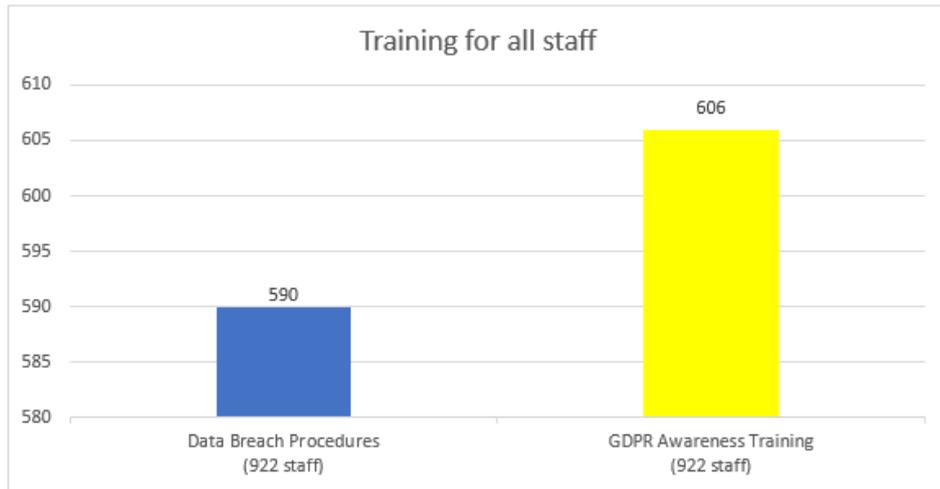
ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT



DATA PROTECTION



- 33 Requests received:
 - 28 Subject Access Requests
 - 5 Third Party Subject Access Requests (An Garda Síochána etc)
 - 1 Data Subject Erasure Request
 - 1 Data Subject Rectification Request
- 18 granted, 10 denied, 5 pending decisions.
- GDPR/Data Protection Training:
 - All staff are required to complete mandatory data protection training throughout the year covering GDPR awareness, cyber security, and data breach procedures. Additionally, two unit-specific courses have been developed for HR and IT teams.
 - In-person sessions were delivered to several units including Water Safety (Lifeguards), Roads, NRPO, Elected members and Management team.



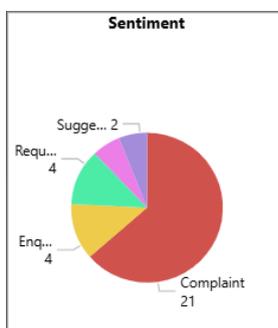
CUSTOMER SERVICES

CUSTOMER SERVICES OFFICERS GROUP

Our final quarterly meeting of the Customer Services Officer Group (CSOG) took place on 15th December 2025. With a busy agenda and excellent turnout from our Customer Services Officers across the entire organisation encapsulating the following areas for discussion:

- LGMA Customer Services 2025 Survey and Local Authority Branding Research Results
- New Galway County Council Customer Services Action Plan '25-'29
- Development of Equal Status Policy for all Services – 2026
- Customer Services Case Tracker launched September 2025 - Experience to date
- RPS Communications Strategy Project – Outputs and next steps for the Council
- Consolidation of Office Accommodation – update
- Galway County Council Advertising in 2026
- Public Information Webinar Nov 27th - learning outputs shared with CSOG members on how we may improve accessibility of information we put out into the public domain

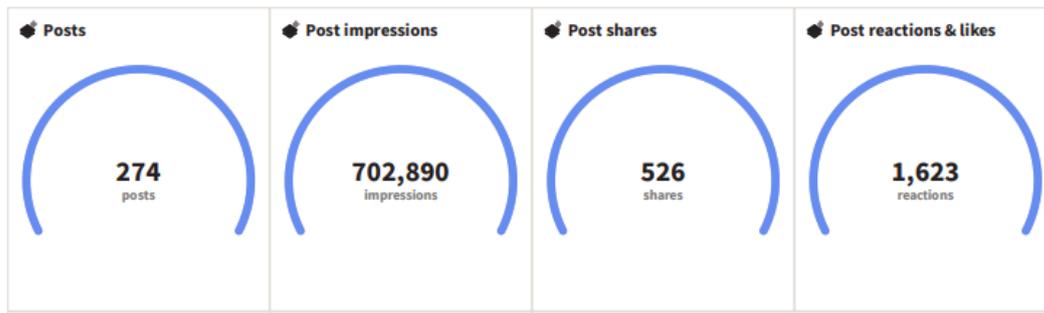
CUSTOMER SERVICES CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKER DECEMBER 2025.



33 cases received through our platform of which 21 were complaints split as follows:

Roads	Planning	Housing	Environment	Corporate Services	Training Purposes
8	5	3	1	1	3

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

TOTAL FIGURES OF ALL SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

*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.

*Engagement - The number of interactions people have with your content. Includes: Likes, comments, shares, clicks, saves, and sometimes video views

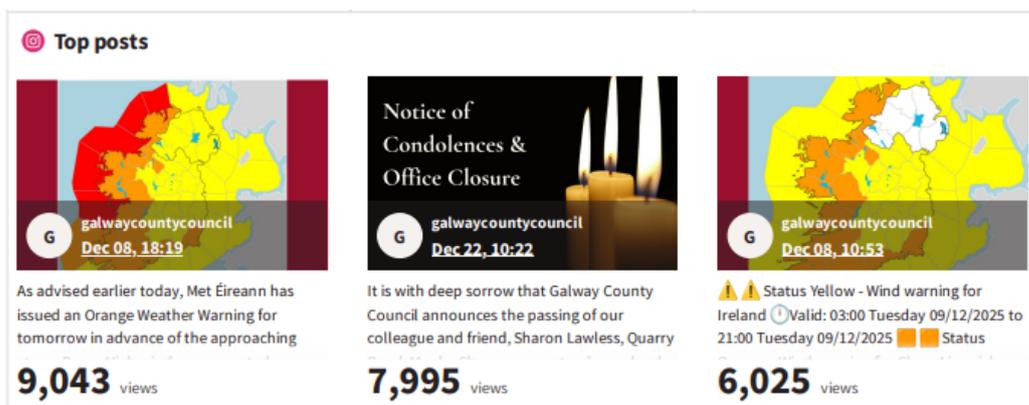
FACEBOOK NOVEMBER

Post Title	Date	Follower Views
Major Housing Scheme Set to Break Ground in Loughrea	Nov 26, 13:01	35,138
Algal Blooms have been reported to the council all around the shores of Lough Corrib	Nov 06, 16:30	31,135
John Madden & Sons Ltd will be carrying out resurfacing works on the R338 Dublin Rd, Orammore	Nov 04, 11:48	15,027

X (PREVIOUSLY TWITTER) NOVEMBER’S TOP THREE POSTS

Tweet Title	Date	Impressions
What the event is about: This event is part of the consultation process for the first National Strategy for Improving Community Safety.	Nov 16, 17:30	330
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ...for FREE! SATURDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2025 9AM - 1PM*	Nov 09, 09:00	308
What the event is about: This event is part of the consultation process for the first National Strategy for Improving Community Safety.	Nov 08, 17:30	301

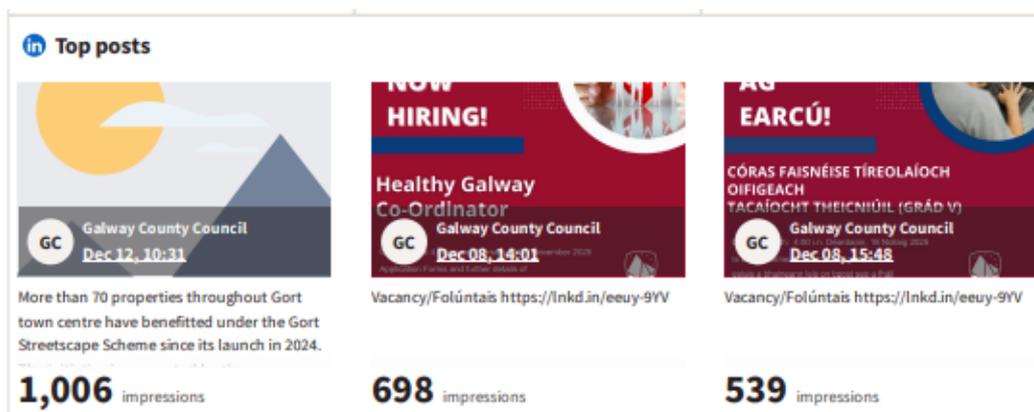
INSTAGRAM NOVEMBER'S TOP THREE POSTS



Instagram Top Posts for November. Three posts are displayed:

- Post 1:** A map of Galway County with an orange weather warning. Text: "galwaycountycouncil Dec 08, 18:19". Description: "As advised earlier today, Met Éireann has issued an Orange Weather Warning for tomorrow in advance of the approaching". Views: **9,043** views.
- Post 2:** A black background with white text and lit candles. Text: "galwaycountycouncil Dec 22, 10:22". Description: "It is with deep sorrow that Galway County Council announces the passing of our colleague and friend, Sharon Lawless, Quarry". Views: **7,995** views.
- Post 3:** A map of Ireland with a yellow status warning. Text: "galwaycountycouncil Dec 08, 10:53". Description: "Status Yellow - Wind warning for Ireland Valid: 03:00 Tuesday 09/12/2025 to 21:00 Tuesday 09/12/2025 Status". Views: **6,025** views.

LINKEDIN NOVEMBER'S TOP THREE POSTS



LinkedIn Top Posts for November. Three posts are displayed:

- Post 1:** A landscape with a sun and a mountain. Text: "Galway County Council Dec 12, 10:31". Description: "More than 70 properties throughout Gort town centre have benefitted under the Gort Streetscape Scheme since its launch in 2024." Impressions: **1,006** impressions.
- Post 2:** A red background with white text. Text: "Healthy Galway Co-Ordinator Galway County Council Dec 08, 14:01". Description: "Vacancy/Folúntais <https://lnkd.in/eeyu-9YV>". Impressions: **698** impressions.
- Post 3:** A red background with white text. Text: "EARCÚ! Galway County Council Dec 08, 15:48". Description: "Vacancy/Folúntais <https://lnkd.in/eeyu-9YV>". Impressions: **539** impressions.

IRISH SERVICES

IRISH-OFFICE EVENTS AND UPDATES

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL GAELTACHT SCHOLARSHIPS 2026 UPDATE

Galway County Council is pleased to present an update on the 2026 Gaeltacht Scholarship Programme. The initiative continues to support second-level students from functional areas of the Council in developing their Irish-language proficiency and deepening their understanding of Irish culture through attendance at recognised Gaeltacht summer colleges.

EXPANSION OF THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME FOR 2026

The Council has expanded the programme significantly:

- Increase in Scholarships: The number of scholarships offered has risen from 16 in 2025 to 27 in 2026, representing a substantial enhancement of the scheme.
- Additional Gaeltacht College Partner: Galway County Council is delighted to welcome Coláiste na bFhiann, Rosmuc as a new partner college for 2026, bringing the total number of participating colleges to nine.

PARTICIPATING GAELTACHT COLLEGES

Each of the following nine colleges will receive three scholarships:

- Coláiste Chonnacht
- Coláiste Lurgan
- Coláiste Chamuis
- Coláiste Chiaráin
- Coláiste Cholumba
- Coláiste na nOileán
- Coláiste Spleodar
- Coláiste Sheosamh
- Coláiste na bFhiann

The Council extends sincere thanks to all participating colleges for their continued collaboration and support.

MEDIA PARTNERSHIP ON SCHOLARSHIPS PR FOR 2026 PLACES

In recognition of their promotional support, one scholarship was allocated to each of the following media organisations:

- Connacht Tribune
- Galway Advertiser
- Galway Bay FM
- RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta
- Tuairisc.ie

These organisations provided complimentary advertising to raise awareness of the scholarship scheme.

2026 APPLICATION LEVELS

The application window closed on 30 December 2025. The Council received over 280 applications, representing an approximate 20% increase compared with 2025. This demonstrates strong and growing interest in the programme among students and families.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

It is proposed that the scholarship draw will take place during the Plenary Meeting on Monday, 26 January 2026. Applications will be selected on a municipal-district basis to ensure equitable distribution across the county.

The 2026 Gaeltacht Scholarship Programme reflects Galway County Council's ongoing commitment to supporting the Irish language and culture. The expansion of the scheme, the addition of a new partner college, and the strong level of applications highlight the continued success and relevance of this initiative.



Galway Advertiser / News / Local News

Keeping Pearse's vision alive in county Galway

Galway Advertiser, Thu, Dec 11, 2025

In 1916, Pádraig Mac Piarais gave his life for Ireland, but long before that sacrifice, he gave his heart to education. A visionary teacher, Pearse believed that the Irish language was not merely a subject to be studied but a living force that could shape identity, community, and nationhood. He founded schools in Dublin and Galway, and he often brought students west to Conamara so they could immerse themselves in the language of the people.



Padraig Pearse

Today, Galway County Council honours that legacy through the Pádraig Pearse Gaeltacht Scholarships, a scheme established in 2016 and now entering its tenth year. This initiative is more than financial support—it is a bridge between generations, ensuring that young people in Galway continue to experience the richness of the Gaeltacht and carry forward Pearse's dream of an Ireland rooted in its native tongue.

GALWAY ADVERTISER

CONNACHT TRIBUNE

Keeping Pearse's vision alive in County Galway

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A pathway to the Gaeltacht
The 2025 programme offers the fantastic opportunity of 26 scholarships (an extra 10 scholarships over 2024) funded either fully by Galway County Council or jointly with Gaeltacht Summer Colleges. These scholarships will allow second level students to attend one of nine partner colleges across the county, including Coláiste Charuá, An Tuairín/Carnáilíoch, an Mhí, Coláiste Cheilín, An Cheathrú Rua, Coláiste Cholumba, An Cheathrú Rua, Coláiste Lurgan in Inishbuíoch, and Coláiste

Chomraige in An Spíoláil, Coláiste na hEilifáin, Rís Mór, Coláiste na nÓileán, Trí an Fhás, Lár Mhór, Coláiste Sheonaíth, Carnáil, Cill Cheilín & Seilcáir, Rís Mór / Corra Mhór / Lár Mheáilín / Lár Mhór. Importantly, five scholarships are reserved for students who might otherwise never have the chance to attend due to financial hardship, with one awarded within each municipal district—Athenry, Oramóid, Béalnabúda, Conamara, Longford, and Tuam. This ensures that the scheme is not just about celebrating heritage, but also about ensuring better access, inclusivity and opportunity.

More than a Summer Course
The Gaeltacht is not simply a classroom. It is a community, a culture, and a way of life. For the student awardees, these weeks in July or August are transformative—friendships are forged, confidence in speaking Irish blossoms, and the language becomes something lived rather than learned. The true reward is immeasurable—the chance to walk in Pearse's footsteps and to feel the heartbeat of the Gaeltacht.

A call to action
Applications are open now, with a **deadline of December 30th**. Please log on to Galway County Council's Website and Social Media channels for further updates. The scholarships will be awarded by open draw in March, and while not every student awardee may secure their first-

COMPETITION TIME

The Pádraig Pearse Gaeltacht scholarships are currently open and we have increased the number of scholarships we will be awarding to second level students from across the County of Galway for the summer of 2026.

We would like to offer one scholarship to a Connacht Tribune reader from the County of Galway (Functioning areas of Galway City Council are excluded).

To be in with a chance to win this amazing scholarship please answer the following question.

Q: Who can apply for the Pádraig Pearse Gaeltacht Scholarship?

Answer: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Postcode: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please return this completed coupon to: **Pádraig Pearse Gaeltacht Scholarship Competition, c/o The Connacht Tribune, 211 Dublin Business Park, Galway, H91 8W2.** Entries must be received before **30th December, 2025, 12:00pm**.

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta Pádraig Mhic Piarais 2026

Ná cailligín an deis – déan iarratas anois!

Tuilleadh eolais ar fáil: gailimh.ie/scolaireacht/gaeltachta2026

nó tríd an Cód QR

Deán iarratas inniu –
Gaeilge, ceimic, spórt agus tábairí naon nótáilínch iú, dearmad go brách orthu.
Spriocdháta: 19/12/25

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Pádraig Pearse Gaeltacht Scholarships 2026

Don't miss out – Apply now!

Find out more at: galway.ie/gaeltachtscolarships2026 or through the QR code

Apply today –
Gaeilge, Fraincis, Fionn and an experience you will never forget.
Deadline: 19/12/25

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR IRISH-SPEAKING COUNCILLORS

Donegal County Council has proposed the creation of a National Committee for Irish-Speaking Councillors, aimed at strengthening collaboration and promoting the use of the Irish language among elected members nationwide. To initiate this process, a preliminary meeting has been organised in partnership with Galway County Council.



INAUGURAL MEETING DETAILS

- **Date:** 30 January 2026
- **Time:** 11:00 a.m.
- **Venue:** Council Chamber, Galway County Council, Prospect Hill, Galway, H91 H6KX

This meeting will serve as the formal starting point for establishing the national committee. All councillors with Irish-language proficiency or an interest in supporting Irish-language initiatives are welcome to attend.

ATTENDANCE

Councillors from the following counties have confirmed their participation:

- Donegal
- Sligo
- Mayo
- Galway

SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE 2026 (MARCH 1ST – 17TH)

Galway County Council will launch its Seachtain na Gaeilge 2026 Calendar of Events on 23 February 2026 after the February Plenary meeting. This annual celebration provides an important platform for promoting the Irish language and culture across the county.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

A diverse programme of events is currently being developed, with activities to take place in communities throughout County Galway. The Council aims to deliver an inclusive and engaging schedule that encourages participation from all age groups and levels of Irish-language ability.

CALL FOR SUGGESTIONS

To ensure a vibrant and community-focused programme, Galway County Council remains open to new ideas and event proposals from councillors, community groups, and members of the public. Contributions that support the promotion of Irish language, heritage, and culture are particularly welcomed.

MANAGEMENT TEAM DEXCOM VISIT

On 20th January the Management Team visited the Dexcom Plant site in Athenry.



LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

The first LCDC meeting of the year will take place on the 17th February. Agenda items include SICAP Annual Performance Review 2025, SICAP Annual Plan 2026 and to hear a presentation by Healthy Galway County Co-ordinator on the Delivery of Healthy Ireland Programme 2025 and Annual Plan for 2026.

LOCAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME 2026

Galway County Council has received funding of €213,600 from the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht under the Local Enhancement Programme 2026. This fund will provide capital funding to support community groups across Ireland.

The funding will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities, purchase equipment such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, training equipment, and improving energy efficiency of community facilities to reduce ongoing costs.

This year's programme places particular focus on designated Community Support Centres following Storm Eowyn in January 2025, when many rural areas of Galway were left without electricity for extended periods. Groups are invited to apply for funding to help purchase a generator, as well as for the supply and installation of a changeover switch, enabling the use of a county-owned mobile generator to maintain essential services during future disruptions.

In line with previous years, the LCDC will endeavour to allocate 30% of this fund towards small grants of €1,000 or less to maximise its benefit to small grassroots groups.

This funding is now open for applications with a closing date of 23rd February 2026. Funding recommendations of the LCDC will be submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht by the end of March 2026, for funding announcements by the Minister for Rural & Community Development & Gaeltacht in May 2026. All capital projects will be required to be completed and grants drawn down by end of October 2026.

Applicants should apply via our online grants system at <https://galwaycoco.submit.com/>

HEALTHY IRELAND



Healthy County Galway enters 2025 with a continued commitment to enhance health and

wellbeing initiatives across the county. The LCDC Health & Wellbeing Sub-Committee will

meet in January to finalise the proposed workplan for the 2025 Healthy Ireland Fund allocation. The year ahead will see Healthy County Galway implementing a number of initiatives focused on improving health and wellbeing outcomes at local level. Our flagship programmes for 2025 focused on farmer wellbeing, women's health, and dementia supports with this work extending 2026, with further plans to expand, tailor, and sustain progress through partnerships with key local, community, and statutory partners.

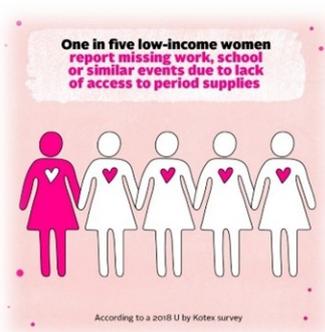
The Dementia Café initiative in Connemara will continue to focus on sustaining existing cafés while incorporating additional activities and making full use of the activity packs provided in 2025.

Planning is already underway for two launches in 2026 under the Understand Together campaign, in partnership with the HSE and key stakeholders. These launches will seek to raise awareness of dementia within the Connemara region and actively involve the local community. The campaign will include community engagement events, information sessions, and promotional activities to encourage participation and understanding. By embedding the *Understand Together* message into these cafés, we aim to foster a culture of empathy and inclusion while promoting positive social connections for those affected by dementia.



While the rollout of social digital hubs experienced delays in 2025, implementation is planned to continue in 2026 in partnership with local libraries and Age Friendly Galway. These hubs will provide digital skills training for individuals aged 50+, supporting the Healthy Galway objective of increasing social and leisure opportunities for older adults while promoting digital literacy and social connection.

A further allocation will be available for community-led projects under the Healthy Galway program. These initiatives provide opportunities for social engagement, skill development, and improved physical and mental health, contributing to the overall wellbeing of communities across the county.



In partnership with local agencies, Healthy County Galway will also apply for the Period Poverty Fund under Galway County Council. This initiative aims to install sanitary product dispensers in public facilities in the county and provide free sanitary products to those in need. In addition, educational resources and informational sessions for women will be delivered, supporting the sexual health priority theme.

Collaboration with agencies will ensure key areas for distribution are identified, enabling equitable access and reducing barriers to essential health products.

Another key focus for Healthy County Galway in 2025 will be to support the Western Region Drug and Alcohol Task Force Recovery Strategy 2025–2030. This commitment aims to assist individuals in recovery and their families by encouraging engagement in positive activities

within their communities. Through collaboration with local partners, Healthy County Galway will support participation in new social and leisure opportunities that foster inclusion and wellbeing.

Further to this, Healthy County Galway will engage with marginalised groups, particularly the Traveller community, applying an evidence-based, community-led approach to increase social and leisure activities in a culturally sensitive manner that meets the needs of the community. These actions demonstrate a continued emphasis on reducing health inequalities and encouraging meaningful participation for all.

Over the coming period, Healthy County Galway will continue to build partnerships, sustain core programmes into 2026, and prioritise sustainability and inclusivity in all initiatives while aligning with national health priorities under the Healthy Ireland Framework.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

We continue to progress the establishment of Community Support Centres (CSCs) across the county, following lessons learned during Storm Éowyn in early 2025. These centres are intended to provide safe, supportive environments during severe weather events or prolonged service disruptions, offering essential facilities such as water, hot food, phone charging, broadband access, and toilet facilities.

The Expression of Interest (EOI) process launched on 12 December 2025 remains open on a rolling basis. As of January 2026, 63 responses have been received from community groups and facility operators. The aim is to formalize a network of designated centres comparable to the informal arrangements that proved effective during previous emergencies. Centres that do not currently meet all requirements are encouraged to address gaps and re-submit their EOI.

The 52 Community Support Centres that have been successful in their Expression of Interest submissions have now been formally designated and are listed on the Galway County Council website(<https://www.galway.ie/en/community-tourism-arts/community-development/community-support-centres>). This ensures transparency and allows communities to easily identify their nearest centre in the event of an emergency. We aim to reach out to designated CSCs and elected officials with formalised operating procedures, as agreed by members of the Major Emergency Development Committee, prior to the next convening of the Committee.

Work is underway to confirm three priority centres for funded rewiring to facilitate mobile generator use. This is in response to CCMA guidance and the need for resilience during prolonged outages. These measures will ensure hubs, identified based on geographic coverage and vulnerability criteria, are adequately equipped to serve vulnerable individuals and meet operational standards.

In addition, Galway County Council will receive mobile generators as part of a national initiative to create a shared pool of mobile units. These four generators will be available for

deployment to CSCs during severe weather events or other emergencies, providing a flexible backup solution where permanent installations are not yet in place.

Community Support Centres that are not in receipt of dedicated funding under the current allocation can avail of support through the Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2026. This funding stream may be used to cover essential infrastructure upgrades such as rewiring works to facilitate generator installation and/or the purchase of generators. Centres are encouraged to review LEP eligibility criteria and submit applications to strengthen their capacity for emergency response and community resilience. Applications will open on from 14th January 2026 and close on 23rd February 2026.

AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

The Age Friendly Strategy launch took place at the Ard Rí Hotel Tuam on January 22nd. The strategy was launched by the Cathaoirleach Cllr David Collins and the Mayor of Galway City Cllr Mike Hubbard. This event was preceded by a meeting of the Age Friendly Alliance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

For January and February 2026, Galway County PPN will be offering 6 Free Online training courses to all PPN Members and members of the public. The courses being offered are:

- Financial Management - Setting up a Non-Profit - 27th Jan at 6pm
- Canva for Beginners - 29th Jan at 10am
- Introduction to Social Media - 5th Feb at 10am
- Excel for Beginners - 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th Feb at 3.15pm - 4.45pm
- Marketing & Sales for Non-Profits - 12th Feb at 10am - 12.30pm
- Grant Applications - 26th Feb at 6pm - 9pm

COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME

The Community Support Scheme (CSS) had its closing date on January 23rd. The scheme provided for a 5-week window for applicants since it opened for applications in mid-December. A workshop was convened on January 13th for prospective applicants and this event was publicised through the Public Participation Network (PPN) and communicated directly to the elected members.

SCÉIM BHAILTE AGUS SRÁIDBHAILTE / TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL PROGRAMME

Bronnadh breis agus €1.67 milliún ar sheacht mbaile agus sráidbhaile ar fud Chontae na Gaillimhe atá ag obair chun áiseanna áitiúla a neartú, oidhreacht a chosaint agus aghaidh a thabhairt ar fholúntas.

Dheimhnigh an tAire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta, Dara Calleary, gur faomhadh le haghaidh cistithe na seacht n-iarratas go léir a cuireadh isteach ag Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe faoin Scéim Athnuachana Bailte agus Sráidbhailte do 2025.

An leithdháileadh aonair is mó a faomhadh, €500,000, faomhadh sin le haghaidh uasghrádú phríosún stairiúil, ma atá an Smachtlann, taobh thiar de Theach Cúirte Phort Omna mar aon le feabhsuithe beartaithe ar Halla Baile Phort Omna.

Bronnadh €214,550 ar Chill Íomair agus €250,000 ar Áth Eascrach chun tacú le hiarrachtaí leanúnacha chun dul i ngleic le folúntas agus dearóiliú. Tá an dá phobal in Oirthear na Gaillimhe mar chuid den chéad Chlár Gníomhachtaithe Ordú Ceannaigh Éigeantaigh do réadmhaoin fholamh de chuid na comhairle cheana féin.

Gheobhaidh Comhairle Ceantar na nOileán i Leitir Móir €300,000 chun cur le Páirc Pobail agus chun clós súgartha nua a fhorbairt. Ceadaíodh €300,000 breise i dtaca le feabhsuithe ar an Ionad Pobail san Fhairche chun freastal ar an éileamh méadaitheach ar spás cruinnithe áitiúil.

I gCora Finne, leithdháileadh €45,572 do staidéar indéantachta pobail dírithe ar áiseanna nua lár an tsráidbhaile a shainithint. Gheobhaidh Baile Átha an Rí €42,750 chun tograí do spás cruinnithe pobail sa bhreis arna shainithint trí phróiseas fhoireann an bhaile a chur chun cinn.

More than €1.67 million has been awarded to seven towns and villages across County Galway that are working to strengthen local amenities, protect heritage and address vacancy.





PORTUMA TOWN HALL, TVRS2025

The Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary, in December confirmed that all seven applications submitted by Galway County Council under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme for 2025 have been approved for funding.

The single largest allocation, €500,000, has been granted for the upgrade of the historic Bridewell jail behind Portumna Courthouse along with planned improvements to Portumna Town Hall.

Killimor has been awarded €214,550 and Ahascragh €250,000 to support continuing efforts to tackle vacancy and dereliction. Both communities in East Galway are already part of the council's first Compulsory Purchase Order Activation Programme for vacant properties.

Comhairle Ceantar na nOileán in Leitir Móir will receive €300,000 to enhance Páirc Pobal and develop a new playground. A further €300,000 has been approved for improvements to the Ionad Pobail facility in An Fhairce Clonbur to meet growing demand for local meeting space.

In Corofin, €45,572 has been allocated for a community feasibility study aimed at identifying new village-centre amenities. Athenry will receive €42,750 to advance proposals for additional community meeting space identified through the town team process.



ÁRAS POBAL AN FHAIRCE. TVRS2025 APPROVED FOR RENOVATIONS.

ARTS OFFICE

ARTS COUNCIL FUNDING

The Arts Office was successful in applying for Arts Council's Partnership Funding 2026. €97,000 has been awarded towards our arts programme budget this year. Towards the end of the year, we hope to develop a new Partnership Framework Agreement between Galway County Council and the Arts Council to align with our next Arts Plan when it is published.

ARTS PLAN

Our first Arts Plan public meeting takes place at Brú Bhríde, Tuam on Wednesday 28 January at 7pm. Our consultant Jane Daly will facilitate the meeting with support from the Arts Office team. Dates and locations of further public meetings will be announced along with a public survey as part of the consultation process.

Members of the public, artists, arts organisations and community groups are encouraged to join us for these meetings. The aim is to talk, listen and learn about what people think should be included in our next Arts Plan for the next five years.



ARTIST SUPPORT SCHEME 2026 OPEN CALL

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



Deadline for applications is 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday 03 February 2026.

The maximum award offered is €3,000. The total fund available for 2026 is €34,000. 2 Come Ask Questions sessions were held online, and applicant support was available before the deadline.

ARTIST SUPPORT SCHEME OPEN CALL. PHOTO: AENGUS MCMAHON

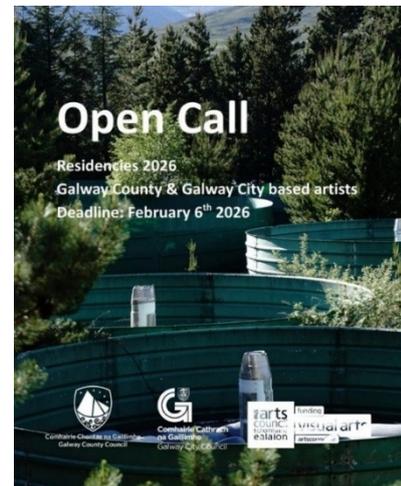
INTERFACE RESIDENCY 2026 OPEN CALL

We are delighted to announce a 2-week residency at Interface in 2026 for a Galway County artist.

Proposals are invited from practicing artists, writers, and musicians whose work explores intersections between scientific research, environmental concerns and the arts.

Deadline for applications is 06 February 2026.

[Click here for more information](#)



THE ART OF GENTLE PUNK AT MICK LALLY THEATRE



As a result of supporting Little John Nee’s Arts Council Theatre Project Award application in 2025, the Arts Office is delighted to contribute to these January performances of The Art of Gentle Punk.

As you pass along a country road in your motor car or on an omnibus have you ever felt drawn to stop and spend time in an odd corner of a field, have you ever felt a hankering to linger in the shade of old trees? In these strange dark days, have your lungs longed to laugh in rebellion. If so, meet me here, I’ll bring you to a place

where oddness lights the way, where love like rain washes the pain from your bones.

Dates: Wed 21, Tues 22 and Wed 23 January 2026

Time: 8pm

Duration: 75mins

Age: 14+

Venue: The Mick Lally Theatre, Druid Lane

Tickets: <https://tht.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/1173664057>

MOTH AND BUTTERFLY INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL – ATHENRY HERITAGE CENTRE EVENT

Moth and Butterfly International Festival of Storytelling and Improvisation 2026 takes place in Galway from 29th January to 1st February 2026. We are delighted to support Tales & Tunes from the High Seas in Athenry Heritage Centre. An afternoon of salty sea stories of adventure dance on the waves with toe tapping pirate polkas! Join Storyteller Fiona Dowling and Musician Michael Chang for an adventure on the high seas!

Takes place Sunday 1st February at 3 pm in Athenry Heritage Centre.

CREATIVE IRELAND

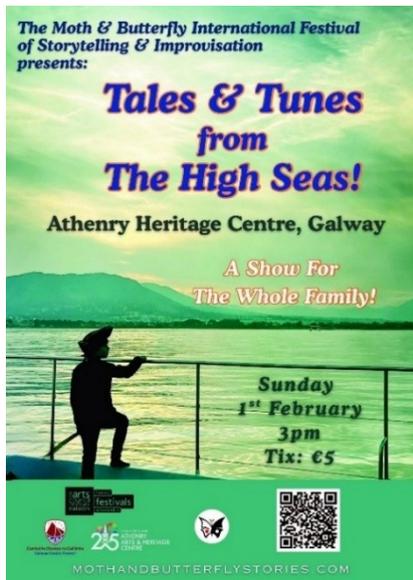
2025 CREATIVE IRELAND RETROSPECTIVE ARTICLE



We finished off 2025 with an article in the Galway Advertiser on the 11th of December. The focus was a look back on the achievements of 2025. We also took the opportunity to highlight the priorities for the 2026 Creative Ireland Open Call. The article featured quotes from Chief Executive Liam Conneally, Cathaoirleach Cllr. David Collins, and Creative Communities Engagement Officer Valerie Kelly. There was a positive response to the article with many prospective applicants getting in touch after reading it. Valerie Kelly also made an appearance on Connemara Community Radio to discuss the article and the 2026 Open Call.

CEOL SA GHEIMHRIDH – INIS MÓR

Following on from the Creative Health & Wellbeing programme of Live Music in Residential Healthcare Settings, it was decided to run an additional winter series of concerts in Áras Ronáin Community Nursing Unit on Inis Mór. The performances were delivered throughout the month of December by local singer-songwriter Pádraig Jack, who's strong connection to the island and the residents of the unit brought an added sense of warmth on the cold winter afternoons.



The residents, staff, and visitors to the unit all remarked on how these performances brought an element of excitement and enrichment to the week at a time of year when visits slow down on the island. Many of the residents sang along with even a few solos along the way. This was the third year of this programme where we work with Music Connects to send performers into Nursing Homes throughout the county. The project has gone from strength to strength and is always incredibly well received. We are currently in the process of applying to Creative Ireland for additional

funding to run the programme again in 2026.

PÁDRAIG JACK PERFORMING TO RESIDENTS OF ÁRAS RONÁIN CNU, INIS MÓR



2026 CREATIVE IRELAND OPEN CALL

The 2026 round of funding is getting off to a great start as we rolled out our Open Call for funding. The total amount of funding available is €70,000 with €10,000 of this being set



aside for small grants for Creativity Newcomers. There has already been a great interest in this with applications coming in from sports clubs, active retirement groups, and more starting to get interested in expressing their creativity.

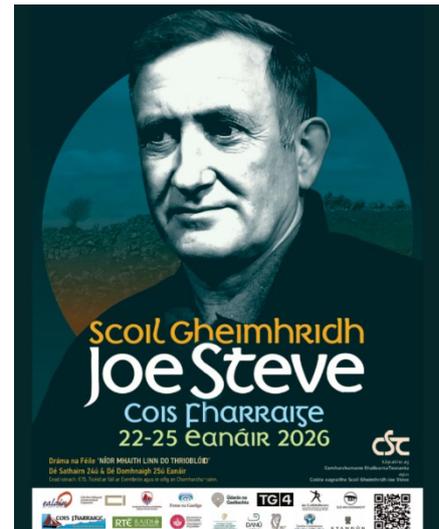
Two online information sessions were held to help prospective applicants through the process. The month of January has seen the Creative Communities Engagement Officer meet with various creatives and community groups to encourage engagement with the programme.

Applications are open now via Submit.com and will close on Friday the 23rd of January.

SCOIL GHEIMHRIDH JOE STEVE

The first Creative Ireland funded project of 2026 will take place from the 22nd to 24th of January in Seanscoil Sailearna, Indreabhán. The project entails a programme of events, performances, and workshops centred around theatre and writing. It celebrates local man, Joe Steve Ó Neachtáin, an actor and playwright best known for his portrayal of Peadar Ó Conghaile in Ros na Rún. Joe Steve sadly passed away in 2020 but his legacy lives on in his home where his work is remembered each year. This year's festival will be officially opened by President of Ireland, Catherine Connolly on Friday the 23rd of January at 7:30 pm.

A full report of the event will be provided in the February Management Report.



CRUINIÚ NA NÓG 2026



Cruinniú na nÓg, the National Day of Creativity for Children will take place on Saturday the 6th of June, 2026 and preparations are already underway. In 2025 and 2024, Galway County Council was successful in securing a total of €18,000 in additional funding to run a full programme of events as Gaeilge on all three Aran Islands. We are currently in the process of developing our proposal and budget to apply for the funding again in 2026.

Meanwhile on the mainland, the Open Call for funding launched on Tuesday the 13th of January. The grants for Cruinniú na nÓg are generally small, with a max amount of €750. Youth groups, artists, schools, and sports clubs are encouraged to apply to put on a free event for young people on the 6th of June. The programme has grown year on year with 2025 seeing a total of 59 events take place across the county with 52% of them either fully as Gaeilge or incorporating the Irish language. It is hoped that 2026 will continue to grow on the successes of previous years as we bring creativity to every child in County Galway.

GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

COMMUNITY SPORTS FACILITIES FUND – “GETTING GRANT READY”

Galway Sports Partnership, in collaboration with 2into3, will host a free online information session entitled “Getting Grant Ready” to support clubs preparing applications for the newly rebranded Community Sports Facilities Fund (formerly the Sports Capital Programme).

run by Galway Sports Partnership tutor Michael Callaghan. This program and signage is funded through Healthy Galway County.

GOOD 2 GO BALLINASLOE

Good2Go Ballinasloe, held in the Emerald Ballroom Ballinasloe, will commence on Friday, 30 January. This five-week programme is designed for older adults who are members of Men's Sheds, Women's Sheds, Active Retirement groups, and other older persons' organisations, as well as care and support staff working with older adults and individuals with disabilities.

Over the course of the programme, participants will engage in a range of activities including basic dance, social games, activator pole exercises, and seated exercise sessions. The primary objective is to equip older adults with the confidence and skills to lead short exercise routines and group activities that promote increased physical activity within their own communities.



This initiative is funded by Healthy Galway County.

ACTIVE ISLANDS

Ag tosú seachtain an 26ú Eanáir

Ranganna Aclaíochta Pobail Inis Bó Finne agus Inis Mór

Ar líne

Ar Líne

Oiriúnach do gach aois agus leibhéal cumais

Oscailte do Chách

Siel BLEU IRELAND

díste na gcuntas díomhaoin the dormant accounts fund

Comhghairníocht Spóirt Na Gaillimhe Galway Sports Partnership

hi Galway

Le haghaidh tuilleadh eolais seol ríomhphost chuig: coordinator@activeislands.ie
01 209 6889 | info@siebleu.ie | www.siebleu.ie
© 2019 SIEL BLEU | CIRA 20070204

Siel Bleu exercise classes are scheduled to commence at the end of January on both Inis Mór and Inishbofin. This initiative will run for a period of ten weeks, with sessions taking place each Wednesday morning.

The programme aims to provide accessible, evidence-based physical activity opportunities for older adults and individuals seeking to improve their functional fitness, mobility, and overall wellbeing. Delivered by trained Siel Bleu instructors, the classes will focus on safe, low-impact exercises designed to enhance strength, balance, coordination, and confidence in daily movement.

By offering these sessions within island communities, the programme supports equitable access to health

promoting activities and encourages sustained participation in regular physical exercise. The initiative also aligns with broader community health objectives by promoting active ageing and fostering social engagement among participants.

WALKING FOOTBALL

A new Walking Soccer programme will commence in Oughterard Community Centre on 20 January at 11:30am. This initiative forms part of ongoing efforts to provide inclusive, health enhancing physical activity opportunities for older adults and individuals seeking a safe, enjoyable way to remain active.

Walking Soccer is a modified version of traditional soccer, specifically adapted to prioritise participant safety and accessibility. Key rule adjustments—such as prohibiting running, headers, and physical contact, alongside the use of indirect free-kicks and restrictions on ball height—significantly reduce the risk of injury. These modifications make the activity



particularly suitable for older adults, people returning to exercise, and those with varying levels of mobility or fitness.

The programme offers a moderate impact form of exercise that supports cardiovascular health, balance, coordination, and functional movement. In addition to the physical benefits, Walking Soccer promotes social interaction, teamwork, and community engagement, contributing positively to participants' overall wellbeing.

Sessions will run weekly and are open to individuals of all abilities who wish to take part in a fun, supportive, and inclusive sporting environment.

Booking Link: <https://forms.office.com/e/uVgR5LgctG>

MENOWELL 2 GALWAY

The MenoWell 2 Galway programme, delivered in partnership with EduFit, will begin on 19 January 2026 at 1:00pm. This free, evidence-based initiative supports women in midlife through weekly online strength, balance, and mobility classes, alongside a series of expert-led health masterclasses. Participants will also receive lifetime access to on-demand resources, as well as pre- and post-programme assessments.

Masterclass topics include nutrition, movement, emotional wellbeing, recovery, and practical lifestyle strategies for improved long-term health.

The programme is supported by Atlantic Technological University, the University of Galway, and Healthy Galway County, with funding from Women in Sport, Sport Ireland.

A promotional poster for MenoWell 2 Galway. It features a woman's silhouette filled with colorful dots. The text on the poster includes: 'MenoWell 2 Galway', 'And FREE 6-week online expert-led evidence-based women-specific exercise and lifestyle medicine programme to help women thrive in midlife and beyond.', 'We asked, participants answered (responses from 3,177 women who completed "MenoWell") - and together, we have created "MenoWell 2". Please note, women are welcome to sign-up to "MenoWell 2" without having completed "MenoWell".', 'PROGRAMME CONTENT', 'Pre- and post-testing. Choice of 4 x 40+ minute live online strength, balance and mobility exercise classes per week.', 'Mondays at 7pm, Tuesdays at 8pm, and Thursdays at 7pm and 8pm.', '1 x 30-minute live online health masterclass per week.', 'Mondays at 1pm.', 'Customised exercise, nutrition, and health resources.', 'An on-demand library of exercise videos and health masterclass recordings.', '6 HEALTH MASTERCLASSES', '1. Tiny Tweaks for Massive Health Benefits: Mastering Daily Habits.', '2. Set Up For Success: Adapt Your Environment for Good Nutrition Habits.', '3. Move to Improve: Exercise Strategies to Say Goodbye to Aches & Pains.', '4. Gut Feelings: Food, Mood & Wellness for Women.', '5. Clear & Calm: Mental & Emotional Wellness for Midlife Women.', '6. The Art of Recovery: Reclaiming Strength, Balance & Wellbeing in Midlife and Beyond.', 'Lifetime access to the resources and on-demand library.', 'STARTING MONDAY 19TH JANUARY 2026 AT 1PM', 'To sign up, please scan the QR code or visit: www.edufit.ie/menowell-2-galway/', and logos for Atlantic Technological University, University of Galway, Healthy Galway County, and EduFit.

Registration is available at: <https://edufit.ie/menowell-2-galway/>

OUTDOOR RECREATION

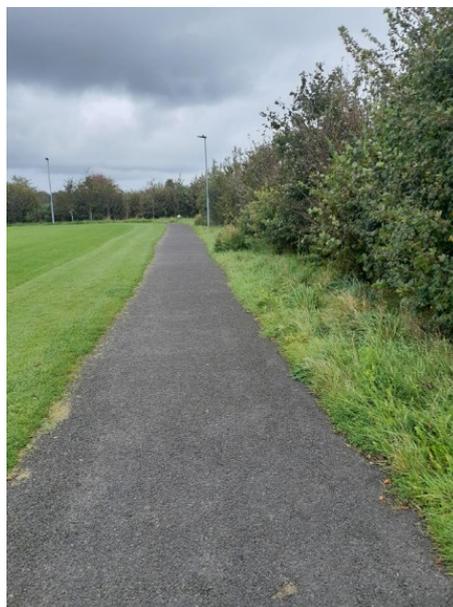
In August 2025, Measure 1 funding of €40,000 was approved for surface repair works to the Hymany Way Trail along the old Grand Canal towpath at Cloonascragh, Co. Galway. These works will provide much-needed improvements to a 2-kilometre section of the trail. Works are due to commence in 2026.

In November 2025, Measure 3 funding totalling €245,700 was approved for the provision of lit walkways at Rinville Park. This project will go to tender in the first Quarter of 2026 with a view to commencing works later this year. A Masterplan for Rinville Park is currently being developed under Project Development Measure funding from ORIS 2023. The walkways will be a key component of the overall Master Plan for the area.



Works were completed in late 2025 on ORIS projects at Creggs Wildlife Gardens and Lackagh/Knockdoemore walkway enhancements. These walkways are frequently used and have been a great addition to the local community.

CREGGS WILDLIFE GARDENS



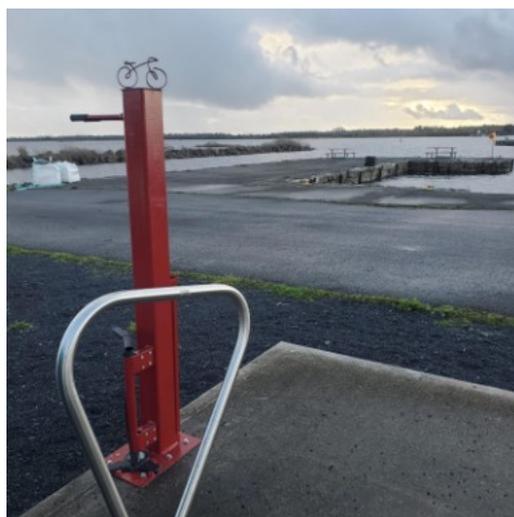
LACKAGH/KNOCKDOEMORE WALKWAY

Extra signage and bicycle service stations have been added to cycle routes in Headford through the ORIS funded 'Gateway to the Corrib Project' and will greatly enhance awareness of these cycle routes in the area.

Additional works under the ORIS Schemes include upgrades to beach huts, bicycle stands, signage and provision of beach wheelchairs and lifebuoys at Trá Mór, Indreabhán and Cill Mhuirbhígh, Inis Mór.

Ongoing work continues at Maam Cross for the completion of a car park which will facilitate cars and buses for those who enjoy walking the western way. It is anticipated that these works will be completed in the coming weeks.

Works are also continuing for trail enhancements to the entrance roadway at Castlegrove Woods.



INTEGRATION



In December, Kensika Monshengwo, Intercultural Training Coordinator with the Immigrant Council of Ireland, delivered Migrant Political Participation workshops to migrants through the ETB in Ballinasloe and Loughrea. These workshops were organised by the Integration Team.

The Integration Team also ran Christmas Carols in English, Irish and Ukrainian in An Spidéal in December.

With Kinvara for All, the Integration Team attended a Multicultural Event in the International Protection accommodation centre in Kinvara, which welcomed President Connolly to the gathering.



TOURISM

THE EU JUST TRANSITION REGENERATIVE TOURISM AND PLACEMAKING SCHEME 2023-2026

Galway County Council welcomed Significant Investment for Local Tourism Projects in 2025 Under the EU Just Transition Fund Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme.

A total of Seven projects under Scheme B, for Private and Community SMEs in the Ballinasloe Municipal District, were announced across multiple funding rounds in 2025. This level of funding allocation is in line with comparable counties such as Tipperary and Kildare, both of which each had two municipal districts included within the JTF region.

FUNDING SECURED UNDER JTF

Seven projects have been approved for a total of €1,201,600.

- Shannon Bank Park – ‘Wild Swimming’ outdoor swimming pool, approved for €616,000, wild swimming very popular in the area.
- Brackloon Castle – New build accommodation, approved for €420,000
- Cookery School in Williamstown – Planning and Design fees, approved for €57,600
- BACD Ballinasloe – Digital Transformation, new website for Businesses and SMEs in East Galway, approved for €30,000
- Galway’s Living Bog, Mountbellew, approved for €28,000
- The Old Mill Visitor Centre, Ahascragh, approved for €40,000
- Greenhills Farm, Fohenagh, approved for €10,000

The Just Transition Fund represents just the beginning of tourism development for the Ballinasloe MD. This scheme marks a strong starting point in the area’s tourism journey. With the Activator being on the ground and engaging with local businesses and community groups, it’s clear that the JTF has sparked great interest in tourism. It has also laid the groundwork for future funding opportunities.

For 2026 the second phase of the JTF activator role is Network Development for East Galway. This helps build capacity, encouraging the sharing of experience and cross-promotion between businesses. It will build relationships and mutual buy-in between state agencies, local authorities, and other public stakeholders on the one hand and local businesses and communities on the other.



The JTF Activator supports the Tourism Officer, focusing on Tourism Development in East Galway and works closely with Failte Ireland on the new Destination Experience Development Plan (DEDP).

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JUST
TRANSITION FUND ACTIVATORS
NETWORK

'THIS IS GALWAY' ADVERTISING

The Tourism Department continues to invest in a County based marketing approach through 'This is Galway'. This publication is the county's most widely read and highly distributed culture free-sheet, dedicated to promoting business, events and tourism. It features content across music, art, film, fashion, culture, listings, reviews and tourism-based features.

'This is Galway' was published on a bi-monthly basis throughout 2025, with over 300 distribution points across Galway City and County.

Galway County Council featured in all seven 'This is Galway' magazines published in 2025 (total circulation of 105,000), which are estimated to have reached over 250,000 readers.

All print features are also published on the 'This is Galway' website and promoted across social media channels. Features published during 2025 received tens of thousands of views from website visitors.

The Tourism Department will continue its ongoing efforts to market and support tourism activities across County Galway.



Visit Some of East Galway's Hidden Gems

Nestled in the scenic landscapes of East Galway lie two remarkable treasures that embody the region's rich history and culture: Brackloon Castle and the Irish Workhouse Centre. These lesser-known landmarks offer visitors a captivating journey into Ireland's historic past, and an insight into the lives of the people who lived here.

Brackloon Castle: A Medieval Gem Reimagined

Brackloon Castle is one of Ireland's smallest surviving medieval castles, still in use today. Located in a tranquil corner of East Galway, this castle is not just a relic of the past but a thriving family home. Under the leadership of its custodians, Donal and Allison, visitors are welcomed into a truly unique experience that blends five centuries of history with the warmth of modern Irish hospitality.

PAGE 30 | THIS IS GALWAY

A private, two-hour tour takes guests on an intimate exploration of the castle's five floors, each telling stories of its turbulent 500-year past and careful restoration. Starting at the kitchen table, visitors enjoy tea and refreshments while hearing about the O'Madden clan - the castle's original builders - who ruled the area for hundreds of years until the mid-1600s.

As guests ascend the original narrow spiral stone staircase, they encounter fascinating, distinctive features from the 16th and 18th centuries, including gunholes that once protected the castle from invaders and now serve as a safe haven for nesting birds. These towers culminate on the battlements, which offer sweeping views of the surrounding countryside.

The upper room of the castle features a surprising highlight. Here, visitors gather around an open fireplace as Donal and Allison share tales of the castle's restoration journey, creating an unforgettable atmosphere of warmth and authenticity. For anyone seeking a hands-on, personal look back into Galway's medieval history, Brackloon Castle is an unmissable gem! For more information, visit their website bracklooncastleandfarm.com to begin planning your Brackloon Castle experience.

Brackloon Castle - Clonfert, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, H53 Y8C7



The Irish Workhouse Centre: A Window into the Past

On the outskirts of Portumna town, the Irish Workhouse Centre offers a stark and profoundly moving guided tour of Ireland's most complete and best-preserved workhouse. It provides an unflinching look at the hardships endured by Galway's poor during and after the Great Famine, all within the authentic setting of a real workhouse.



The guided tour takes visitors through a series of buildings that paint a vivid picture of what life was like in a 19th-century workhouse. Visitors will explore the boardroom, waiting hall, women's dormitory, nursery, matron's quarters, dining hall & chapel, girls' schoolroom and laundry building.

Highlights of the tour include the workhouse museum, which features a holographic projection recounting the disappearance of the harsh Workhouse Master Ogilvie with workhouse funds in 1865, and the haunting 'Dark Shadows', a famine-themed sculpture exhibit by Karen Tully. Visitors may also view artist David Booney's famine-themed artwork, permanently displayed in the entrance hall.

Visit their website irishworkhousecentre.ie to learn more.

Together, Brackloon Castle and the Irish Workhouse Centre offer visitors a chance to connect with East Galway's history, from the cozy charm of a restored medieval home to the solemn structure of the Irish workhouse. These hidden gems provide a rich tapestry of Ireland's heritage waiting to be explored.

The Irish Workhouse Centre - Portumna, Co. Galway, H53 EK24



PORTUMNA WORKHOUSE ARTICLE IN 'THIS IS GALWAY'

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCHEME FESTIVAL AND EVENTS

The Tourism Department is dedicated to supporting festivals and participative events by grant funding and promoting a range of events across the County that will provide a great visitor experience and support the social and economic contribution of tourism to the County.

In 2025, The Community Support Scheme facilitated festivals and community groups with an overall funding allocation of €87,250. This was co-funded by Galway County Council Community Support Scheme Grants (€69,250) and Fáilte Ireland Regional Festivals and Events grants valued at €18,000.

Community Support Scheme for 2026, applications can be submitted online, closing date 23rd January 2026 @ 4pm

ENVIRONMENT, HUMAN RESOURCES, CITY & COUNTY LIBRARIES

ENVIRONMENT

WASTE MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

CIVIC AMENITY SITES

The Environment Section completed the procurement process for the operation of the Civic Amenity Sites in the County. A new two-year contract was awarded to Barna Recycling which will run until December 2027. Customer charges will remain as previous except for an additional €2 charge for single & double axle trailers.

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING & ENFORCEMENT

AGRICULTURE

Required numbers of farm inspections for 2025 were completed in December. 15 advisory notices were issued to farmers, with 8 farmers cross reported for various offences including breach of slurry spreading buffer zones, heavy field poaching, discharges of effluent from farmyard and breaches of silage bale stacking rules. Environment staff attended an NAIP working group meeting.

CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

A meeting took place with staff from the Waters of Life EU integrated project in relation to one of the demonstration catchment areas. This area is called the Islands catchment which covers an area on the Roscommon – Galway border and includes the village of Ballymoe. Staff from the environment section have offered to support this project, as the need arises.

WATERS OF LIFE – ISLANDS DEMONSTRATION CATCHMENT



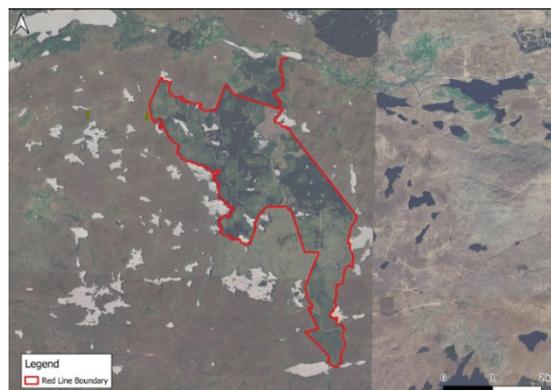
ENFORCEMENT

A Section 12 notice was issued to a business premises in relation to an unlicensed discharge direct to sea. Compliance with the surface water regulations will need to be shown which may require an upgrade of the existing wastewater treatment plant.

Dye testing was carried out on a business premises in relation to on-going pollution issues. This evidence will be used in a court case hearing in the next few weeks.

PRE-PLANNING

Environment staff attended pre-planning meetings in relation to a large residential development in Raheen, Athenry and for a bog restoration project at Cappaghoosh, near Recess, Connemara. The proposal is to fell an unproductive forestry plantation and re-wet area to restore natural bog habitat.



BOG RESTORATION PROJECT IN CAPPAGHOOSH

BATHING WATERS

Out of season Bathing Water posters were put up at all the bathing areas and on social media. This outlines risks associated with swimming outside of the normal bathing months.

LITTER & WASTE

15 litter fines were issued for offences under the Litter Pollution Act by our Community Warden service during the month of December. 103 litter fines were issued in total during 2025. Of these fines issued, 48 have been paid in full, 28 are still being processed through the system and 11 referred to the Law Agent. 7 cases for offences under the Litter Pollution Act were before Derrynea, Gort and Tuam district courts in late November and early December 2025. 4 of these cases have been adjourned for hearing until in 2026 with 3 of these cases to be finalised in respect of costs owing to the Council.

CCTV

Staff travelled to meet with Longford County Council as they have successfully deployed CCTV for waste enforcement purposes under the new guidance and legislation. It was helpful to hear about their experiences, and we took away a lot of information. It is now our intention to follow a similar route for CCTV in Galway in 2026.

MONITORING OF WASTE REGULATIONS

The remaining inspections for the 2025 Programme of Work were carried out in December - these included inspections under the Mercury regulations, Deposit Return Scheme and WEEE.

Local authorities are legally required to maintain a register of households availing of a waste collection service. This register was completed in December with the assistance of the IT section.

BURIAL GROUNDS

BURIAL GROUND CAPITAL WORKS



Following a meeting with representatives of the Muslim Community in November, the Environment Department have undertaken site investigation works on Council lands at Tuam Burial Ground to assess suitability as a dedicated Muslim Burial Space. Preliminary drawings will be prepared for review in early 2026 with the stakeholders.

A dedicated Urn Plot area has recently been added to Creagh Burial Ground, which was developed to a very high standard by staff from the Ballinasloe Area Office. The facility will contain 58 urn plots and include a pilot programme for pre-installed double-sided headstones which will just require inscriptions to be added.



URN PLOT AREA AT CREAGH BURIAL GROUND

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS & EDUCATION



Thirteen Christmas Tree Recycling sites were opened across County Galway for householders to recycle their Christmas tree.

DOG CONTROL

PROMOTION OF RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

491 dog licences were purchased during the month of December. Of these, 322 were purchased at the local post office with the remainder purchased online. For 2025, 8,792 dog licences were purchased in Galway County. This breakdown of the licences purchased consisted of 8,529 annual licences, 254 lifetime licences, and 9 General Licences. The local Post Office remained the post common method of paying for a licence during 2025, accounting for 69% of licences purchased.

Galway County Council continue to partner with dog charity MADRA on their spay initiative for dogs in the County, Millies Fund, and will do into 2026. 326 applications for neutering vouchers have been received since the scheme's inception in 2023 with 85 neutering vouchers issued in 2025 alone. The scheme has now been extended to include male dogs.

The Environment Section also continue to support MADRA on their excellent Talking Dogs Workshop Initiative and will do so again in 2026.

Workshops were carried out by MADRA in primary schools in Headford, Baile Chláir, An Cheathrú Rua, Béaladangan, Craughwell and Ros a Mhíl in 2025 with plans for more workshops to be carried out in schools across the county in 2026.

DOG CONTROL & ENFORCEMENT

No fixed penalty notices were issued for offences under the Control of Dogs Act during the month of December. In total for 2025, 54 fixed penalty notices were issued for offences under the Control of Dogs Act 1986. Of these, 27 have been paid in full, with a further 8 being paid through agreed payment plans, 7 still being processed through the system and 3 referred for court proceedings.

DOG SHELTER

5 stray/abandoned dogs came through the warden service during the month of December. We are currently compiling our statistics for 2025 for return to the DAFM in respect of intake through the shelter so a full synopsis on activity for the dog shelter will be provided in next month's management report.

LIBRARY SERVICES

DECADE OF CENTENARIES

MAPPING 1925: A CULTURAL TAPESTRY – CELEBRATING IRISH CREATIVITY THROUGH COMMUNITY ART AT TUAM & WESTSIDE LIBRARIES

Galway Public Libraries are delighted to announce the successful completion of *Mapping 1925: A Cultural Tapestry*, a community-engaged art project that celebrates Ireland's rich cultural achievements during a pivotal year in its history. Supported by the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, this initiative envisioned the creation of two original wall hangings for Tuam and Westside Libraries—artworks that honour resilience, creativity, and the spirit of transformation with a musical and poetic interpretation of both.

Galway Public Libraries proudly launched the Westside Community Tapestry on December 19th at Westside Library with Mayor Mike Cubbard and the Tuam Community Tapestry on December 20th with Cathaoirleach David Collins - inspiring artworks created as part of the Mapping 1925: A Cultural Tapestry project. This initiative celebrates Ireland's rich

cultural achievements during 1925—while reflecting the identity and the creativity of both Westside & Tuam communities today.

Over nine weeks, professional textile artist Helen Flynn collaborated with local women’s groups in both libraries to design and produce a stunning tapestry that honours Irish creatives, local heroes, and the surrounding landscape. Through stitching and weaving, participants explored Ireland’s cultural heritage and fostered dialogue through shared artistry—creating something deeply personal and profoundly communal.

To complement the Westside tapestry, Galway poet Gerry Hanberry and musician Roísín Mannion were commissioned to create a unique artistic collaboration, blending words and music to reflect the rich landscape and heritage of the Westside community. Gerry’s evocative poem, *“A Tapestry of Dreams (Westside 1925–2025),”* captures the history, spirit, and heartbeat of the locality. This powerful piece is brought to life through Roísín’s haunting emotive fiddle accompaniment.

Complementing the Tuam Tapestry, singer-songwriter Roísín Mannion composed *A Stitch in Time*, a melodic interpretation inspired by the design process and collaboration behind the tapestry. Her words *‘Spools of thought across the table, hands move steady, sure as breath, The room begins in conversation, then settles to the sound of thread’* carry the echo of conversations, the hum of creativity and the heartbeat of community. Additional creative contributions that highlight the art and creativity of this tapestry include written pieces by Tuam’s own Padraig Stevens and librarian Margaret Garvey, which will be displayed alongside the tapestry.

Designed as a legacy piece, *Mapping 1925* will enhance Tuam & Westside Libraries for generations to come—a vibrant reminder of how heritage inspires innovation.

Mapping 1925 reminds us that art is not only about beauty—it is about connection. It connects us to our past, to each other, and to the future we are shaping together

WESTSIDE TAPESTRY LAUNCH



MAPPING 1925: WESTSIDE COMMUNITY TAPESTRY

MUSICIANS ROÍSÍN AND TOMÁS MANNION



POET GERRY HANBERRY

TUAM TAPESTRY UNVEILING



DECADE OF CENTENARIES' INITIATIVE: TUAM TAPESTRY

CLLR. DAVID COLLINS, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY, WITH ARTISTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE CREATION OF THE TUAM TAPESTRY





HELEN FLYNN, TEXTILE ARTIST

L-R: MOIRA FOX, TUAM LIBRARY,
MARGARET GARVEY, TUAM LIBRARY,
JOSEPHINE VAHEY, SENIOR EXECUTIVE
LIBRARIAN AND PROJECT
COORDINATOR, CATHAOIRLEACH OF
GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, CLLR.
DAVID COLLINS, CAROLINE GRIESBACH
MORAN, TUAM LIBRARY AND HELEN
FLYNN, TEXTILE ARTIST



Mapping
1925
Tuam's Cultural
Community
Topology



CLLR. DAVID COLLINS, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY, JOSEPHINE VAHEY, SENIOR EXECUTIVE LIBRARIAN, CLLR. SIOBHÁN MCHUGH RYAN AND CLLR. MARY HOADE

ROÍSÍN MANNION, SINGER AND COMPOSER



BALLYBANE LIBRARY

RIGHT TO READ INITIATIVES.

During the month of December, we encouraged family participation in library events. We held crafting sessions where adults and children enjoyed participating in such crafts as lanterns and jewelry making. We hosted a Storytime each afternoon at 3pm where the children were invited to unwrap a book and relax in our beautiful children's area and listen to library staff read aloud.

Our patrons come from many different backgrounds and countries, so we continued our popular Bilingual Storytimes on Saturday mornings with a Storytime in Polish on the 6th of December. We rounded off our Family time in the library with a special multicultural event on Saturday afternoon, the 20th of December. This was a sharing of Christmas customs and traditions important to our diverse community. We were fortunate to have an accompanying band play Christmas music at this cosy session.

We continue to invite schools to come to the library for introductory talks and Storytime sessions. This month we had 50 children from Carnmore junior school arriving



by bus and they enjoyed a lively morning with us.

MULTICULTURAL CELEBRATION WITH MUSIC

STORYTIME WITH STAFF MEMBER COLETTE



CHRISTMAS CRAFTS



HEALTHY IRELAND AT YOUR LIBRARY.

In collaboration with our local Public Health unit in Doughiska we continue to host the new mother and baby meeting on the first 3 Tuesdays of each month. In addition to this, the lactation specialist nurses meet with mothers on the third Wednesday of each month. Our Sensory Tovertafel area is busy with local Enable Ireland and Brothers of Charity service users.

AGE FRIENDLY INITIATIVES

In collaboration with GABES we continue with our IT skills classes every Tuesday morning. These are thoroughly enjoyed by local senior citizens; indeed, each class is accompanied by great laughter and fun. In collaboration with Galway City Council, we hosted Kathleen Loughnane, Harpist, and she serenaded our patrons with a beautiful morning of music on the 17th of December.

HEADFORD LIBRARY



Headford Library held a book-inspired bauble decorating activity throughout the month of December, inviting families to decorate the library's Christmas tree based on their favourite reads of 2025. A Christmas story-time with songs for young children was a lovely interactive event, while a drop-in activity day was a great success on the last day before Christmas! Children and adults alike enjoyed boardgames, Lego, crafts and colouring in a welcome space during the festive period.

CHRISTMAS TREE IN HEADFORD LIBRARY

CRAFT CHRISTMAS TREE IN HEADFORD LIBRARY



EUROPE DIRECT @ BALLINASLOE LIBRARY

December was a vibrant month for Europe Direct Ballinasloe and Galway Libraries, filled with community engagement and festive cheer. On December 1st, Europe Direct Ballinasloe proudly accompanied regional winners John Brady (Creagh National School) and Rida Kashif (Clonfert College) to the National Europe Direct Soapbox Final at the Royal College of Physicians in Dublin, where both delivered outstanding performances. Just two days later, on December 3rd, Europe Direct Ballinasloe and Galway Libraries hosted a Pop-Up Library at ATU Galway City, connecting with staff and students to promote library services and resources. Ballinasloe Library also embraced the holiday spirit with a colourful Christmas book display for children, inspiring young readers to explore seasonal stories. The celebrations continued on December 18th when Ballinasloe Library hosted the Brothers of Charity Christmas Variety Show, showcasing incredible local talent and the BARA singers, who wowed audiences and spread festive joy throughout the community.

POP UP LIBRARY AT ATU GALWAY:



On December 3rd, Europe Direct Ballinasloe and Galway Libraries hosted a Pop-Up Library at ATU Galway City. The initiative aimed to engage staff and students, promoting library services and fostering awareness of resources available through the library network.

GALWAY PUBLIC LIBRARIES' STAFF MEMBERS JOE JENNINGS AND RUTH BROWNE

Ballinasloe Library embraced the festive spirit by creating a vibrant Christmas book display for children, adding seasonal cheer and encouraging young readers to explore holiday-themed stories.

FESTIVE BOOK DISPLAY AT BALLINASLOE LIBRARY



NATIONAL EUROPE DIRECT SOAPBOX FINAL

On December 1st, Europe Direct Ballinasloe proudly accompanied regional winners John Brady (Creagh National School) and Rida Kashif (Clonfert College) to the National Europe



Direct Soapbox Final at the Royal College of Physicians in Dublin, where both delivered outstanding performances.

REGIONAL WINNERS IN THE EUROPE DIRECT SOAPBOX FINAL, JOHN BRADY AND RIDA KASHIF. EXECUTIVE LIBRARIAN JOE JENNINGS IS IN THE CENTRE OF THE PHOTO.

BROTHERS OF CHARITY CHRISTMAS VARIETY SHOW

On December 18th, Ballinasloe Library hosted the Brothers of Charity Christmas Variety Show, showcasing incredible local talent and the BARA singers, who wowed audiences and spread festive joy throughout the community.





BROTHERS OF CHARITY CHRISTMAS VARIETY SHOW



LEABHARLANN NA CEATHRÚN RUA

AN CEART CHUN LÉITHEOIREACHT:

CLUB LEABHAR

Bhí teacht le chéile eile ag an gclub leabhar míosúil díreach roimh na Nollag. Bhí plé bríomhar ann faoin leabhar "Fatwa" le Prionnsias Mac A' Bháird. Tríd is tríd, cheap siad go raibh an leabhar d'ard-chaighdeán agus go raibh sé éasca le léamh, agus léibhéal Gaeilge ann a bhí cruinn ach dúshlánach. Seachtar a bhí i láthair agus beidh an chéad cruinniú eile acu ag deireadh mí Eanáir.

AM TEAGHLAIGH I DO LEABHARLANN

Bhí muid an-bhuíoch do Gheraldine as ucht teacht chuig an leabharlann agus am scéalaíochta na Nollag a chur ar siúl do na gasúir ar 13 Nollaig. Bhí scéalta, canadh agus neart cluichí acu. Bhain siad an-sult as.

Chuir muid na gasúir a tháinig isteach againn i rith mí na Nollag ag dearadh maisiúcháin don chrann sa leabharlann. Is cosúil gur thaitin sé leo a bheith cruthaíoch! Bhreathnaigh an crann go haoibhinn, díreach in am don Nollaig.

CUAIRTEANNA EILE Ó SCOILEANNA & GRÚPAÍ ÁITIÚLA

Mar is gnáth tháinig réimse leathan grúpaí isteach againn ón gceantar agus bhí cuairteanna laethúil againn ó na ranganna bunscoile. Chuir muid fáilte freisin roimh cuairteanna rialta ón gClub Suaimhneas, na scoileanna speisialta agus na heagraíochtaí cúraim. Cuireadh fáilte mór rompu!

THE RIGHT TO READ

BOOK CLUB

Our monthly book club had another get together right before Christmas. There was a lively discussion about the book “Fatwa” by Prionsias Mac A’ Bhaird. All in all, they felt the book was of a high standard and easy to read, with an accurate yet challenging level of Irish. Seven people were present, and they will have their next meeting at the end of January.

FAMILY TIME AT YOUR LIBRARY

We were very grateful to Geraldine for doing a Christmas storytime for children on December 13th. There were lots of stories, singing and games. The audience really enjoyed the event.

Children who visited us during the month of December designed decorations to add to our library tree. They seemed to enjoy getting creative! The tree looked wonderful, just in time for Christmas.

OTHER VISITS FROM SCHOOLS & LOCAL GROUPS



We had a wide range of groups visit us from the area, and we had daily visits from primary school classes. We also welcomed regular visits from Club Suaimhneas, special schools, and care organizations. They were given a warm welcome!

GERALDINE (MAMAÍ NA NOLLAG) AG AM SCÉALAÍOCHTA!

GERALDINE (MRS CLAUS) AT STORYTIME!



MAISIÚCHÁIN DON CHRANN. /
DECORATIONS FOR
THE TREE



GALWAY CITY LIBRARY

December saw several musical events taking place at Galway City Library. The monthly Maidin Chaife, co-hosted with Gaillimh Le Gaeilge, saw participants learning, and singing, traditional Irish language Christmas Carols.



On 20 December, harpists Catriona Cannon and Kathleen Loughnane treated their audience to a brief history of the harp in Ireland, together with performances of several pieces of 17th and 18th century harp music.

In addition to the musical side of things, we provided an introduction to library resources for a group of 15 Youthreach students, showing them the wide range of e-resources available to them from Galway Public Libraries. For many of the group, it was their first ever visit to a public library.



YOUTHREACH STUDENTS VISITING GALWAY CITY LIBRARY

ORANMORE LIBRARY

RIGHT TO READ: FIGHTING WORDS



Oranmore Library was delighted to welcome Bríd Treasa from @fightingwordsireland to the library in December for a workshop with 6th class students from Gaelscoil de hÍde. 'Fighting Words Ireland' provide workshops which promote creativity and writing as a fun and powerful means of self-expression. The workshops are available through Irish and English.

FIGHTING WORDS WORKSHOP WITH PUPILS FROM GAELSCOIL DE HÍDE

AGE FRIENDLY



Oranmore Library hosted an exhibition by Age Friendly Galway based on the 'Local Heroes Awards Ceremony'.

LOCAL HEROES' EXHIBITION

FAMILY TIME AT THE LIBRARY

Oranmore Library was delighted to welcome Miss Dolly to celebrate the festive season with a Storytime and Music event for young children. The children really enjoyed it and as did the adults!



MISS DOLLY ENTERTAINING A CAPTIVE AUDIENCE

CHRISTMAS ARTS AND CRAFTS WITH FABRIC



LOUGHREA LIBRARY

Loughrea Library hosted a lively and varied programme of events and activities that welcomed children, families, and adults from across the community. The Right to Read

initiative brought in numerous school groups from St. Ita's National School. Toddler Storytime sessions with LEGO Duplo play proved popular with young families, while several classes—from Junior Infants right up to 6th class—visited the library for story sessions, playtime, book exchanges, crafts, and hands-on creative activities. Attendance across these visits ranged from small toddler groups to classes of more than twenty enthusiastic children.

The library's Adult Book Club also met during this time, gathering to discuss *The Coast Road* by Alan Murrin. Later in the season, members enjoyed a relaxed pre-Christmas social get-together, maintaining the warm sense of community that the group is known for.

Families enjoyed a series of engaging weekend events. A LEGO Free Play Day drew a lively group of children, while a Christmas crafts workshop led by Laurie Legrand from The Learning Garden School offered a chance to create hand-painted decorations. Additional family-focused activities included another toddler storytime session, a festive Christmas Wish Star decorating workshop that attracted a large turnout, a children's Christmas movie evening, and a second LEGO Free Play Day that brought families together for creative fun.



CHRISTMAS WISH TREE

CHRISTMAS CRAFT WORKSHOP WITH LAURIE LEGRAND- HAND PAINTED DECORATION



CHRISTMAS MOVIE



As part of the Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme, visitors attended an informative foot health talk delivered by podiatrist Jay Cox from Foot Health Solutions. This session provided practical guidance and attracted strong interest from attendees.

PODIATRIST JAY COX



The library also continued its commitment to Age Friendly Initiatives. Weekly Digital Skills drop-in clinics supported older adults in building confidence with technology, with steady participation throughout the period. Alongside this, the weekly adult craft group offered a welcoming space for creativity and connection, with regular attendance and a variety of hands-on projects enjoyed by participants.

Overall, the season was marked by strong community engagement, diverse programming, and a warm, festive atmosphere throughout the library.

WESTSIDE LIBRARY

December was an active and engaging month at Westside Library, marked by a diverse programme of community events, educational initiatives, and festive activities. The month began with the *Let's All Talk Tax (LATT)* panel discussion, chaired by Mary Cosgrove of the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics. Representatives from local community groups participated in an open conversation exploring public understanding of tax, its role in



daily life, and the areas that often cause confusion. This was part of an ongoing collaboration with the University of Galway, fostered under the *Skills for Life* umbrella.

LET'S ALL TALK TAX PANEL DISCUSSION

Throughout December, the Beginners Climate Course for over-55s continued under the guidance of Jacinta Barrins, retired UN diplomat and Climate Mentor, facilitated by the University of Galway. Participants engaged with accessible learning on climate topics, contributing to lifelong learning opportunities within the library.

A Willow Weaving Workshop for Parents took place on 4 December, facilitated by the Galway Home School Community Liaison service. Attendees spent a creative morning crafting festive star decorations and connecting with others, adding a hands-on artistic element to the month's programming.



Willow weaving workshop

The Family Time at Your Library programme brought a very festive atmosphere to

Westside Library, with eleven events attracting 176 attendees. Families enjoyed a Christmas-themed Storytime during the Westside Christmas Market & Family Day, while seasonal LEGO and DUPLO sessions encouraged imaginative play. The library also welcomed the Seomra Shona classes from Galway Educate Together National School for their Christmas visit. The Galway Home-Educate Community Christmas Market further enhanced the festive spirit, offering handmade crafts and creative exhibits. A harp recital by Kathleen Loughnane provided a reflective musical interlude, and the final Grúpa Tuismitheoirí agus Leanaí session of the year concluded the programme, with thanks extended to storyteller Julie Anne de Brún and Majella O'Meara of Gaillimh le Gaeilge for their ongoing contributions.



STAFF MEMBER SASKIA HOSTING STORYTIME



JULIE ANNE DE BRÚN READING TO A SPELLBOUND AUDIENCE

HARPIST KATHLEEN LOUGHNANE



Community engagement continued with a visit from the Bridge Project, coordinated by Galway City Partnership. In collaboration with An Garda Síochána and Túsla, the session offered practical information for Asylum Seekers and Third Country Nationals on obtaining a driver's licence, understanding the role of the Gardaí, and reporting crime. This initiative supported integration and practical support services for new residents in Galway.

GALWAY BRIDGE PROJECT

As part of the *Healthy Ireland at Your Library* programme, the library hosted "Compassionate Coping for Carers at Christmas and Throughout the Year," delivered by Dr. Malie Coyne, Chartered Clinical Psychologist and best-selling author. The session was very well attended and provided supportive strategies for carers managing the pressures of the festive season and beyond.

The month concluded with the official launch of "Mapping 1925: A Cultural Tapestry". Funded by *The Decade of Centenaries* and led by artist Helen Flynn, the project brought together local participants to create a large-scale artwork depicting life in Westside in 1925, accompanied by commissioned poetry from Gerry Hanberry and music by Róisín Mannion. The completed tapestry is now on permanent display in the library

ARTIST HELEN FLYNN SPEAKING AT THE LAUNCH OF 'MAPPING 1925: A WESTSIDE CULTURAL TAPESTRY'



TUAM LIBRARY

December was a wonderfully vibrant month at the library, filled with activity, creativity, and community spirit. As part of the Healthy Ireland programme, podiatrist Karen Fahy delivered an engaging and informative talk that drew strong interest from attendees. Throughout the month, the library's sensory pod also proved popular, welcoming small visiting groups from Trinity Primary National School. Regular weekly class visits continued as always, bringing energy and curiosity into the building.

Family Time at Your Library added its own rhythm to the month. Rhyme Time sessions filled the library with songs and laughter each Wednesday, with around fifteen little ones joining in each week. Saturdays remained a highlight thanks to the ever-popular all-day LEGO free play, which continued to attract enthusiastic builders of all ages. A festive Children's Christmas Craft workshop brought even more excitement, with fourteen young creators signing up to make their own decorations and cards.

Digital skills sessions ran through the first half of the month and continued to draw strong attendance, while all three of the library's book clubs—two for adults and one for young adults—met to share lively discussions. The season's celebrations reached a joyful peak during the Soundbites Christmas Concert, where twenty-five attendees gathered for an



evening of music, singing, and festive cheer. The breastfeeding support group also met during the month, offering a warm and welcoming space for parents. Meanwhile, artist Margie Ryan exhibited a beautiful small collection of her work, brightening the library for the first two weeks of December.

ALL DAY FREE PLAY LEGO, A FAMILY TIME AT YOUR LIBRARY EVENT

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS, A FAMILY TIME AT YOUR LIBRARY EVENT



PORTUMNA LIBRARY

As 2025 drew to a close, Portumna Library was buzzing with activity and festive spirit. We started the month with our ever-popular Irish Group meet-up, where laughter, lively chat, and plenty of coffee filled the room. Our Age Friendly, all-levels-welcome Ciorcal Comhrá

continues to shine as a wonderfully diverse gathering, with participants whose first languages include German and Ukrainian joining in the fun.

Early in the month, library staff proudly represented Galway Libraries at the Health & Wellbeing Showcase in Portumna Town Hall, organised by GRD and the Portumna Active Retirement Association. Marie Mullins (Portumna/Killimor Libraries) and Siobhán Arkins, Healthy Ireland at Your Library Programme Manager, met an enthusiastic crowd eager to learn more about our services. Meanwhile, Teresa Tierney kept things running smoothly back at home base, ensuring our busy library stayed open and welcoming throughout the event.

Our adult bookclub enjoyed another great read together—*A God in Ruins* by Kate Atkinson—which sparked plenty of discussion and was a hit with most of the group.

We were delighted to welcome our regular visitors from Redwood N.S., who make the trip across the Shannon twice a month to dive into all the library has to offer.

Family Time at the library was extra magical this year, with four festive Christmas-themed workshops: one for adults, one for young adults, one for ages 9–12, and a special session just for our 5–8-year-olds. Creativity and Christmas cheer were in full swing.

St Brendan’s N.S. also brought wonderful energy to the library, with Junior Infants, Senior Infants, and 1st & 2nd classes enjoying stories, colouring, and games during their visits.

Our 1000-piece community jigsaw continues to be popular, drawing in puzzlers of all ages. The LEGO and DUPLO boxes are constantly in use, and our Games Shelf remains a favourite spot for families, friends, and anyone looking to connect over a bit of fun.

Students from the local Youthreach Centre’s L.C.A. programme made great use of our resources while researching their History Project, and as always, we were thrilled to welcome the members and staff of the Portumna branch of Ability West during their regular visits.

All in all, December was a joyful, bustling month in Portumna Library—a perfect way to wrap up the year.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The Mobile Library has continued to bring book borrowing services to the rural communities of county Galway.

Since the implementation of the new autumn schedule; we have received positive feedback from our borrowers. They have adjusted to the new monthly timetable and are now borrowing enough books to keep them going with reading material throughout the month.

We are actively encouraging people to engage with our online library services; we hope to run some user-friendly demonstrations sessions on how to download and use these services in the new year.

MOBILE LIBRARY OUTREACH EVENTS

We ran two successful events for the autumn/winter period, with positive feedback from recipients.

RIGHT TO READ - FAMILY TIME AT YOUR LIBRARY

We received funding from Creative Ireland to run some children's events for the winter period. We engaged with storyteller Julie Anne de Brún to run three events 'Scéalaíocht agus Ceol' during November and December. These sessions are bi-lingual Irish and English and fall under the national Right to Read initiative.

Little Stars Creche, Maigh Cuilinn – 19th November

Caisleán Óir Community Childcare, Glinsk – 20th November

Ionad Cúram Leanaí, Carna – 5th December



JULIE ANNE DE BRÚN,
SCÉALAÍOCHT AGUS
CEOL



JULIE ANNE DE BRÚN,
SCÉALAÍOCHT AGUS CEOL

AGE FRIENDLY

NURSING HOME CRAFT SESSIONS:

One of the remits of the mobile library is to engage and build connections within our communities. As part of our Age Friendly initiative, we are fortunate that we have established strong connections with Nursing Home providers.

During December we had time to plan, prepare, and provide Christmas Craft art therapy sessions.



Christmas Crafts with Galway Mobile Library & Local Care Centres

We visited Kilcolgan Nursing Home and Little Flower Nursing Home, Labane on 22nd November, and Clarinbridge Care Centre on 28th November.

We demonstrated and assisted the residents with the making of Christmas cards and handmade decorations. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all and really appreciated by the activity coordinators.

We were reminded of how important it is to bring a lending library book service and an activity outreach service to the residents of Care homes who may not otherwise have access to these resources.

We are looking at the possibility of running a seasonal programme of events for next year.

HOUSING

VACANT HOMES

VACANT PROPERTY REFURBISHMENT GRANTS (VPRGS)

There continues to be a high level of interest in the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grants (Croí Cónaithe Scheme). The number of applications submitted to date is 661, 446 applications have received initial approvals to date. To date 111 Applications have received payment to the value of €6,720,910.70, representing a significant investment in local communities



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Galway County Council is running a survey to assess the level of interest in purchasing a home at a proposed affordable housing development at St. Joseph's Road, Portumna. The survey is being issued to respondents that registered for updates through the Council's

Affordable Housing web page. It is also being issued to respondents that expressed a preference in purchasing an



affordable home in the Loughrea MD area from a previous survey. It can be viewed on [Affordable Housing Interest Survey – St. Joseph's Road, Portumna, Co. Galway](#) and can be completed in English or Irish.

SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK

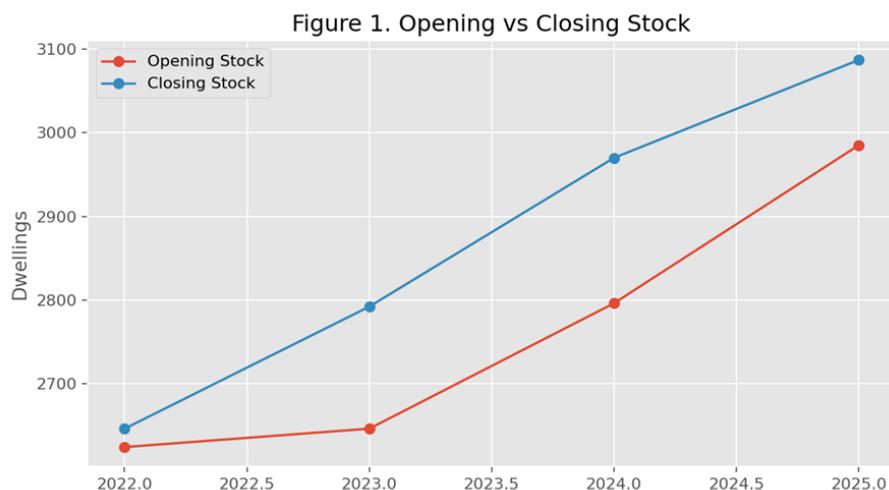
NOAC STOCK FIGURES 2022–2025

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL – LA HOUSING STOCK, EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Closing stock increased from 2,646 (2022) to 3,087 (2025). Year-on-year net changes: +22 (2022), +146 (2023), +174 (2024), +102 (2025).
- Additions consistently exceeded disposals (sales + demolitions), with 2024 the peak year for additions (205).
- Vacancy rate reduced from 6.12% (2023) to 2% (2024–2025). Vacant count fell from 171 (2023) to 60 (2024) and held at 64 (2025).
- Average relet time improved from 77.86 weeks (2022) to 37.05 weeks (2025). Total relet weeks dropped from 6,228.57 (2022) to 2,371.00 (2025).
- Derelict share within vacancies rose to 48% (2024) and 47% (2025), indicating a more complex residual void cohort requiring capital solutions.
- At 31/12/2025, 19 dwellings were planned for demolition and demolished under a DHLGH-approved scheme, being replaced by 25 new builds across Portumna and Dunlo.

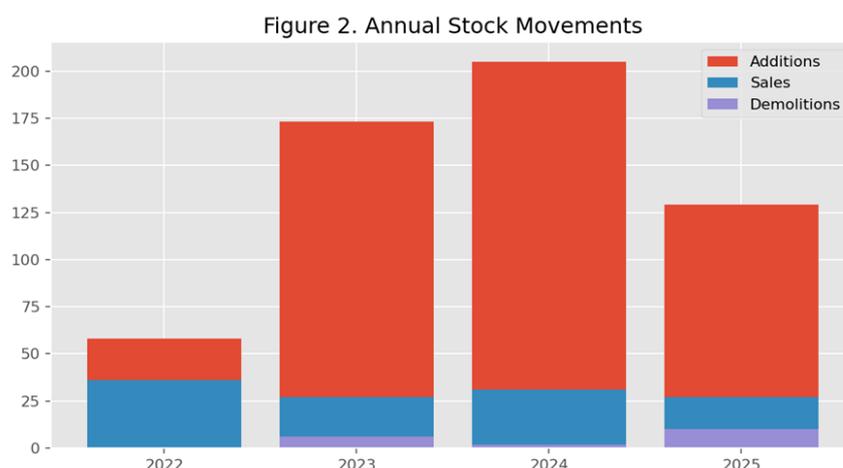
STOCK TRAJECTORY

Closing stock rose steadily across the period: 2,646 (2022) → 2,792 (2023) → 2,970 (2024) → 3,087 (2025). Net changes reconcile precisely to Additions minus (Sales + Demolitions): +22 (58 – 36 – 0), +146 (173 – 21 – 6), +174 (205 – 29 – 2), and +102 (129 – 17 – 10). The strongest expansion was recorded in 2024 driven by high additions.



LOCAL AUTHORITY
HOUSING STOCK:
OPENING VS
CLOSING (2022–
2025)

ANNUAL MOVEMENTS:
ADDITIONS, SALES,
DEMOLITIONS & NET
CHANGE

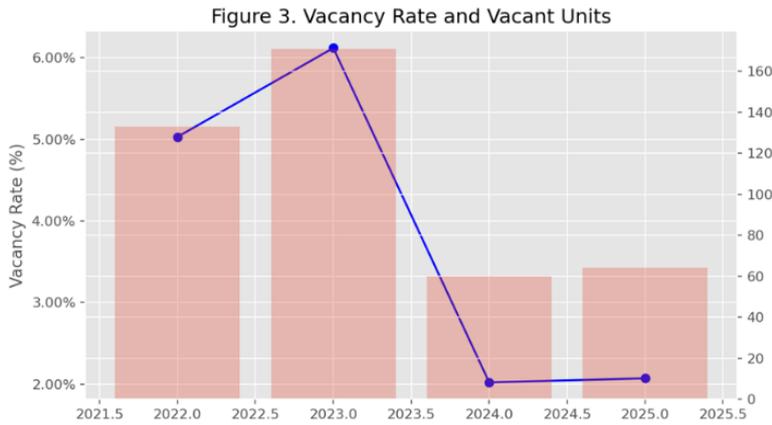


VACANCY PERFORMANCE AND COMPOSITION

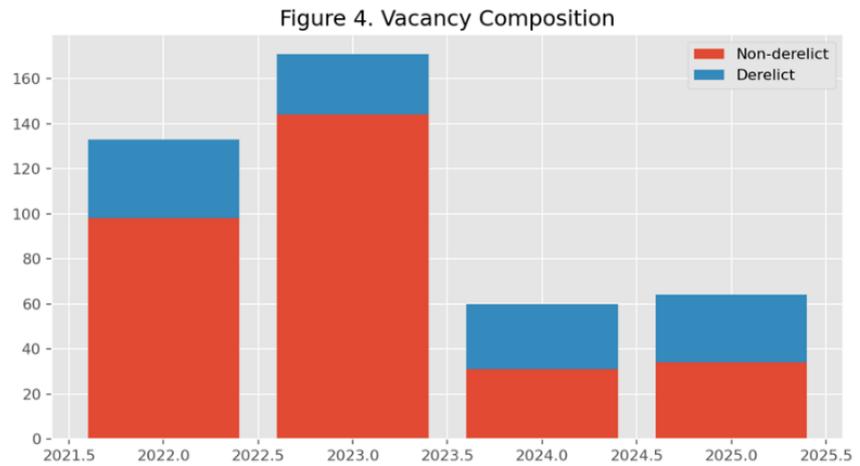
Vacancy rate fell from 6.12% (2023) to 2.02% (2024) and 2.07% (2025), while total vacancies reduced from 171 (2023) to 60 (2024) and 64 (2025). Despite increasing closing stock, vacancies remained low, reflecting strong letting performance and void control. Tenanted dwellings increased to 3,023 by 2025.

Derelict share among vacancies shifted markedly: 26% (2022), 16% (2023), 48% (2024), 47% (2025). In 2024: 3 Available For Letting, 17 Awaiting Minor Repairs (AMR), 11 Major Refurb, 29 Derelict. In 2025: 8 Available For Letting, 16 AMR, 10 Major Refurb, 30 Derelict. This profile indicates that the residual vacant cohort is more capital-intensive, with derelicts dominating the mix, whereas short-cycle voids (AFL/AMR) are being cleared effectively.

VACANCY RATE AND VACANT UNITS (2022–2025)



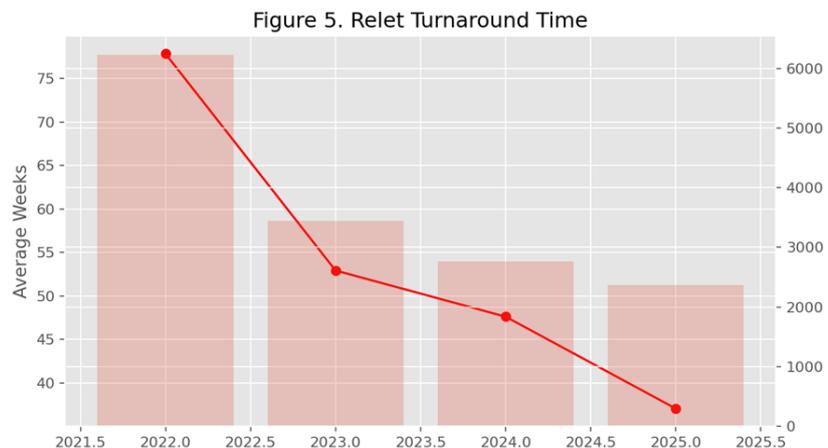
VACANCY COMPOSITION: DERELICT VS NON-DERELICT (ALL YEARS) AND DETAILED 2024–2025 BREAKDOWN



RELET TURNAROUND AND THROUGHPUT

Average relet time decreased year-on-year: 77.86 weeks (2022), 52.93 (2023), 47.62 (2024), 37.05 (2025). Total relet weeks fell in parallel: 6,228.57 → 3,440.28 → 2,762.00 → 2,371.00. Relets processed were 80 (2022), 65 (2023), 58 (2024), and 64 (2025). The improvement indicates process efficiencies in minor repairs scheduling, contractor mobilisation and prioritised void categories.

RELET TURNAROUND TIME TREND (AVERAGE VS TOTAL WEEKS)



REFUSALS OF OFFERS OF SOCIAL HOUSES

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL REFUSALS OF SOCIAL HOUSES ALLOCATED IN 2025

LOCAL AUTHORITY (LA) AND NON-LA TENANCY STARTS – 2025

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides a consolidated overview of Local Authority (LA) and Non-Local Authority (Non-LA) tenancy starts during 2025, focusing on:

- Total tenancy delivery
- Property-level refusal behaviour
- Applicant-level offer outcomes

HEADLINE OUTCOMES

- 287 tenancy starts achieved during 2025
- 287 properties allocated and ultimately accepted
- 8 properties left unallocated
- 396 applicants received one or more offers to deliver 287 tenancies

Despite refusals, the allocations process successfully converted all available properties into tenancies.

PROPERTIES ALLOCATED

Indicator	Total
Properties allocated in 2025	287
Properties accepted without refusal	207
Properties refused at least once	80

→ 27.9% of properties required re-offering before acceptance.

PROPERTY REFUSAL PROFILE

Number of refusals per property	No. of properties
Refused once	55
Refused twice	12
Refused three times	6
Refused four times	3
Refused five times	3
Refused six times	1
Total refused properties	80

KEY POINTS FOR SMT:

- Most refusals were single-instance events.
- 15 properties required three or more offers, indicating a small cohort of harder-to-let stock.
- One property required six offers, creating a disproportionate administrative burden.

APPLICANT ENGAGEMENT

Indicator	Total
Applicants who ultimately took up tenancy	287
Additional applicants offered but not tenanted	109
Total applicants offered properties	396

On average:

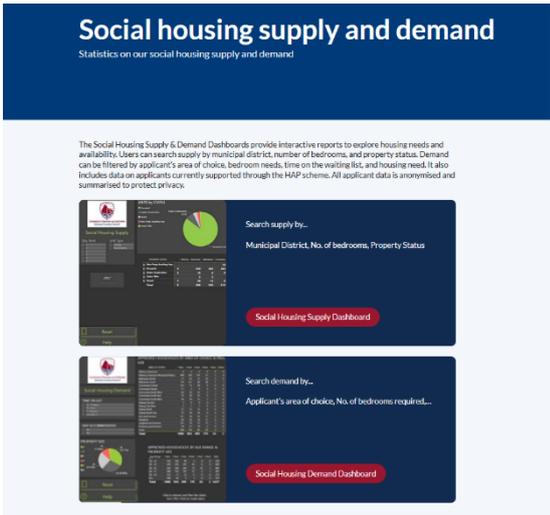
- 1.38 applicants were required per tenancy
- 27.5% of applicants offered properties did not proceed to tenancy

REPEAT APPLICANT REFUSALS

11 applicants refused two properties each during the year.

This demonstrates that a relatively small group of applicants can generate repeat refusals, increasing offer volumes without increasing tenancy output.

LAMA 2026 SHORTLISTING – INTERACTIVE SOCIAL HOUSING AND DEMAND DASHBOARD



Social housing supply and demand
Statistics on our social housing supply and demand

The Social Housing Supply & Demand Dashboards provides interactive reports to explore housing needs and availability. Users can search supply by municipal district, number of bedrooms, and property status. Demand can be filtered by applicant's area of choice, bedroom needs, time on the waiting list, and housing need. It also includes data on applicants currently supported through the HAP scheme. All applicant data is anonymised and summarised to protect privacy.

Search supply by...
Municipal District, No. of bedrooms, Property Status

Social Housing Supply Dashboard

Search demand by...
Applicant's area of choice, No. of bedrooms required...

Social Housing Demand Dashboard

Galway County Council has been shortlisted in the 2026 LAMA All-Ireland Community & Council Awards for the Interactive Social Housing and Demand Dashboard, recognised under the “Best Use of Technology & Innovation in Local Government” category. This nomination from a total of 533 submissions, highlights the Council’s leadership in digital transformation and its innovative approach to improving data accessibility, housing insights, and evidence-based decision-making.

CAPITAL BUILD PROGRAMME

COSMONA LOUGHREA



Construction works on the 56-unit mixed tenure housing development at Cosmona, Loughrea commenced in December 2025 following completion of procurement and contract award to C&N Higgins Construction. The scheme, funded under the Government's Social Housing Investment Programme, will deliver a mix of social and affordable houses and apartments.

AN ARDCHILL BALLINASLOE

The construction of 8 two-bedroom homes at An Ardchill, Ballinasloe was successfully completed in December 2025. The scheme was delivered by Pat Loftus Construction under the Council's Capital Delivery Programme and funded through the Social Housing Investment Programme.



PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, FIRE & EMERGENCY & CLIMATE CHANGE

DUNMORE – BRIDGE STREET REGENERATION PROJECT

Galway County Council is proposing an urban regeneration project in Dunmore under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. The project has progressed to the Part 8 planning consent process and was subject to Public Consultation from last October 2025. However, as part of that statutory assessment, matters relating to ecology and biodiversity were identified that require further consideration and these issues are currently being reviewed by Galway County Council with a view to bringing forward an amended proposal for the consent process in due course. In conjunction with the Urban & Rural Regeneration Team, a master Plan will be developed for this area of Dunmore, and this scheme will then be brought forward under this broader master plan for Dunmore.

SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROJECTS

Galway County Council is engaging continuously with the Department of Transport on funding for continuation of the existing 2025 schemes (detailed below) and new schemes into 2026.

- Athenry Northern Relief Road – Construction works onsite progressing well, with completion expected Q2/Q3 2026. (Photos below)
- Kilbannon – Finalization of landowner legal matters in advance of contract signing. Construction expected to begin early Q1 2026.
- Cuan na Loinge – Planning application is with An Coimisiún Pleanála, with decision likely in Q1 2026.
- Belville – Ongoing landowner engagement in advance of planning application.



ATHENRY NRR –
VIEW TO NORTH-
WEST

ATHENRY NRR –
VIEW TO SOUTH-
WEST



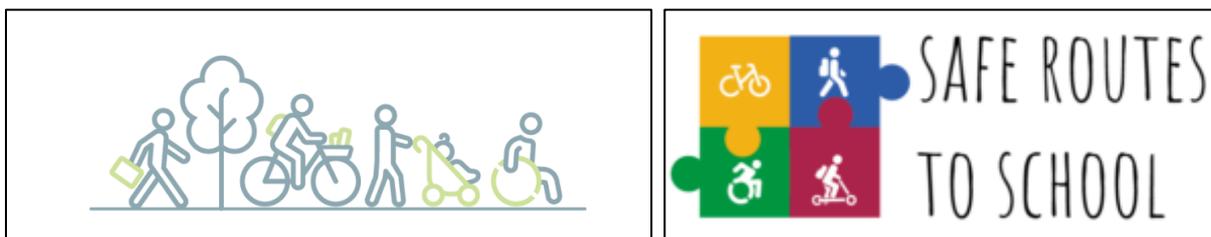
GRANT CLAIMS

Roads administration staff, both in County Buildings and in all M.D. offices, have been successfully processing grant allocation claims to TII and Department of Transport. Galway County Council was successful in getting additional funding over and above the Department of Transport and TII Grant Allocations in 2025. In total, Galway County Council got an additional €586,932 in grant funding towards Restoration Improvements to Roads, Bridge Rehabilitation, Climate adaptation, Winter Maintenance, National roads General Maintenance, public lighting, and pavement maintenance.

WEATHER IMPACTS

December 2025 was initially a warmer-than-average month, very wet first two-thirds - including Storm Bram around December 9th - followed by a cooler and dry final third. A status orange/yellow wind warning was issued for Galway on December 9th, 2025, due to Storm Bram. This brought heavy rain and a risk of coastal flooding, but did not have a significant impact on County Galway. There was significant heavy rain events and saturated soils, particularly around December 13th-14th, resulting in a high risk of river and surface flooding. The month ended with high pressure bringing colder, drier conditions to close out the year, which resulted in continued salting treatment in accordance with the 2025/2026 Winter Service Plan.

ACTIVE TRAVEL



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL ROUND 4

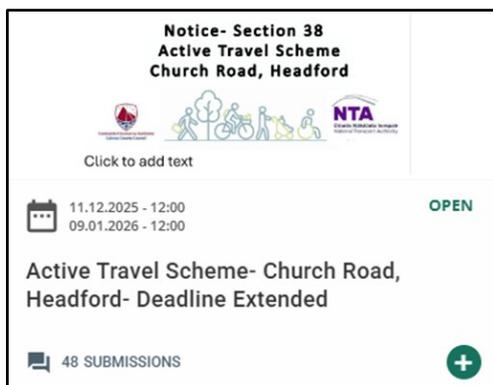
In December An Taisce announced that 2 No. schools in County Galway were selected for Round 4 of the Safe Routes to School programme.

- Scoil Shéamais Naofa, Bearna
- Tuam Educate Together NS

An Taisce will contact the schools to welcome them to the programme and commence compiling a travel survey.

Upon completion of the surveys An Taisce will begin organising school visits at school start and finish times to observe the existing context. An Taisce will then commence their audits and preparation of the delivery plans for the schools.

ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME – CHURCH ROAD, HEADFORD



Galway County Council, in partnership with the National Transport Authority, is developing an Active Travel scheme for Church Road in Headford, including the access road to Presentation College. The project focuses on improving local infrastructure, creating safer crossing points, and enhancing the visibility and safety of the school zone to support safer travel for all members of the

community. A public Consultation has been opened on Consult.ie and its closing date extended till 9th January 2026.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL ROUND 1- SCOIL ÍOSA CAMPUS 2, ORANMORE



BEFORE



WORKS IN PROGRESS



BEFORE



WORKS IN PROGRESS

SRTS PROJECT UPDATE – SCOIL ÍOSA, MAREE ROAD

Construction works for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) scheme at Scoil Íosa commenced in early December 2025. The appointed contractor, Harringtons Concrete & Quarries Ltd are progressing the works in line with the agreed programme.

Key measures this scheme will provide upon completion are as follows:

- **Junction Tightening:** Geometric improvements at selected junctions to reduce turning speeds and enhance pedestrian priority.
- **Raised Uncontrolled Crossings:** Installation of raised platforms at minor junctions to improve visibility and provide traffic-calming benefits.
- **Signalised Toucan Crossing:** A fully signalised, ramped Toucan crossing on Maree Road opposite Scoil Íosa to facilitate safe crossing for both pedestrians and cyclists.
- **SRTS Branding:** Road markings and surface treatments have been applied on both approaches to the school to reinforce driver awareness and enhance road safety.

ACTIVE TRAVEL WEBSITE – PROGRESS UPDATE

The Active Travel website is currently undergoing a full redevelopment to provide a comprehensive and accessible overview of all Active Travel projects across the county. The updated platform will present each project with its current status, key milestones, and progress updates, ensuring that information is readily available for public viewing.

This redevelopment is intended to create a central point of engagement for the public, improving transparency and helping residents understand both the initiatives underway in

The screenshot shows the 'Active travel' website header with a blue background and white text. Below the header is a grid of project cards. The first card is titled 'Safe routes to school' and describes promoting safe walking and cycling routes for schoolchildren. The second card is titled 'Safe Routes To School Scoil Íosaif Naofa, Oranmore' and describes the implementation of a Safe Routes to School scheme. The third card is titled 'Kinvara Community Transport Study' and describes the development of a Community Transport Study. The fourth card is titled 'Safe Routes To School Calasanctius College, Oranmore' and describes the implementation of a Safe Routes to School scheme. The fifth card is titled 'Safe Routes To School Gaelscoil De hÍde, Oranmore' and describes the implementation of a Safe Routes to School scheme. The sixth card is titled 'Active Travel Scheme - Church Road, Headford' and describes the development of an Active Travel scheme.

their local area and the broader programme of works countywide. The site will also feature a dedicated Active Travel email contact, monitored daily, to support public queries and enhance opportunities for community interaction.

[UPDATE ACTIVE TRAVEL WEBSITE](#)

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SCHEMES

Moycullen/Oughterard Community Employment Scheme plays an important role in looking after the playground in Maigh Cuilinn village. As part of their ongoing commitment to the local community, participants regularly undertake a variety of maintenance tasks to ensure the space remains safe, clean, and enjoyable for children and families.

The photos below highlight their hands-on work, capturing moments of the team carrying out essential upkeep. Their efforts help preserve the playground as a welcoming and well-maintained amenity for everyone in the area, reflecting the value of the Community Employment



COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SCHEME PARTICIPANTS UNDERTAKING MAINTENANCE TASKS AT MAIGH CUILINN PLAYGROUND

CLIMATE CHANGE

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION FUND

The second round of the Community Climate Action Fund closed to applications on the 16th of December. This fund provides 100% project funding—up to €726,000 in total—to support community-led initiatives that build low-carbon, sustainable communities across Galway

County. The Climate Unit supported a record number of applicants to submit a wide range of climate action projects across the County. These applications will be assessed in January 2026 and recommended projects will be put forward to the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment for final approval.

*Community Climate Action Programme.
Supporting Communities to build low carbon communities.*

- 100% funded projects.
- Online application form – opening on October 21st 2025.
- Project completed within 18 months from letter of offer.
- Five Themes.
- Direct Climate Action Projects in the Community.
- Applications Close December 16th 2025.

Project Scale	Project Value
Small Scale Projects	Up to €20,000
Medium Scale Projects	€21,000 to €50,000
Large Scale Projects	€51,000 to €100,000

EMAIL US:
Denise Feeney
Community Climate Action Officer
climateactionfund@galwaycoco.ie

Communities are currently implementing projects under the 1st round of the Community Climate Action Fund. Galway County Council is supporting the 2nd highest number of projects in the Country. On December 4th, Annaghdown GAA Club officially opened its new ball wall and highlighted their significant sustainability upgrades. Improvements funded by Galway County Council under the Community Climate Action Fund included LED lighting, solar panels and a sheltered bike rack. Cortoon Lavally Community Development Committee recently completed the installation of a bike repair station and planters across the parish.



LAUNCH OF CLIMATE CONNECTED WEB TOOL

ClimateConnected.ie, a new national web tool for community-led climate action, was launched at an event in Galway on the 10th of December. The web tool will help households and groups measure and reduce their carbon footprint through practical, evidence-based guidance. The tool was developed through the Pobal funded CONNECTED project. Galway County Council is one of wide range of partners in the project including the Comharchumann Fuinneamh Oileáin Árann representing our Decarbonisation Zone and the University of Galway.



L-R: TINA RYAN, CLIMATE CHANGE COORDINATOR, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, REBECCA MOONEY, CLIMATE ACTION COORDINATOR, GALWAY CITY COUNCIL, HELEN HALLINAN, STEPHANIE BRENNAN, AVRIL NÍ SHEARCAIGH AND CIARA O'TOOLE OF THE COMHARCHUMANN FUINNEAMH OILEÁIN ÁRANN

“OWN YOUR ENERGY” COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

On the 26th November, Tina Ryan, our Climate Action Coordinator highlighted the opportunities under the Community Climate Action Fund at a community event hosted by Galway Energy Co Operative and supported by Galway County Council. The interactive evening brought together residents, community groups, energy professionals, and local businesses to explore the concept of community-owned energy.

CIBUS REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER MEETING



On the 5th of December, the Environment Section and Climate Unit in conjunction with the BIA Innovator Centre and ATU brought together a wide range of stakeholders as part of the CIBUS Regional Stakeholder Meeting. Through this EU funded project, we aim to develop a Network of Communities under the Climate Action Plan, to ensure that all

stakeholders have a voice in our climate policies.

FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

OPERATIONS

Construction of a new Hazmat Unit continues in Sidhean Teo and is scheduled for completion in May 2026. Work continues to review and upgrade equipment carried including remote hazardous materials sensors.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

LOUGHREA FIRE STATION

Tenders for a Main Contractor will be issued in January 2026 with a view to the appointment of the Main Contractor in March 2026.

BRIGADE MECHANICS WORKSHOP ATHENRY

Preliminary information has been sent to the Planning Section for comment and a reply is still awaited. It is hoped to submit the Part 8 planning application by the end of January 2026.

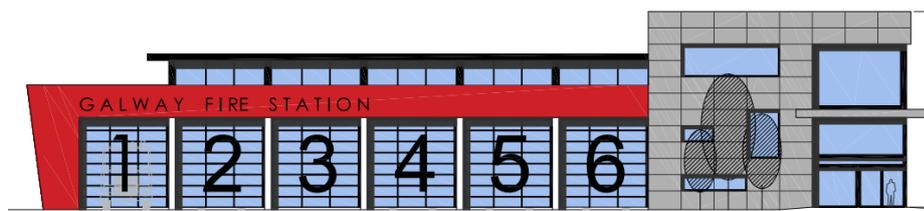


(Indicative Only)

PROPOSED NEW BRIGADE
MECHANICS WORKSHOP
ATHENRY

HEADQUARTERS AND GALWAY CITY FIRE STATION

Permission to appoint a design team is expected by early February 2026. Discussions are ongoing between the Fire Authority and Planning Authority of Galway City Council.



PROPOSED NEW HEADQUARTERS AND CENTRAL FIRE STATION GALWAY CITY (INDICATIVE ONLY)

CIVIL DEFENCE

ACTIVITIES

Regular duties were carried out across the county from local community support from units throughout the county. This included assisting ALONE with transporting a vulnerable patient to a medical appointment. Additionally, a patient was transported from a Dublin hospital to their home in County Galway.

The CDO, ACDO, and two volunteers attended the MEM Exercise at Inverin Airport, where one Civil Defence volunteer assumed the role of Information Manager for the exercise.

CIVIL DEFENCE TRAINING

Boat crews attended additional Personnel Survival Techniques training courses in County Clare. This is essential training for all boat crews. Following these courses, 12 volunteers successfully completed their Advanced Powerboat Coxswain Course over the past number of weekends, which included night-time navigation.

TRAINING

NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE (USAR) PROJECT

To date 9 personnel have undertaken the USAR 1 Technician Course at the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service Learning and Development College, Cookstown, and the USAR 2 Technician Course (2 weeks) at the Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service Learning and Development College, Liverpool. A further 4 students are scheduled to attend the USAR 1 Technician Course in Cookstown from the 19 – 23 January 2026 and 6 students are scheduled to attend the USAR 2 Technician Course in Liverpool in February and April 2026. Specialist training will also commence in mid-2026. Galway Fire & Rescue Service (GFRS) will be conducting a number USAR Rope Access and Confined Space Rescue Courses at Carnmore. A rope rescue instructor course for personnel from Galway and Laois will be conducted in Carnmore on the 19 – 30 January 2026

The National USAR training kit has been delivered and will be managed by GFRS at Carnmore Airport. USAR Personal Protective Equipment deliveries have commenced and should be completed by end of January 2026. USAR specialist equipment and vehicle



deliveries are scheduled to commence in Q2 2026 with an anticipated go-live date on October 2026.

USAR 1 COURSE - COOKSTOWN, NORTHERN IRELAND



NATIONAL USAR TRAINING KIT ON MFU-01

DECEMBER TRAINING COMPLETED

Monthly USAR CPD Training continues to be held. A USAR Confined Space Rescue Course was conducted from the 03 to 04 December. GFRS participated in a cross-border USAR exercise in Cookstown on the 10 December (4 students) and in an inter-county exercise in Ballyroan, Co Laois on the 17 and 18 December.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL PLANNING DATA 1ST JANUARY – 31ST JANUARY 2025

- Applications Received/Valid 2310/1846
- Granted 1561
- Grant Rate 90%
- Refused 182
- Percentage of applications received via online Portal 84%

LARGE DEVELOPMENTS STATISTICS 1 ST JANUARY 2025 – 31 ST DECEMBER 2025.	
Stage 1 LRD (Section 247)	4
Stage 2 LRD (Section 32B)	2
Major Meetings	21
SID Meetings	1
Red III Applications	6

COMMENCEMENTS AND COMPLETIONS 1ST JANUARY – 31ST DECEMBER 2025

Submitted and Validated Commencement Notices 792

Submitted and Validated Certificates of Completion 135

EXEMPT DEVELOPMENT STATISTICS 1 ST JANUARY 2025 – 31 ST DECEMBER 2025.	
Exempted Development Applications (under Section 5)	149
Exempt	78
Not Exempt	56
FI	5
Withdrawn	0
Decision Pending	7
Appealed	3

PRE PLANNING 2025

PPM per MD per Month	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total per MI
Athenry/Oranmore	3	7	5	5	7	3	5	0	7	3	3	0	48
Ballinasloe	2	2	5	6	2	2	6	1	2	3	1	0	32
Connemara N & S	3	4	6	7	3	0	7	2	4	7	4	1	48
Loughrea	8	9	9	5	2	6	2	6	5	3	4	0	59
Tuam	1	6	3	3	7	2	2	3	0	5	1	0	33
Total per month	17	28	28	26	21	13	22	12	18	21	13	1	220

KEY PLANNING UPDATES

COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN/DEVELOPMENT PLAN VARIATION

Variation No. 1 of County Development Plan (CDP) 2022-2028 was published on 24th November 2025. This included a revised and updated Housing Need and Demand Assessment and Settlement Capacity Audit. The closing date for submissions was at 12 noon on Tuesday 23rd December 2025. Public Consultation Drop-In Session was held on Thursday 4th December in Áras an Chontae. Webinar was hosted on Wednesday 10th December 2025 at 6.00 p.m. A total of 46 submissions were received during the public consultation period. CE Report for Variation No. 1 to be with Members in late January 2026.

At this stage, it is expected that the CDP Review will commence in June 2026.

MONITORING OF GALWAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028

Ongoing monitoring of planning permissions, in particular with respect to residential planning applications. Policy objectives also actively being monitored.

VACANCY SURVEY

Vacancy survey is now underway.

URDF

Design Documents for design of local centre, Eco park and density typology study at Garraun have been completed. Contracts were signed for carpark design on 7th November 2025 to bring carpark design to planning application stage. Initial design concept meetings have been held with Systra with respect to the car park design.

URDF Call 4 expected to be announced shortly.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Economic consultants are about to be appointed with contract signing in the coming weeks.

BRIARHILL URBAN FRAMEWORK PLAN LANDS

Works under way to agree City/County Position Paper with respect to Eastern Environs LTP and Area Based Transport Assessment.

JOINT RETAIL STRATEGY

Joint Retail Strategy now finalised.

CAHEROYN URBAN FRAMEWORK PLAN (ATHENRY)

Works progressing to deliver draft Caheroyne Urban Framework (Athenry).

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 as follows.

TRAINING COURSES & PROGRAMMES

SHORT TRAINING COURSES

To assist the small business community in meeting the challenges of the business world, LEO Galway provides a wide range of high-quality training supports which are tailored to meet specific business requirement.

The full training schedule, including dates and registration details are all available on the Local Enterprise Office Galway website.

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 advisors will discuss LEO related supports, training, mentoring and any other relevant services that may be available to an aspiring business or existing business.

A business advisory session is a free 30 – minute consultation which run weekly throughout the year. A €10 deposit does apply and is refundable upon attending the appointment or cancelling within 48 hours notices. Please keep an eye on our website for the 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.



DIGITAL FOR BUSINESS



The Digital for Business support is an initiative from the Local Enterprise Office designed to give Local Enterprise Office clients a digital edge. Our expert digital consultants assist through the analysis of existing digital systems in the business and to identify potential gaps in meeting business needs.

Our consultants actively seek opportunities to optimize existing systems and integrate innovative solutions that enhance business operations. Their expertise includes providing

guidance on implementing new or upgraded digital tools. These improvements have delivered significant benefits to businesses, such as reducing stress in day-to-day management, boosting overall performance, eliminating paperwork, and cutting down time spent on administrative tasks.

Following from the Digital for Business, our Grow Digital Voucher offers small and medium businesses with up to 50 employees financial support to embrace their digital technology. Funding up to €5,000 is available to invest in software and training/IT configuration.



START YOUR OWN BUSINESS PROGRAMME (SYOB)

LEO Galway runs a Start Your Own Business (SYOB) programme every four weeks, providing aspiring entrepreneurs with practical guidance and support. Each programme accommodates up to 16 participants, ensuring an interactive and focused learning environment.

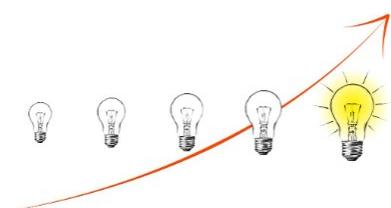
In January 2026 the Local Enterprise Office is facilitating two Start Your Business Courses. One evening course and one daytime course running concurrently from the 7th of January 2026 to 29th January 2026. The morning course will be held twice a week for four weeks from 9.30am to 12.30pm. The evening course will be held twice a week for 4 weeks from 6.30pm to 9.30pm.

Dates for February's Start Your Own Business Programme are to be confirmed. Once confirmed these will be available to book on the Local Enterprise Office Galway website.

IDEA TO IMPACT

The Idea to Impact Programme formally known as Lean Launch is a hands-on' immersive entrepreneurial program designed for entrepreneurs serious about starting their business. This programme is suitable for individuals at the early stages of developing a business idea or those seeking guidance to increase customers and sales.

A critical part of the program is to “Get out of the building” and speak to real live customers through customer discovery. This programme is broken into the three phases designed to greatly improve the odds of success for participating business.



The current programme started in October 2025 and will continue until the 14th of April 2026.

THE STRATEGIC GRWOTH PROGRAMME FOR BUSINESS LEADERS

This programme which began November 2025 and will continue to November 2026 is a dynamic 12-month programme designed for ambitious business leaders seeking to accelerate growth. Limited to 12 participants, it combines expert-led workshops, personalised strategy sessions, and practical implementation support.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SHOWCASE

Ireland is globally renowned for its craft and design and the Showcase trade fair is the international launchpad for so many Irish makers to achieve this recognition. Showcase will run from January 18th – 20th 2026 in the RDS, Dublin.



With more than 380 exhibitors at the show across Fashion, Jewellery and Home & Gift, the three-day trade fair expects to welcome more than 4,000 registered trade buyers from Ireland and UK, Europe, Japan and the UAE. The Local Enterprise Network has 104 stands, and LEO Galway has seven clients taking part. These are:



ARTANA GALLERY

SPORTSKN



ÚNA HEANEY DESIGNS

MICHELE CHAMBERS CERAMICS



MY TRIBE – WEARABLE GLASS ART

MNE FINE ART



PHOTO BY MARTA

IN – PERSON MENTORING BRIEFING

LEO Galway is organising an In-Person Mentoring Briefing on 22nd December 2026 in the Connaught Hotel, Galway. This is an information event to provide Mentors with updates on new services and supports available to assist our clients.

This information event will cover a variety of areas including

- M1 grants.
- New supports and information on upcoming events.
- Update on our online system and reporting.
- Answer any questions from mentors.
- Meet and network with fellow mentors.
- Getting to know the mentors.



SHORT TRAINING COURSES – UPCOMING

- Social Media for Beginners – 10th February
- How to master your VAT return – 11th February
- Employing for the first time – 19th February
- Marketing techniques for your Business - 24th & 25th February

PAST EVENTS

DESIGN MINGLE

Tara Jaye Burke a talented 3D Generalist Artist, Game Designer, and multidisciplinary creative spoke in CREW on the 12th December 2025.



Tara, who has contributed to games for LEGO, Marvel, Hasbro, and Disney, and works with StoryToys while lecturing in Game Design and 3D Animation at ATU, shared her insights and experiences. She also spoke about her role as a dedicated community builder through Galway Game Jam and collaborations with Imirt, Ardán, Eirmersive, and more. Tara reflected on the pivotal moments that shaped her creative journey.

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

TARA JAYE BURKE SPEAKING AT CREW FOR DECEMBER DESIGN MINGLE



SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

FACEBOOK:	8.5K Likes	Reach: 13K
INSTAGRAM:	3.7K Followers	Reach: 4K
LINKEDIN:	3.7K Followers	Impressions: 4.6K
X(TWITTER)	5.8K Followers	

WEST REGIONAL ENTERPRISE PLAN

Regional Partnership Launches Key Recommendations to 'Unlocking SME Growth in the West' via AI, aligned to the West Regional Enterprise Plan.



KENNY DEERY, WEST REGIONAL ENTERPRISE PLAN PROGRAMME MANAGER WITH MARY GANTLY, CHAIRPERSON OF THE WEST REGIONAL SKILLS FORUM AT THE LAUNCH OF 'UNLOCKING SME GROWTH IN THE WEST, POWERED BY AI'.

A collaborative initiative involving leading regional bodies, including the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science; the Atlantic Technological University, the Western Development Commission, the Regional Skills Forum and the Irish Technology & General Skillnet has launched a pivotal report outlining a strategic roadmap for integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) into the small and medium-sized enterprise sector across the West of Ireland.

The report, *Powered by AI: Unlocking SME Growth in the West*, provides region-specific insights and actionable recommendations to help businesses move beyond initial experimentation to structured, sustainable AI adoption. This initiative is aligned with the broader West Regional Enterprise Plan, ensuring a coordinated approach to digital transformation.

The study, authored by Dr. George Onofrei and Dr. Muslim Jameel Syed of the Atlantic Technological University, found a significant appetite for AI adoption, with many SMEs already using basic tools for efficiency gains in areas like administration and customer engagement. However, key barriers are slowing progress, including skills gaps, regulatory uncertainty around the EU AI Act, and a lack of specific funding and technical support.

In response to these challenges, the report proposes a series of targeted recommendations to strengthen the regional ecosystem. These include establishing "test-before-invest" demonstration hubs to de-risk pilot projects, funding short "implementation sprints" to operationalise AI solutions and creating a central repository of local use-cases. The partners also advocate for a two-track modular training approach, offering strategic sessions for leadership and hands-on clinics for operational staff, alongside peer-to-peer learning networks and mentoring from AI practitioners.

The report stresses the importance of clear policy and coordinated support, recommending the establishment of an AI compliance helpdesk and improved collaboration among all regional stakeholders to simplify access to resources. "We can ensure that the region not



only adapts to the age of AI, but leads it," the report concludes, highlighting that addressing these gaps will ensure a strong, resilient future digital economy for Ireland's western region.

DAVID BERMINGHAM, DIRECTOR OF AI AT AIM & ITAG SPEAKING AT THE LAUNCH OF 'UNLOCKING SME GROWTH IN THE WEST, POWERED BY AI'.

REGENERATION SCHEMES

TOWN CENTRE FIRST TOWNS

ATHENRY

The Town Centre First Plan for Athenry has been completed and presented at the MD meeting. The official launch will be held by the Town Regeneration Officer Hazel Fox.

BALLINASLOE

The Town Centre First Plan has been completed and presented to the MD. The accompanying video will be completed in February to coincide with the official launch to be held by the Town Regeneration Officer Hazel Fox.

AN CEATHRU RUA

The final draft of the Community and Economic plan was presented to the community by Allies and Morrison at an event hosted by Údaras. The final document is to be published once feedback has been collated.

ORANMORE

Oranmore Town Team have been informed of the decision by the Minister to formally extend the TRO position. This would indicate that their TCHC could lead into a TCF Plan in due course.

HEADFORD

Headford Town Team have been informed of the decision by the Minister to formally extend the TRO position. This would indicate that their TCHC could lead into a TCF Plan in due course.

REGENERATION PROJECTS

PORTUMNA COURTHOUSE

The newly appointed Business Development Officer has been engaging with the local community and reopened communication around bookings and facility maintenance.

PORTUMNA CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS, ABBEY STREET

The Regeneration Team met with Failte Ireland's appointed consultants for the Galway East Visitor Experience Development Plan to discuss potential avenues of funding for this and other exciting projects for the east of the county.



LOUGHREA TOWN HALL

The Regeneration Team continue to work with our appointed Design Team alongside the main contractor in the delivery of the restoration and repurposing of this valuable cultural asset. The works are progressing well with the anticipated completion date for construction being Q3 2026.

LOUGHREA LONG POINT ORIS PROJECT

The Regeneration Team has received no update from An Coimisiun Pleanála in respect of a decision date on our application.

ATHENRY

ATHENRY PUBLIC REALM ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

The Regeneration Team are working closely with the appointed Design Team to finalise the main contract Tender Documentation. We anticipate publishing the tender in Q2 2026.

ATHENRY COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE HUB, BURKES LANE

The appointed Design Team is due to issue the cost estimate and main contract tender documentation for the Regeneration Team to review at the end of January 2026

TUAM

TUAM TOWN HALL

The appointed Design Team is due to issue the cost estimate and main contract tender documentation for the Regeneration Team to review end Q1 2026

TUAM STATION HOUSE – RENOVATION AND REPURPOSING -THRIVE FUNDING

The Funding agreement has been issued by the NWRRA which is currently being addressed. The lease agreement with CIE is to be formalised in conjunction with the signing of the funding agreement. Once these documents are in place, the Design Team Tender will be published.

TUAM STATION MASTERPLAN – THRIVE FUNDING

The Regeneration Team is working with Irish Rail to meet their operational requirements and to introduce the Placemaking objectives of the County Development Plan in the regeneration of the Station Quarter. Reddy Architecture are revisiting the Masterplan in response to Irish RAILS latest comments.

CLIFDEN

CLIFDEN PUBLIC REALM ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

An Coimisiun Pleanála have granted planning permission for this project. The Regeneration Team have requested a quotation from a cost consultant to provide an outline costing for the respective phases of capital works in advance of the next Category 1 funding call.

GORT

GORT PUBLIC REALM ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

An Coimisiun Pleanála are considering the application.

GORT SISTERS OF MERCY CONVENT

The conveyancing process has commenced.

ORANMORE

ORANMORE, RINVILLE PARK SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

A draft version of the sustainable development plan has been issued by Cunnane Stratton Reynolds to the Regeneration Team for review.

ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION

HISTORIC STRUCTURES FUND 2026

The Historic Structures Fund (HSF) is now accepting applications for grant funding until 5pm on Friday 16th January 2026.

The scheme supports larger-scale conservation works to important historic buildings and is administered by Galway County Council on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.

Application form and Guidance Note are available online:

<https://www.galway.ie/en/planning-building/conservation-heritage-and-biodiversity/historic-structures-fund-2026>

STITCH IN TIME

Galway County Council is operating a grant scheme: Architectural Heritage Fund *STITCH IN TIME* GRANT which is a grant for Minor Repairs & Conservation Advice Reports to assist owners towards the cost of minor repairs or maintenance works to Protected Structures, proposed Protected Structures or historic buildings within Architectural Conservation Areas that enhance the place or street. Other historic buildings may be considered but priority will be given to those with statutory protection. To ensure that owners are appropriately advised on the works required to their property the scheme can also be availed of to produce building condition reports/surveys, method statements or specifications by conservation professionals to identify and prioritise works that adhere to best conservation practice.

Eligible Structures:

- Any Protected Structure (domestic or commercial)
- Historic Structures within an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA)
- Vernacular Buildings

Eligible Works:

- The scheme is targeted at small-scale works where the costs fall under €5,000. There are other conservation grant schemes for medium-sized or large-scale repairs.

Application form and Information sheet available online:

<https://www.galway.ie/en/stitch-time-grant>

RECORD OF PROTECTED STRUCTURES (RPS):

Additions to the Record of protected structures will be reviewed and evaluated. Owners of potential additions to the RPS can contact the Conservation Office directly via email:

conservationoffice@galwaycoco.ie

WONDER WANDER TRAILS

It is very exciting to see the Galway County Trails taking shape. Ballinasloe is so rich in terms of its built heritage and An Spidéal has a charm all its own! Special thanks to the public for all their input to date and to the Irish Officer and the Library staff in Ballinasloe and An Spidéal. It is anticipated that the trails will be officially launched in March/April 2026.

ABBEYGORMICAN CHAPEL AFTER COMMUNITY MONUMENTS FUND CONSERVATION WORKS



The Community Monuments Fund was first established in 2020 to provide investment in Ireland's archaeological heritage.

Funding is prioritised for local authorities, private owners and custodians and community groups for the care, conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of archaeological monuments.

Total funding available nationally for projects under Community Monuments Fund 2026 will be €7,500,000.

The Community Monuments Fund invests in archaeological heritage and helps owners and custodians of archaeological monuments to safeguard them into the future for the benefit of communities and the public.

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

CORE AIMS OF THE FUND

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

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

The Department encourages project promoters to incorporate a traditional skills training element in projects.

STREAMS 1-3

The Community Monuments Fund has 3 Streams:

Stream 1 will offer grants up to €100,000 aimed at essential repairs and capital works for the conservation and repair of archaeological monuments.

Stream 2 will offer grants of up to €30,000 for development of Conservation Management Plans/Reports that are aimed at identifying measures for conservation of archaeological monuments and improving public access.

Stream 3 will offer grants of up to €30,000 for enhancement of access infrastructure and interpretation (including virtual/online) at archaeological monuments.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

The Community Monuments Fund provides funding for projects in relation to:

Archaeological Monuments that are included in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) under the National Monuments Act 1930 (as amended)

Archaeological Monuments that are identified in the Sites and Monuments Record compiled by the National Monuments Service.

Eligible projects will be drawn from the following categories:

Projects proposed by a Local Authority in relation to archaeological monuments in public ownership, where a clear heritage focus and community or public benefit has been demonstrated

Projects proposed by a Local Authority on foot of applications from private applicants who are the owners or custodians of relevant archaeological monuments where there is a tangible public benefit

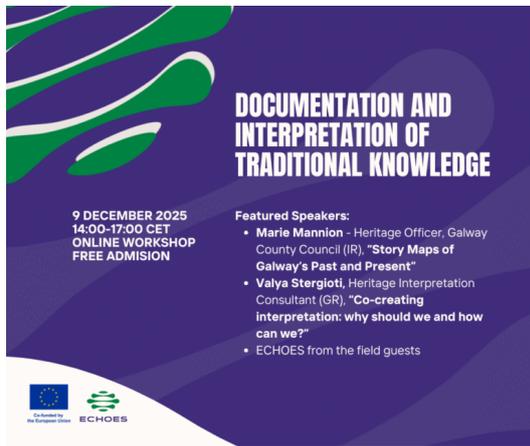
Projects with a clearly defined heritage focus and community or public benefit proposed directly to the Department by a State-funded organisation working in the heritage area.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications from landowners, land custodians and community groups within County Galway must be completed and submitted in Word Format to heritage@galwaycoco.ie, Subject Line CMF2026 (+Project Name) by 30th January 2026. Applications received after this date will not be considered. Also see: <https://www.galway.ie/en/planning-building/conservation-heritage-and-biodiversity/heritage/archaeology-built-heritage>

ECHOES CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON DOCUMENTATION OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

ECHOES (Enhancing Cultural Heritage Skills Across Europe) is a European cooperation project dedicated to safeguarding, revitalising and promoting Europe's cultural heritage and craft traditions. The project is delivered by partner organisations from Croatia (DRAGODID), Greece (Boulouki) and Ireland (Dry Stone Wall Association of Ireland – DSWAI).



ECHOES supports skills development, knowledge exchange and capacity building within heritage communities, with a strong emphasis on vernacular architecture, traditional building techniques and community-led heritage practice. The project is co-funded by the European Union through the Creative Europe Programme (European Cooperation Projects).

Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer and Brídín Feeney were invited to give an online presentation on Galway County Council’s Heritage Story Maps at this online workshop.

The focus of the workshop was:

- Understanding the role of traditional knowledge, ethical and cultural considerations
- Documentation methods: audiovisual, oral/written, mapping
- Community-driven participatory practices for interpretation
- Archives and repositories, and ways to exhibit field experiences
- Case studies from ECHOES partners and invited experts

GALWAY COUNTY HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY FORUM



A meeting of Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Forum took place on Tuesday, 16th December 2025 in the Council Chamber Áras an Chontae. The topics discussed were the Ceangal – Heritage Council Branding; Biodiversity Office Report; Conservation Office Report; Heritage Office Report and a report from Forum Members.

BIODIVERSITY

Galway County Council Biodiversity Officer Rosina Joyce met with horticultural and biodiversity students from GRETB, under the guidance of Kay Synott, to deliver an interactive presentation on the growing threat of invasive alien species in County Galway. The



session outlined the ecological and economic consequences of species such as Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, cherry laurel and rhododendron, emphasising the importance of early detection and coordinated management. Practical solutions were discussed, including habitat restoration, community awareness campaigns, and biosecurity measures to prevent further spread. Students contributed ideas on actions they could take within their own projects and local communities, reinforcing the role of education and collaboration in safeguarding biodiversity. This engagement supports the objectives of the National Biodiversity Action Plan by promoting informed action at grassroots level.



Ceangal is the recently launched Local Authority Heritage Programme, which brings together Heritage Officers, Biodiversity Officers, and, from 2026, Archivists and Architectural Conservation Officers working in

local authorities across the country. The programme is delivered in partnership between the Heritage Council and local authorities across the country, reflecting joint investment and ensuring that this collaboration is visible at both local and national levels.

Ceangal also encompasses the work of other local authority heritage professionals supported by the Heritage Council through additional mechanisms, such as the Heritage Stewardship Fund, which provides annual funding for heritage projects throughout the public sector, and through involvement in Heritage Council programmes including the Museums Standards Programme for Ireland, Historic Towns Initiative, Adopt a Monument, and Community Archaeology funding.

The name Ceangal—the Irish word for “connection” or “tie”—captures the programme’s core purpose: to increase awareness of shared objectives and create a cohesive visual link between the work of local authorities in the heritage sector and the support provided by the Heritage Council. This unified identity highlights the vital role of heritage officers, biodiversity officers, archivists, and architectural conservation officers in delivering national heritage priorities at a local level.

ATHENRY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

Athenry/Oranmore Municipal District 2025 Annual Roads programme is complete. Below is an overview of projects:

PAVEMENT WORKS

- Restoration Maintenance (Surface Dressing) - 100% Complete (15 sites)
- Restoration Improvement (Overlay/inlay works) – 100% Complete (20 sites)
 - Additional allocation in September for 3 sites – (100% complete)
- Slurry Sealing – 100% complete (10 sites) – Pre Restoration Maintenance.

SAFETY IMPROVEMENT WORKS

3 Sites included in programme.

- Site 1 & 2 at Carnmore Cross & on the R339 adjacent to Galway Airport entrance. Contractor was appointed to carry out works which involved replacement of old studs (cat's eyes), replenishment of existing road markings, introduction of additional signage & micro-texturing works to pavement at Junction.
- Site 3 – Derrydonnell Cross – 100% Complete.



CLIMATE ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE

3 sites included in programme.

- Carrowmoneash storm upgrade works - 100% complete
- Aucloggeen Drainage – Landowner issues resolved; Contractor appointed to carry out works – Ongoing. Works will commence Late Dec/Early Jan.
- Coolarne Retaining Wall– 100% complete by direct labour crew.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEMES (CIS)

5 sites included in Programme.

- New Line Junction, Athenry 90% complete. Awaiting ESB connection to power up Pedestrian lights.
- Clochmaol – Setting back boundary wall – 40 % complete – Ongoing

- Footpath Replacement Works to Old Church St, Court Lane, McDonald Lane in Athenry. Contractor commenced Mid-October. 95% complete. Ongoing
- Footpath Replacement works to Cuillaurlaun, Athenry 100% complete by Direct labour Crew
- Lydican – Ongoing. Contractor appointed for resurfacing works. Due to Commence Mid Dec.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES (LIS)

- 3 sites included in round 1 allocation – 100% complete
- 3 sites included in Round 2 allocation (Sept) - 100% complete.

HEDGE CUTTING PROGRAMME

- Local road hedgecutting programme – 100% complete
- National & Regional Road hedgecutting programme – 100% complete.
- N67/R446 Dual Carriageway maintenance programme – Ongoing - 5 litter picks/Grass cuts carried out to date. Hedgecutting to commence Jan 2026.

SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

- Belville- Landowners negotiation still ongoing. Several discussions have taken place to date
- Athenry Outer Ring Road. – works progressing to date.

OTHER



FOOTPATH REPAIRS CAHEROYN



CULVERT REPAIR, CALTRAGHBREEDY



WORK AT COPPINGERS CROSS, GURTEEN



DRAINAGE WORKS – KILSKEAGH



WORK AT COPPINGERS CROSS, GURTEEN



ONGOING ROAD REPAIRS



DRAINAGE – KILLOUGHTER

WASTE CLEAN-UPS



BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

During December 2025, Ballinasloe MD staff, and contractors on its behalf, have been working to complete and deliver several wide-ranging projects including:

- Discretionary works & Councillor Notice of Motion, including
 - Pothole repair, road repairs and drainage maintenance.
 - Removal of Fallen Tree in Storm Amy and road repair works in Tristaun, Aughrim.
 - installation of junction delineator posts at Laurencetown,
 - refreshing road line marking at Killure.
- Climate Change Adaption & Resilience Projects
- Works to remove hazards on National Road verges funded by TII as Type 'C' works on national routes for 2025 including the relocation of the stone name plaque at Tully on the N63 from the Clear Zone.
- Improvement works to the pedestrian routes and access to the Dunlo Running Track with repair works at the stoney path adjacent to gate to the running track.

Tree maintenance and cutting of vegetation was completed, as follows:

- Hedge cutting across the Ballinasloe MD continued to be progressed across the MD.
- Lopping of dangerous trees and hard landscaping works around tree stumps from tree removals following Storm Eowyn at the Pines estate in Ballinasloe.
- Vegetation clearance at the Dunlo Running Track and hedge cutting along the stoney path adjacent to Ballinasloe GAA pitches.

During December 2025, Direct Labour Crews in Ballinasloe Town completed the removal of all temporary measures installed on open spaces, public roads and the Fairgreen as part of the safe facilitation of the Horse Fair in October 2025. In late December 2025, Direct Labour crews worked on the preparation of the Fairgreen, Ballinasloe to facilitate the holding of the National Cyclocross Championship Event at Ballinasloe on the weekend of 2nd -4th January 2026.

Rock Armour Protection was installed along the stream through the Park in Moutbellew to mitigate scour of footbridge and properties.

THE FOLLOWING ARE EXAMPLES OF WORKS UNDERTAKEN IN DECEMBER 2025:



LINE MARKINGS AT KILLURE – REFRESH EXISTING FADED LINEMARKINGS

RELOCATION OF STONE NAME PLAQUE AT TULLY ON THE N63 OFF THE CLEAR ZONE IN THE ROAD VERGE.



ROAD REPAIRS AT CARTON, NEAR KILTORMER

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADAPTATION (CCAR) PROJECTS - ARDNAGREEVAGH RENVYLE



€50,000 in funding was secured under this Department Grant for Coastal Erosion Protection works in the townland of Ardnagreevagh in Renvyle and works were undertaken in November and December 2025 by a contractor, under the management of the Clifden Area Office staff. The aim of the project was predominantly to protect the L-51061-1 Local Tertiary Road from storm

surge and wave damage which is occurring on a more frequent basis due to Climate Change. The photos below illustrate the scope of the work, the exposed coastal location, which is also located very close to the historic Renvyle Castle, former home of Donal O Flaherty and Grace O Malley (Granuaile Ní Mháille).



EMERGENCY WORKS - TEMPORARY REPAIR WORKS (STORM AMY DAMAGE) AT NA GRINGEACHA, MAUM VALLEY



Late December brought some respite from the very wet weather that we had in November, and river levels dropped, allowing Council workers to carry out emergency repair works at this location, which was damaged a number of months previously in early October. The hope is that this temporary fix will protect and hold the local road from further undermining and damage this

winter, while environmental assessments are undertaken for the permanent repair which it is hoped will be carried out later this summer.



LOCAL PROPERTY TAX DISCRETIONARY CAPITAL FUND

At the December 2025 Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea, the following allocations from the LPT Fund were approved by the Elected Members:

- €16,000 for restoration and resurfacing works on the L85172.
- €6,450 to Kilchreest Castledaly Community Group towards the excess costs incurred on a Community Heritage Grant Scheme project for conservation works to Kilchreest Old Church.
- €15,000 to The Clarinbridge Community Playground Committee being part of the match-funding requirement for LEADER funding to upgrade Clarinbridge Community Playground.

PRIMARY FOCUS OF ACTIVITY

Works continued right up to the Christmas period with works such as the boardwalk repair in Clarinbridge being completed in advance of the holidays.

Construction works at our depots are almost complete with our storage and welfare facilities being significantly improved.

Preparation of the 2026 Roads Programme has begun, and submissions have been sought from all elected representatives in the Municipal District. January and February will primarily be utilised to complete any outstanding projects from 2025 and address NOM funded projects. Hedge cutting, drainage maintenance, road repairs and all other routine maintenance works will continue.

AN OVERVIEW OF WORKS ON-GOING IS AS FOLLOWS:



IMAGES OF
VANDALISED
BOARDWALK IN
CLARINBRIDGE



IMAGES OF REPAIRS AND COMPLETED WORKS TO BOARDWALK, CLARINBRIDGE



CONSTRUCTION OF CONCRETE SLAB, GORT DEPOT





DRAINAGE WORKS ON THE R353

OVERLAY WORKS ON THE R942, DUBLIN ROAD, LOUGHREA





OVERLAY WORKS ON THE R942, DUBLIN ROAD, LOUGHREA



INLAY WORKS AT ABBEY STREET, LOUGHREA INCLUDING THE INTRODUCTION OF TWO RAISED TABLES



LOW-COST SAFETY
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
ADDRESSING ROAD
SAFETY CONCERNS ON
THE R446 IN CRAUGHWELL
VILLAGE

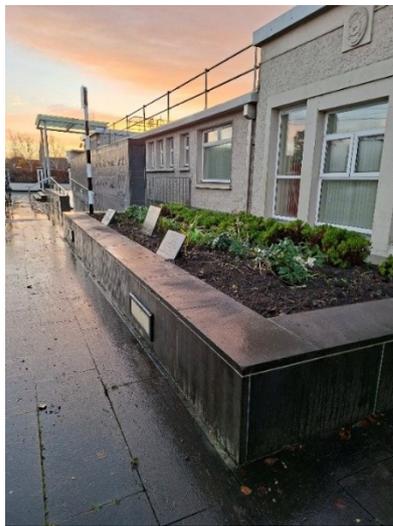
COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT SCHEME
(CIS) AT KILREEKIL



COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT
SCHEME (CIS) AT
BLACKWEIR



DRAINAGE WORKS –ILLEENADEEMA NATIONAL SCHOOL



EARLY MORNING
WEEDING &
MAINTENANCE OF THE
BEDDED AREA OUTSIDE
THE LOUGHREA MD
OFFICE, BARRACK
STREET, LOUGHREA

TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

WORKS CARRIED DURING THE MONTH IN TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

WINTER SERVICE PLAN

January began with cold spells and snow/ice warnings. Galway County Council treated the national primary and secondary routes and key regional roads under the Winter Service Plan. In Tuam MD, crews gritted town centre streets,



footpaths, and car parks, and addressed problem area. Salt stockpiles were made available at public locations for schools and estates.

ROAD MAINTENANCE

Persistent rainfall and freezing conditions continued to challenge road maintenance. Crews focused on:

- Monitoring and repairing potholes
- Carrying out works to alleviate drainage issues.
- Gritting and salting to prevent ice-related hazards.

PLANNED WORKS COMPLETED IN DECEMBER

GATEWAY TO THE CORRIB INITIATIVE (HEADFORD)

Installed a bike repair stand in Greenfields to support cycling and tourism routes around Lough Corrib.



DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS



Works carried out to alleviate recurring flood issues by removing verge sections and installing aggregate-filled excavations. These allow surface water to infiltrate gradually, protecting road structure.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEME (KILCONLY)



Installed a new concrete footpath and fencing, with the existing wall set back to connect the village to the community centre.

Mise, le meas,

Chief Executive
Galway County Council

21st January 2026