



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

# TURASCÁIL BAINISTÍOCHTA MANAGEMENT REPORT



Feabhra 2026  
February 2026



CORPORATE SERVICES

CIVIC RECEPTION



MEMBERS OF THE GALWAY SENIOR CAMOGIE TEAM AND MANAGEMENT, WITH THE CATHAOIRLEACH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND ELECTED MEMBERS OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

The Cathaoirleach on behalf of the Elected Members and people of Galway honoured the Galway Senior Camogie Team on becoming the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Champions 2025



MEMBERS OF THE GALWAY UNDER 16A CAMOGIE ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONS 2025 WITH MEMBERS OF GALWAY CAMOGIE MANAGEMENT WITH THE CATHAOIRLEACH AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Cathaoirleach on behalf of the Elected Members and people of Galway honoured the Galway Camogie Under 16A Team on winning the All-Ireland Under 16A Championship 2025. The future of Galway Camogie is bright!



CONOR AND JAMES CANAVAN, ALL-IRELAND FLEADH DUET CHAMPIONS 2025, WITH THE CATHAOIRLEACH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND ELECTED MEMBERS OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

The Cathaoirleach on behalf of the Elected Members and people of Galway honoured Conor and James Canavan, All Ireland Fleadh Duet Champions 2025. Conor and James also treated everyone to one of their award-winning tunes!

CONOR AND JAMES CANAVAN  
ENTERTAINING THE GUESTS AT A CIVIC  
RECEPTION



## DOMESTIC ABUSE AWARENESS TRAINING FOR ELECTED MEMBERS & STAFF

Jackie Carroll and Ciara Tyrrell of COPE Galway Domestic Abuse Service were delighted to be invited to deliver Domestic Abuse Awareness Training to Staff and Councillors of Galway County Council on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> of February. The training took place in the county chambers and participants explored the dynamics of abusive relationships, the many barriers that women face when attempting to leave and the effects that the abuse has on children. The training also explored how to recognise and respond and where to refer victim/survivors for support. With 1 in 3 women in Ireland experiencing domestic abuse it is important that we take a collaborate approach to holding perpetrators of abuse accountable and work towards removing the barriers that force women and children to leave home in the current housing crisis climate.

Feedback from the training was positive and participants also had the opportunity to learn about the wide range of supports that COPE Galway Domestic Abuse Service provides. This includes Modh Eile, a 24-hour refuge for women and their children needing a place of safety. A free and confidential Outreach Service that provides supports for women and children throughout Galway City and County and Solas Óg a support service and education programme for children and young people up to the age of 25.

If you or anyone you know are experiencing abuse, please contact our 24hour helpline no 091 565985 for support and information.

PICTURED ARE ELECTED  
MEMBERS WITH STAFF FROM  
VARIOUS SECTION OF GALWAY  
COUNTY COUNCIL AFTER  
COMPLETING THE COPE  
GALWAY – DOMESTIC ABUSE  
SEMINAR



## CUSTOMER SERVICES

The Customer Services Action Plan 2025–2029 was approved at the Plenary meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

### STRATEGIC FOCUS & SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

- Sets out a major programme to enhance customer service across Galway County Council for 2025–2029, how it serves and engages with the public and aligned with the Corporate Plan 2025–2029.
- Establishes a strengthened Customer Services Team to improve consistency, quality, and response times across all service areas.
- Commits to expanding online service delivery and creating more welcoming customer service environments.
- Introduces a gradual increase in services through Irish, in line with national language legislation.
- Bring services closer to communities by enhancing resources in the five Municipal Districts: Loughrea, Ballinasloe, Tuam, Athenry, and Conamara.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE LIAM CONNEALLY AND CLLR DAVID COLLINS, CATHAOIRLEACH OF THE COUNTY OF GALWAY,

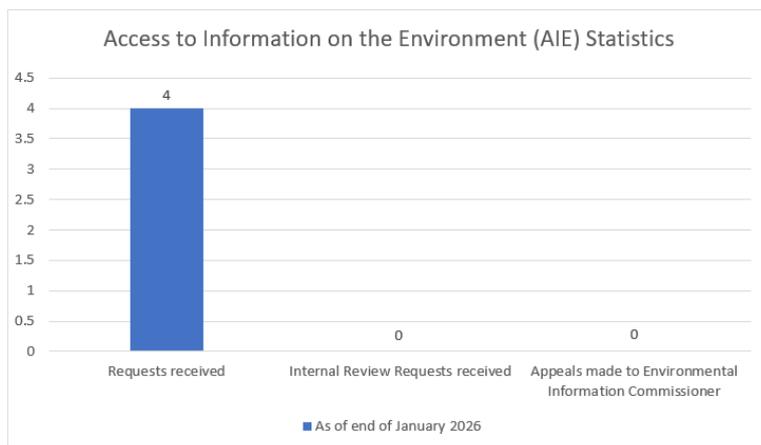
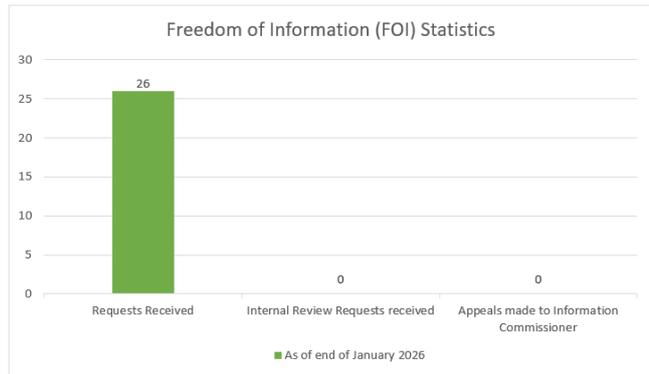
### STANDARDS, ACCOUNTABILITY & CUSTOMER RIGHTS

- Sets clear service standards for in-person, phone, written, and online interactions, including acknowledging correspondence within 5 days and responding within 20.
- Introduces a strengthened Customer Code of Conduct covering respectful behaviour, peaceful protests, and safeguarding in Council facilities.
- Enhances complaints and appeals procedures, providing clear timelines and access to Ombudsman review.
- Places equality and human rights at the centre, with impact assessments and annual reporting on complaints and accommodations.
- Reinforces the Council’s commitment to high-quality, trustworthy public service, strengthening relationships with residents and ensuring continuous improvement.

# FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION & DATA PROTECTION

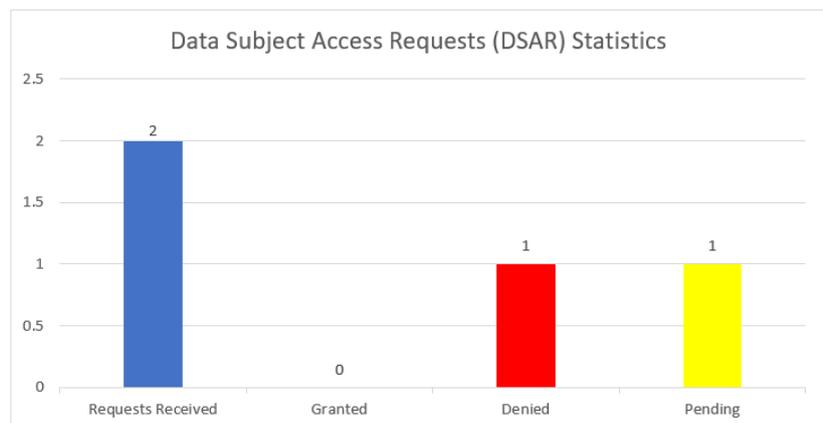
## 2026 YEAR TO DATE STATISTICS TO 31.01.2026

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



### ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

### DATA PROTECTION



- 2 Requests received:
  - 2 Subject Access Requests
- 0 granted, 1 denied, 1 pending decisions.
- GDPR/Data Protection Training:
  - All staff are required to complete mandatory data protection training throughout the year covering GDPR awareness and data breach procedures. Additionally, two unit-specific courses have been developed for HR and IT teams.

## RECREATION AND AMENITIES

### PLAYGROUND FUNDING APPLICATION 2026

An application has been submitted to the Department of Children, Disability and Equality under the Capital Grant Scheme for Play and Recreation for funding in relation to Sensory Play Equipment in Rinville Park. Funding results are expected in May.

### WATER SAFETY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE UPDATE

Galway County Council has invited applications from suitably qualified persons for the position of Beach Lifeguard for Summer 2026. The closing date for this year’s applications is the 12th February, 2026 at 4 pm.

Galway County Council administers Lifeguard Services on behalf of both Galway County and City Councils and the service is funded by both Councils.

Each year a panel of highly qualified Lifeguards is put in place. A minimum of two Lifeguards provides services at designated bathing areas in accordance with standards set out by the International Life Saving Federation of Europe (ILSE).

## SOCIAL MEDIA

### OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY – TOTAL FIGURES OF ALL SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

👤 Followers		👤 New followers		📄 Posts		👁️ Post impressions	
SOCIAL NETWORK	#	SOCIAL NETWORK	#	SOCIAL NETWORK	#	SOCIAL NETWORK	#
Facebook Page	22,545	Facebook Page	302	Instagram Business	98	Facebook Page	576,301
LinkedIn Page	3,186	Instagram Business	134	Facebook Page	80	Instagram Business	57,487
Instagram Business	3,109	LinkedIn Page	46	LinkedIn Page	4	LinkedIn Page	1,817

Total posts on all Social Media Platforms for January 182, **45%** of which were also posted in Irish.

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.

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

## FACEBOOK TOP THREE POSTS

**Top posts**



**Galway County Council**  
Jan 20, 12:20

Galway County Council Environment Section have been notified of a number of significant cases of illegal dumping in the

**18,867** follower views



**Galway County Council**  
Jan 26, 13:00

List of the Pádraig Pearse Scholarships draw winners: Josh Burke Mary Rochford Seohie Murray Holly Timlin Hannah Conn

**12,150** follower views



**Galway County Council**  
Jan 02, 16:39

Status Yellow – Snow-Ice Warning for Cavan, Donegal, Monaghan, Connacht, Louth. Met Éireann Weather Warning

**10,139** follower views

## INSTAGRAMS TOP THREE POSTS

**Top posts**



**galwaycountycouncil**  
Jan 10, 18:33

Status Yellow - Wind warning for Clare, Cork, Kerry, Waterford, Donegal, Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Sligo, Wexford, Wicklow, Met

**2,184** views



**galwaycountycouncil**  
Jan 20, 12:20

Galway County Council Environment Section have been notified of a number of significant cases of illegal dumping in the

**1,997** views



**galwaycountycouncil**  
Jan 12, 12:26

Táimid ag breithniú faoi láthair forbairt beartaithe ar Thithe Inacmhainne i mBáthar Naomh Seánach, Béal Ómra

**1,925** views

## LINKEDIN AUDIENCE METRICS

**Top posts**



**HIRING!**  
Geographical Information Systems  
**Galway County Council**  
Jan 19, 10:55

Vacancy/Folúntais <https://lnkd.in/eeuy-9YV>

**645** impressions



**HIRING!**  
SENIOR EXECUTIVE FIRE  
**Galway County Council**  
Jan 07, 11:50

Vacancy/Folúntais <https://lnkd.in/eeuy-9YV>

**516** impressions



**HIRING!**  
Fitter Mechanic  
**Galway County Council**  
Jan 05, 16:23

Vacancy/Folúntais <https://lnkd.in/eeuy-9YV>

**378** impressions

## IRISH DEVELOPMENT

### SCOLAIREACHTAÍ GAELTACHTA PHÁDRAIG MHC PHIRARIS 2026

Galway County Council conducted the official draw for the 2026 Gaeltacht Scholarships prior to the commencement of the January Plenary Meeting. This annual initiative forms a key component of the Council's commitment to supporting the Irish language and strengthening engagement within Gaeltacht and Irish-speaking communities.

A total of 27 scholarships were awarded to second-level students residing in functioning areas of Galway County Council from across the county and they will attend one of nine participating Gaeltacht colleges during the summer of 2026.

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## SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE

Seachtain na Gaeilge will take place from 1<sup>st</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026, and Galway County Council will be hosting a series of events across the county to mark the national celebration of Irish language and culture. A full calendar of events will be formally launched on 23 February 2026.

- Opening Event: Aonach Ceardaíochta / Craft Fair at Áras an Chontae

The programme will commence with a three-day craft fair in Áras an Chontae from 2–4 March 2026. This event will provide a welcoming, bilingual space that celebrates Galway’s Irish Language community, local crafters, and high-quality handmade products.

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## STUDENT AMBASSADORS

The Irish Office of Galway County Council, along with the Local Enterprise Office are currently hosting three University of Galway students on work placement. The students have kindly agreed to act as the Council’s frontline ambassadors for Seachtain na Gaeilge 2026. Their participation will strengthen the visibility and reach of the Council’s events, while also supporting positive engagement with younger audiences.



## COMMUNITY, RURAL & TOURISM DEVELOPMENT & INTEGRATION

### LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

The LCDC committee met on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February to approve SICAP Annual Performance Review 2025 and SICAP Annual Plans for 2026 for Galway East, Galway West and Galway Islands and to approve LCDC Annual Report 2025.

### 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 Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Funding recommendations of the LCDC will be submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht by 22<sup>nd</sup> April 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 the end of October 2026.

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

## HEALTHY IRELAND

### HEALTHY COUNTY GALWAY PROGRAM

In 2025, the Healthy County Galway Newsletter became an important communication tool for keeping people informed, sharing regular updates on health promotion, programme progress and community initiatives delivered with partner organisations.

The newsletter was distributed across community organisations, libraries, HSE partners, voluntary groups, and local stakeholders, ensuring consistent access to clear and accessible information on emerging health initiatives, event schedules, and local opportunities for participation. The newsletter will continue to be published monthly throughout 2026, and anyone wishing to join the mailing list can register through the link provided ([Sign up to the Healthy County Galway monthly newsletter. – Fill out form](#)).





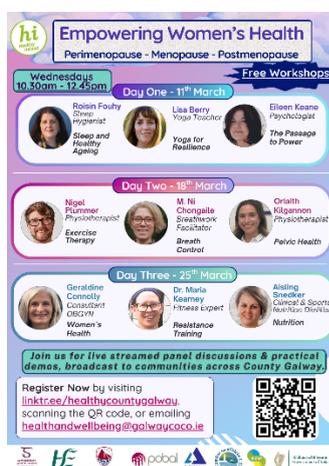
Throughout the year, the newsletter showcased the range of programmes led by Healthy County Galway alongside Galway Sports Partnership activities, community-based projects, funding announcements and collaborative work with statutory and voluntary partners.

In addition to the newsletter, 2025 saw the restoration of the Healthy County Galway webpage. The updated site now serves as a central public information hub, offering a visually appealing and user-friendly layout with up-to-date details on ongoing initiatives, upcoming events, programme resources and links to partner services. The webpage will continue to be maintained and expanded in 2026 to support wider public engagement and to ensure full transparency around Healthy County Galway outputs and activities.



## THE WOMEN'S HEALTH PROGRAM

Healthy County Galway is continuing to deliver its women's health programme in 2026, building on strong participation and positive outcomes. Looking ahead to 2026, the programme has been redesigned to offer a more tailored and practical model, featuring a series of live-streamed talks and demonstrations broadcast simultaneously to a network of venues across Galway County and the offshore islands. The newly revised format consists of three weekly morning workshops and has been shaped by participant feedback. This approach is intended to keep the programme engaging and relevant to the needs of women in local communities.



Greater emphasis is being placed on practical demonstrations and actionable advice to support women in perimenopause, menopause or post menopause to adopt healthier daily habits and sustaining these changes over time. Evaluation will also be strengthened, with an increased focus on returning participants, identifying lifestyle improvements and gathering insights into areas where additional support may be beneficial. This approach ensures the programme continues to evolve but remains rooted in its goal to empower women to take an active role in their own health and wellbeing.

## FURTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS SUPPORTED BY HEALTHY COUNTY GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

Danu Community Gardens, which received funding from the Healthy County Galway programme in 2025, has shared a positive update on how their project is progressing in 2026. The group continues to expand its community-led gardening activities, creating a welcoming space where people can come together, learn practical skills and enjoy the benefits of working outdoors supporting physical and mental wellbeing. Their latest update highlights strong community engagement and steady development of the garden spaces, reflecting the impact of the Healthy County Galway support and the significant amount of input by local volunteers to develop this initiative.



## AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

The annual age friendly residential for programme managers took place over two days in mid-February in Meath. Key topics discussed and worked included understanding the impact of age friendly programmes, data governance best practices, age friendly outdoor spaces and buildings and creating a healthy age friendly home.

The age friendly ambassador event is taking place in Kerry in early March. Galway County and City Council have made a recommendation for the appointment of a new age friendly ambassador, and it is anticipated that appointment will be confirmed in due course.

The Older Persons Council met in early February and agreed to convene later in the month to agree priorities from the adopted age friendly strategy for the coming year.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

On January 26<sup>th</sup>, the PPN attended an information session in Ballinasloe with the Galway Traveller Movement.

In January 2026, the Galway County PPN offered 2 free online training courses (all sold out) for members of the PPN and members of the public to take part in: These courses were Financial Management - Setting up a Non-Profit - 27th Jan at 6pm and Canva for Beginners - 29th Jan at 10am

The PPN in January also announced other free online training courses:

- Introduction to Social Media - 5th Feb at 10am
- Excel for Beginners - 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th Feb. 3.15pm - 4.45pm
- Marketing & Sales for Non-Profits – 12<sup>th</sup> Feb. 10am - 12.30pm
- Grant Applications - 26th Feb. 6pm - 9pm & Tuesday 3rd March 6pm – 9pm

The PPN published 1 PPN Monthly Newsletter 3 Weekly Digests in the last month.

## OUTDOOR RECREATION

Galway County Council has established a new committee to coordinate the delivery of sustainable outdoor trails, parks and water-based infrastructure across County Galway, including trails, parks and water-based infrastructure.

Working under the National Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2023–2027, the Galway County Outdoor Recreation Committee brings together local government, community and voluntary organisations and key state agencies to support a coordinated, countywide approach to outdoor recreation.

The committee held its first meeting on Thursday, 5 February, in the Council Chamber at Áras an Chontae, where members agreed its remit, set initial priorities for 2026 and began work on shared actions to expand outdoor recreation opportunities across the county.

A separate Galway Outdoor Recreation Project Team has also been established to support the Committee. It met for the first time on 21 January and will lead the preparation of the *Galway County Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2026-2030*, which has been approved for funding by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht. The five-year plan will guide investment and development across the sector.



THE COMMITTEE INCLUDES REPRESENTATIVES FROM GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, FORUM CONNEMARA, GALWAY RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FÁILTE IRELAND, COILLTE, WATERWAYS IRELAND, THE NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, THE IRISH FARMERS ASSOCIATION, BORD NA MÓNA, ÚDARÁS NA GAELTACHTA, INLAND FISHERIES IRELAND AND COMHAR NA NOILEÁN.

## IONAD POBAIL AN MHÁMA

We are pleased to report the completion of works at Ionad Pobail an Mháma, delivered through a Measure 2 application under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS), in collaboration with Coiste Forbartha An Mháma. Funding provided through ORIS enabled the construction of a high-quality public car park, including associated drainage works, boundary fencing, kerbing, footpaths, public lighting and landscaping.



The new facility enhances safety and accessibility for visitors by providing dedicated parking for cars and buses supporting walking groups and local walking festivals, particularly those availing of the Western Way. In addition, the car park will serve as an important amenity for the local community, offering improved access to the centre and its surrounding amenities. This development strengthens Maam's position as an important centre for outdoor recreation activity.

## PROJECT: RURAL PROOFING COOP4RURALGOV

Interreg  
Europe



Co-funded by  
the European Union

Coop4RURALGov

Rural Proofing, Cooperation for better governance with a rural approach, will foster inter-regional cooperation and exchange between 7 public and private organisations from Spain, Estonia, Ireland and Bulgaria to improve their governance' capacities for co-

design and to make the regional impact assessment, Rural Proofing, a routine part of the decision-making process of officials and policies, programmes and initiatives approved by legislative bodies in sparsely populated rural, coastal and mountain areas (referred to as rural areas).



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimh  
Galway County Council

## STUDY VISIT ON RURAL PROOFING GOOD PRACTICES IN FINLAND UNDER THE COOP4RURALGOV PROJECT

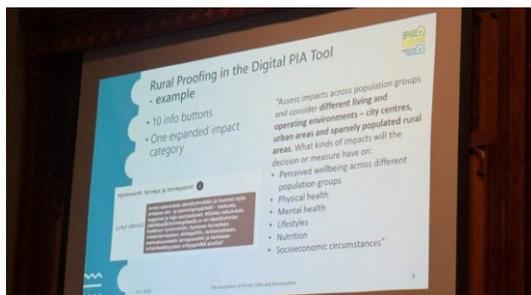
 13-14 January 2026

 Helsinki, Finland

On the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of January, 2026, a Study visit within the frame of the [Coop4RURALGov](#) project [“Rural Proofing. Cooperation for better sparsely populated rural, coastal and](#)



preliminary impact assessment tools, illustrating how rural considerations are incorporated into modern governance instruments.



During the second working day, concrete applications of Rural Proofing in legislative and strategic processes were showcased. Participants were also introduced to a newly developed Rural Transport Impact Assessment tool, designed to reveal hidden mobility and accessibility impacts of public decisions on rural areas. The day

concluded with insights into Rural Proofing implementation at a municipal level, highlighting opportunities and practical constraints faced by local authorities.

The study visit provided valuable insights and practical knowledge to support the transfer of effective Rural Proofing methodologies to partner regions, contributing to more inclusive and territorially balanced governance.



Rural Proofing is not a policy, it is designed to be a “process” that enables decision makers to “think rural” when designing policy interventions in order to prevent negative outcomes or, even better, trigger positive outcomes in rural areas. Further information: [www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie)

Rural proofing is an approach that helps ensure that the development of key government policies considers and takes account of rural perspectives and priorities. Following research, which considered international experience, and a pilot to apply rural proofing concepts to policy development, the Department of Rural and Community Development has developed a Guide to Rural Proofing for Policy Makers to help them to think about the rural context when developing policies

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-rural-and-community-development-and-the-gaeltacht/collections/rural-proofing-proposals-for-a-rural-proofing-model-for-ireland/>

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCHEME (CSS)

The CSS is currently going through the assessment stage of the process since the scheme closed for applications in late January. It is time lined to bring applications recommended for approval before the members at the March plenary meeting.

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## TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL – STREETSCAPE SCHEMES

Further to a submission by Galway County Council the Killimor Streetscape Scheme was approved by the Department of Community, Rural Development and the Gaeltacht as part of the 2025 Town and Village Renewal Scheme. It will be rolled out in 2026 and first local Pop-up Information Event is scheduled for February 26<sup>th</sup> 4-7pm in Killimor Community Centre, where Council staff will attend to advise the community about the Scheme. The Scheme is a painting and shop repair scheme for the village centre. Residents, Tenants and

Property Owners in the Village Centre Zone are invited to drop-in and learn more about the grants on offer for Painting and Decluttering and Repair of their façades. Invites are open to local trades also who may wish to learn more about how they could get involved.

Applications for the Shopfront and Property Grants are at up to 80% of the estimated costs involved and the Council will be taking applications during March-April 2026 with approvals in May-June and works to be undertaken by the property owners and tenants over the months of June to end of September 2026. Galway County Council are working closely with Killimor & District Association to promote the Scheme and is currently engaging a Colour Consultant to advise approved application on colours should they wish to avail of that service which will be funded by the Council. In addition, there is some funding under the Scheme to support Tidy Town type initiatives in the village as part of an overall investment in its enhancement. This village is on a key route to Lough Derg and Portumna as part of Ireland's Hidden Heartlands.

## KILLIMOR STREETSCAPE SCHEME – VILLAGE RENEWAL AND FACELIFT!

## ARTS OFFICE

### FUNDING APPLICATIONS: ARTS COUNCIL AND EU PRESIDENCY 2026

The Arts Office has applied for Arts Council's Creative Places Award to continue the work of Creative Places Tuam. Thank you to the Creative Places Tuam team Fiona Hession and Joanna McGlynn for their support with our application. We expect to hear the results of assessment by May.

In collaboration with our colleagues in the Heritage Office, Irish Language Office, Library Service and invited arts organisations we submitted an application for a range of exciting arts and culture events in Galway County and beyond for Ireland's EU Presidency Culture Programme from July – December 2026.

### ARTS PLAN 2026-2030

Galway County Council is preparing a new Arts Plan 2026-2030 which will set out the direction, priorities and goals that will guide our work into the next decade. A public information and consultation meeting will take place in each of our five Municipal Districts.

Galway County Council is very interested to hear from you, whether you are involved in the arts or not, to assess what value you place on the arts; how, if at all, you engage with the arts or, if you feel there are ways to generate more opportunity for people to engage creatively in arts activity.

All are welcome to attend Arts Plan consultations in Tuam (28 Jan), Ballinasloe (18 Feb), Loughrea (19 Feb), Athenry (25 Feb) or Clifden (26 Feb).

[Click here for consultation registration and survey links](#)



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## ARTS PLAN CONSULTATIONS & SURVEY

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### ARTIST SUPPORT SCHEME 2026 OPEN CALL

The Artist Support Scheme 2026 received 87 applications. There was good representation from across our 5 Municipal Districts: Athenry-Oranmore (10), Ballinasloe (9), Conamara (32), Loughrea (15) and Tuam (16). The total amount requested is €226,087.76. This year we increased the number of artists who received applicant support before the deadline including 39 artists who attended information sessions and 30 artists who received one-to-one application support.

A peer panel of 3 professional artists based in Galway County will meet on Wednesday 25 February to complete assessments to award €34,000 to successful applicants with support from the Arts Office team.

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### Artist Support Scheme 2026 – Applicants



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### TOUR OF SCÉAL LAE BY BRANAR

As a result of supporting Branar's Arts Council Touring Scheme application in 2025, the Arts Office is delighted to contribute to this tour of Scéal Lae.

06 February: Amharclann Chois Fharráige (Seanscoil Sailearna), Indreabhán – School's Show

07 February: Amharclann Chois Fharráige (Seanscoil Sailearna), Indreabhán

13 February: Station House, Clifden – School's Show

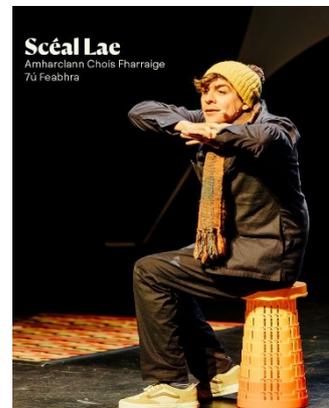
27 February: The Mall Theatre, Tuam – School's Show

Sceál Lae will also tour to Galway County schools on 09, 11, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 of March.

*I'm awake I think... But what was it that woke me?  
That tap tap on the window, that sliver of sun on the wall, my cold foot?  
Or did my dream wake me?*

So begins a music filled story of one child's day that turns the ordinary into the extraordinary with live music, vibrant storytelling and vivid animation.

A live performance commissioned by Branar and performed by ConTempo Quartet in a collaboration between Branar and MusicConnects. Words and illustrations by renowned children's author Mary Murphy and original score by award winning composer Tom Lane. Created for children aged 4 years upwards and families. Duration: Approx. 40 mins



SCÉAL LAE PHOTO: JOHN MCMAHON

## PUBLIC ART - CLAREGALWAY

Artist Cathal McCarthy is continuing with the Percent for Art Commission in Baile Chláir, titled *Stone Walls and The Grass is Green*. The songwriting workshop for students in Coláiste Bhaile Chláir, with Pdraig Stevens along with excellent support from teacher Karina French, went well in December. Cathal is planning the next workshop for the 5th March and this workshop will focus on making and testing the designs of structures, that the students will create from Tetra Pak material.

Cathal has also connected in with Baile Chláir community groups, namely Claregalway Active Retirement, Ciorcal Comhrá Bhaile Chláir and Claregalway Tidy Towns, to see how these community members can feed into the project.

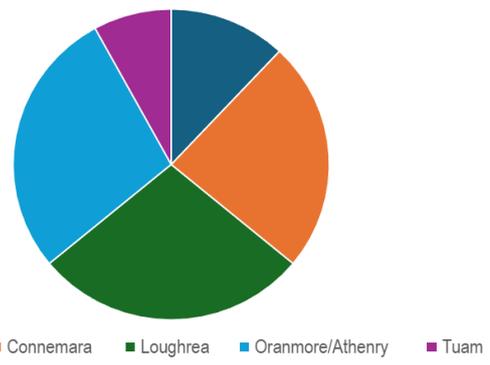


An 'Open Day' event for the Stone Walls and The Grass is Green project is planned for Claregalway in the coming months, and information will be shared once details are finalised.

PHOTO WORKSHOP AT COLÁISTE BHAILE CHLÁIR

2026 CREATIVE IRELAND OPEN CALL

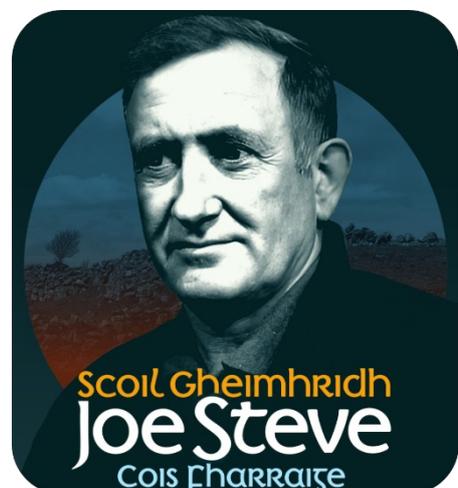
This year’s Creative Ireland Open Call ran from the 16<sup>th</sup> of December to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January. During that time two online information sessions were held, both of which were well attended. The decision was made this year to lower the maximum grant amount from €8,000 to €6,000 and to also run a concurrent Open Call for Creativity Newcomers. The purpose of this was to encourage groups who have not previously engaged with the Creative Ireland programme to take on a creative project. The maximum grant amount for Newcomers was set at €2,500. In total 56 completed applications were received via Submit.com. Of those submitted, 50 were deemed eligible and approved for shortlisting. Of those 50, 32 fell into the Newcomer category. The 50 shortlisted applications went to the panel for assessment with a total of 25 groups receiving funding, 14 of which were Newcomers. This was an incredibly high success rate as previous years have seen less than 20% of applicants receive offers of funding. This dramatic increase was largely due to the smaller grant amounts as the total amount of available funding did not change from last year. The total amount of funding offered for the 2026 Creative Ireland Open Call is €70,392. The Creativity Newcomers programme has seen engagement from Active Retirement Groups, Mens Sheds, and Community Garden Projects. All in all it is shaping up to be a very busy but extremely rewarding and engaging year in Galway County Council’s Creative Ireland programme.



BREAKDOWN OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS BY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

SCOIL GHEIMHRIDH JOE STEVE

The first Creative Ireland supported project of the year took place in late-January. The Scoil Gheimhridh Joe Steve Irish Language Theatre Festival took place in Amharclann Cois Fharráige, Indreabhán from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> of the month. Creative Ireland supported a number of events and projects as part of the festival, including performances in Áras Cois Fharráige Nursing Home, Puppetry Workshops for children, rehearsal time for the sold-out performances of Joe Steve’s play, ‘Níor Mhaith Linn do Thrioblóid, and a new piece of music, dance, and spoken word performance ‘Loinneog’ from local artists collective. The festival celebrates the life and work of local actor and playwright Joe





Steve Ó Neachtáin who passed away in 2020. The festival was officially opened by President Catherine Connolly, and was attended by Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr. Mary Hoade. President Connolly spoke beautifully of the importance of Joe Steve’s writings and the special bond that he had with Indreabhán. She was presented with leather-bound copies of Joe Steve’s collected works by his widow Máirín.

UACHTARÁIN NA HÉIREANN, CATHERINE CONNOLLY BEING PRESENTED WITH THE COLLECTED WORKS OF JOE STEVE Ó NEACHTÁIN BY HIS WIDOW MÁIRÍN

**GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP**

**ACTIVE ISLANDS**

Siel Bleu exercise classes are scheduled to commence on February 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> on both Inis Mór and Inishbofin and on February 18<sup>th</sup> for Inis Meáin and Inis Oírr. 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.



Comórtas Coiscéimeanna Oileáin Gníomhacha (Active Islands Step Competition) started on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and will run for 4 weeks ending on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The aim of this competition is to get as many island residents as possible out walking. The 4 islands Inishbofin, Inis Mór, Inis Meáin and Inis Oírr are competing to get the most steps. This is a friendly competition between islands competing to have the most steps. The total number of steps of all members on a team are counted.

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## GOOD2GO TRAINING PROGRAMME – OLDER ADULTS AND DISABILITY GROUPS

The Good2Go training programme for older adult groups and for leaders/carers supporting disability groups commenced on Friday, 30 January. This programme provides participants with training in fundamental movement skills for older adults, as well as basic dance routines and structured social games designed to promote physical activity and social engagement.

Sessions are delivered weekly at the Emerald Ballroom, Ballinasloe, and will continue until 27 February. The programme is funded by Healthy Galway.



The poster for the Good2Go training programme features a collage of photos showing people participating in various activities like walking and ball games. It includes logos for Comhpháirtíocht Spóirt Na Gallainne Galway Sports Partnership, hi Healthy Galway, and fitWALK IRELAND. The text reads: 'GOOD2GO Emerald Ballroom Ballinasloe Fridays 30<sup>th</sup> Jan - 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 10 am - 2pm'. Under 'OLDER ADULTS TRAINING', it lists: Functional Fitness, Activator Poles, Step2The Beat, Social Games, and Seated Exercises. A 'REGISTER NOW' button with the email 'eloftus@galwaycoco.ie' is at the bottom. A green box on the right states: 'For members of Active Retirement Groups, Mens Sheds, Womens Sheds and individuals who work closely with older adults. 2-3 representatives from each group will take part and deliver what they have learned to their group. Support for starting sessions and equipment will be available from Galway Sports Partnership and Healthy Galway.'

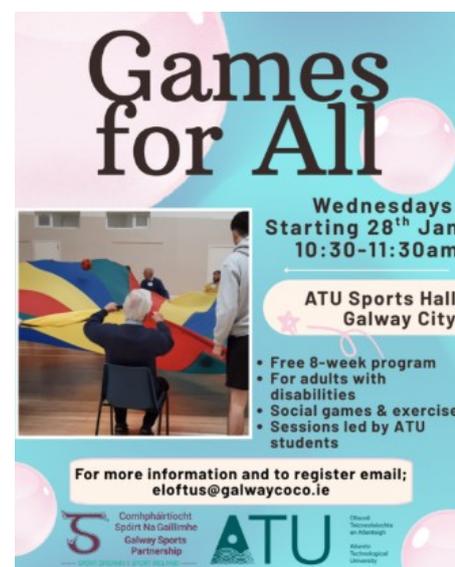
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## GAMES FOR ALL PROGRAMME – ATU SECOND YEAR SPORTS COACHING STUDENTS

The *Games for All* programme is ongoing, with second-year students from the ATU Sports Coaching course facilitating weekly physical activity sessions for both an older adult group and a disability group.

Sessions for older adults are delivered weekly at the Ballybane Community Resource Centre, with participation of up to 20 older adults. In parallel, sessions for individuals with disabilities take place weekly at ATU Galway City, engaging up to 20 adults with varying disabilities.

This initiative provides practical placement experience for ATU students while supporting inclusive, community-based physical activity opportunities.



The 'Games for All' poster has a colorful background with the title in large letters. It says 'Wednesdays Starting 28<sup>th</sup> Jan 10:30-11:30am' and 'ATU Sports Hall Galway City'. A list of features includes: 'Free 8-week program', 'For adults with disabilities', 'Social games & exercises', and 'Sessions led by ATU students'. At the bottom, it says 'For more information and to register email: eloftus@galwaycoco.ie' and features logos for Comhpháirtíocht Spóirt Na Gallainne Galway Sports Partnership and ATU.

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## INCLUSIVE 'ON THE MOVE' PROGRAMME – IRISH WHEELCHAIR ASSOCIATION, LOUGHREA

The *Inclusive On the Move* programme commenced on Thursday, 5 February in partnership with the Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) in Loughrea. This six-week initiative is being delivered in the IWA's newly established facility located in the centre of the town.

The programme currently engages 11 participants and focuses on providing accessible physical activity opportunities through a combination of chair yoga and resistance band exercises. The initiative is funded by the HSE and aims to promote mobility, strength, and overall wellbeing among adults with physical disabilities.

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## INCLUSIVE TRIATHLON PROGRAMME – PARTNERSHIP WITH TRIATHLON IRELAND

In partnership with Triathlon Ireland, a seven-week *Inclusive Triathlon Programme* commenced on 6 February. The programme is designed to introduce participants to the core components of a triathlon in a structured and accessible manner.

For the first six weeks, participants will focus on one triathlon discipline per session (e.g., *Week 1 – Swim; Week 2 – Cycle; Week 3 – Run*). During the final week, participants will complete all three elements consecutively, providing an inclusive and supportive triathlon experience.

Participants are drawn from Ability West, and sessions are being delivered at the Kingfisher/University of Galway sports facilities.

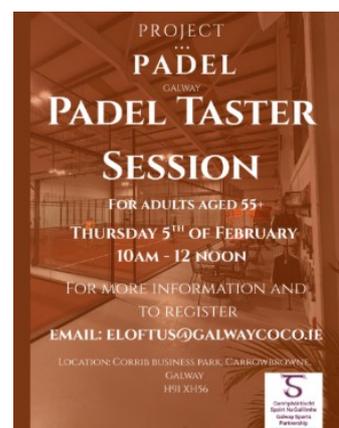
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## PADEL TASTER SESSION – OLDER ADULTS

On Thursday, 5 February, Galway Sports Partnership hosted its first *Padel Taster Session* for older adults. The session took place at Project Padel Galway and was attended by 10 participants.

The taster session was designed to introduce older adults to padel in a gentle, accessible, and enjoyable manner. For all attendees, this was their first experience of the sport. Feedback from participants was positive, with strong interest expressed in continuing.

This introductory session will be followed by a six-week programme, which will be part-funded by Galway Sports Partnership and aims to further support active participation among older adults.



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## OLDER ADULTS COME AND TRY & GRANT INFORMATION DAY

Galway Sports Partnership will host its annual Grant Information Day on Thursday, 12 February at Renmore Community Hall. Older adults from across Galway city and county are expected to attend.

The event will provide attendees with information on the Age & Opportunity Grant, including guidance on eligibility, application processes, and examples of suitable equipment and activities. In addition, participants will have the opportunity to take part in “Come and Try” sessions, where they can sample exercises and equipment that their groups may later apply for through the grant.



This event aims to support older adult groups in expanding their activity options, increasing participation, and strengthening their capacity to access national funding supports.

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## BUGGY BUDDIES 2026

Buggy Buddies is a HSE-funded physical activity programme designed for new mothers from six weeks postpartum, offering a safe and supportive return to exercise while also helping participants connect with other mothers in their community. The programme is delivered in six-week blocks by a qualified exercise professional.

Upcoming course dates and locations (also listed on [www.galwayactive.ie](http://www.galwayactive.ie)):

- Ballybane – Starts *Friday, 20 February 2026*
- Salthill – Starts *Tuesday, 3 March 2026*
- Doughiska – Starts *Monday, 13 April 2026*
- Tuam – Starts *Tuesday, 3 March 2026*

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## WOMEN IN MIDLIFE – MENOWELL 2.0 GALWAY

Galway Sports Partnership has partnered with Edufit to deliver the *MenoWell 2.0* programme, which commenced on 19 January 2026 and runs for six weeks. The programme is free of charge and open to women across Galway County.

MenoWell 2.0 is an evidence-based exercise and lifestyle programme designed to support women in midlife and beyond. The initiative focuses on:

- Cardiorespiratory fitness
- Muscular strength and endurance
- Flexibility
- Management of menopausal symptoms
- Confidence and long-term engagement in physical activity

This programme is also supported and promoted by Healthy Galway County, University of Galway, and the Atlantic Technological University (ATU).

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## HER MOVES INITIATIVES

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### HER MOVES X WEIGHTLIFTING IRELAND – CLONFERT COLLEGE

In partnership with PE teacher Toni MacCarthaigh and Weightlifting Ireland, this programme is being delivered to 90 female students at Clonfert College.

The initiative aims to:

- Build physical and mental strength
- Instil confidence
- Encourage long-term participation in fitness
- Teach fundamental lifting techniques, mobility, and strength-building exercises

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## HER MOVES X GALWAY COMMUNITY CIRCUS

The *HER Moves Schools Programme* with Galway Community Circus (GCC) is a six-week Circus Skills initiative delivered in five DEIS schools and socially disadvantaged communities across Galway, including Tuam, Westside (Shantalla), and Eastside (Renmore).

Delivered during timetabled PE classes for 1st and 2nd year girls, the programme provides an alternative, non-traditional physical activity option that supports physical, social, and emotional development through circus arts.

The programme is currently underway in Archbishop McHale College, Tuam, with GCC bringing extensive expertise in youth and community circus education.

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## WOMEN IN SPORT PROGRAMMES – FEBRUARY START DATES

The following Women in Sport initiatives supported by Galway Sports Partnership and National Governing Bodies will commence in February:

- Swimmin' Women Aqua Aerobics
- Swimmin' Women Swim Lessons
- Cricket for Beginners – Ballybane

These programmes continue to expand opportunities for women and girls to engage in sport at all levels.

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## WOMEN IN SPORT WEEK 2026 (2–8 MARCH 2026)

Women in Sport (WIS) Week 2026 will take place from Monday 2 March to Sunday 8 March. The national initiative aims to:

- Celebrate every woman and girl who plays, coaches, officiates, volunteers, works in, or leads within sport.
- Promote and highlight the ongoing work of Sport Ireland, National Governing Bodies (NGBs), Galway Sports Partnership, local clubs, and community stakeholders in advancing Women in Sport.
- Showcase programmes and initiatives funded through the Sport Ireland Women in Sport (WIS) Programme.

The national theme for 2026 is #SameEnergy, encouraging women and girls to bring the same energy, passion, and confidence to all their sporting experiences.

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## DAILY THEME

Throughout the week, social media activity will align with the key pillars of the Sport Ireland Women in Sport Policy, including:

- Active Participation
- Leadership
- Coaching & Officiating
- Visibility
- Volunteering

A full schedule of Women in Sport Week events is available at [www.galwayactive.ie](http://www.galwayactive.ie)

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## MONDAY, 2 MARCH

- *Coaching Teenage Girls* (Online workshop)

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## TUESDAY, 3 MARCH

- *Buggy Buddies* begins in Tuam & Salthill
- Ongoing programmes in Doughiska & Ballybane

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## WEDNESDAY, 4 MARCH – HER MOVES

- Galway Community Circus (Tuam)
- HER Moves Weightlifting – Clonfert College

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## THURSDAY, 5 MARCH

- *Edufit Menopause Workshop* with Dr. Diane Cooper (Online)

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## FRIDAY, 6 MARCH

- *Dips for Health* – Salthill
- *Pinkii Basket* – Kingfisher University of Galway

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## SATURDAY, 7 MARCH

- Parkruns across Galway (Knocknacarra, University of Galway, Oranmore, Coole Park, Oughterard, Mountbellew, Portumna, Clonbur Woods, Inis Meáin)

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## SUNDAY, 8 MARCH

- Indoor Rowing & Weightlifting Taster – Kingfisher University of Galway

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## READY TO GO ORIENTEERING (RTGO) – ORIENTEERING IRELAND PARTNERSHIP

Galway Sports Partnership has partnered with Orienteering Ireland to deliver the *Ready to Go Orienteering (RTGO)* training initiative on Wednesday, 25 February 2026 at Dunlo Running Track and Ballinasloe AFC.

The training is aimed at school staff, disability service workers, youth and community leaders, and activity coordinators. It is designed to equip participants with the skills and resources needed to introduce the fundamentals of orienteering to young people and beginners in an engaging and accessible manner.

As many teachers and community leaders have limited experience with orienteering, the RTGO course offers a comprehensive introduction to the sport, enabling schools to integrate orienteering into PE classes and supporting other groups to incorporate it into their activity programmes.

Details:

- Location: Dunlo Running Track, Ballinasloe
- Date: Wednesday, 25 February 2026
- Time: 10:00am – 2:30pm

## INTEGRATION

The Integration team delivered 34 information clinics with our target groups of migrants in January 2026. Some of the issues arising were:

- Help to register for training with GRETB
- Assistance to complete refugee legal services applications
- Travel document application forms completed
- Referral to disability services
- Labour Market Access queries

We also delivered an online information session for International Protection Applicants on the Refugee Appeals Process and Voluntary Return.

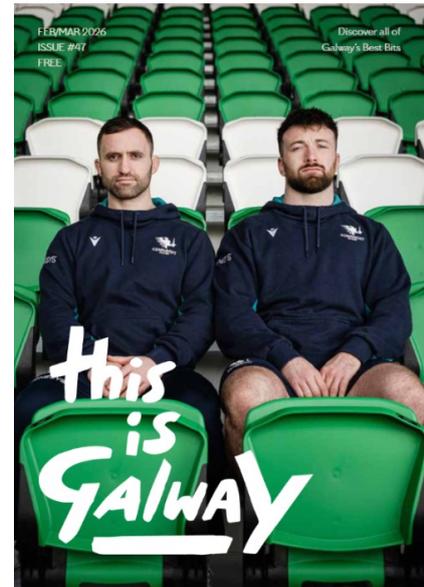
In anticipation of a busy year ahead with community events, we had held the first meetings for the following activities:

- Galway County Africa Day event to be held in Tuam on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May
- Show Racism the Red Card training for schools and students
- Refugee Week events

‘GOLF IN GALWAY’ PROJECT

The Tourism Department is currently working in collaboration with ‘This is Galway’ magazine on a dedicated three-year marketing campaign designed to promote golf in County Galway and its surrounding areas to a domestic and international audience.

With the Ryder Cup taking place in Adare, Co. Limerick, in 2027, there will be global attention on the west of Ireland in the lead-up. This campaign aims to position County Galway as a premier golf and tourism destination, encouraging visitors to extend their stay and explore the regions’ outstanding golf courses, landscapes, culture and hospitality.



The first edition of this year’s publication featured ‘Connemara Golf Club’ spotlighting the county’s high-quality links golf experience. Further features and promotional activity will continue throughout the year as part of the ongoing campaign rollout.

CONNEMARA & ISLANDS TOURISM NETWORKING EVENT

The annual Connemara & islands tourism networking event, co-hosted with Costa Gaelach Connemara & Arainn, will take place on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026 in Wildlands, Maigh Cullinn.

This year’s event “Stronger Together – Ní neart go cur le Chéile” will bring tourism businesses from Connemara, the Aran Islands, and Inishbofin together to connect, share ideas, and explore opportunities for collaboration.

All tourism-related businesses, and those considering entering the sector are encouraged to attend and benefit from this valuable networking opportunity.



## EU JUST TRANSITION FUND – PHOTOCALL

PICTURED L-R LORETTA RAFTERY, JTF ACTIVATOR, LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CATHY SULLIVAN, FÁILTE IRELAND



A photocall and networking reception were organised to formally acknowledge and celebrate the businesses that were successful under the Just Transition Fund Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme. The event provided an opportunity to recognise the recipient's achievements and highlight the impact of the scheme.

A press release outlining the successful projects and the broader objective of the scheme is being issued this week and will feature across local print media to promote the participating businesses, highlighting their projects and reinforcing their contribution to the regeneration and sustainable development of the area.



PICTURED AT THE FUNDING EVENT (FRONT L-R) GARETH MCALLISTER (OLD MILL VISITOR CENTRE, AHASCRAUGH), LYN DONNELLY (BACD), DONAL BURKE (BRACKLOON CASTLE), MARIE GILMORE (GALWAY'S LIVING BOG) AND GAYLE TARMEY (SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND WELLBEING ACADEMY) (BACK L-R) LIAM CONNEALLY (CHIEF EXECUTIVE), CLLR DAVID COLLINS (CATHAOIRLEACH), CHRIS MONAGHAN (GCC TOURISM DEPARTMENT), MICHAEL OWENS (DIRECTOR OF SERVICES), CATHY SULLIVAN (FÁILTE IRELAND), CLLR. PETER KEAVENEY (CHAIR OF BALLINASLOE MD) AND LORETTA RAFTERY (EU JTF ACTIVATOR FOR GALWAY)

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## COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCHEME FESTIVAL AND EVENTS

The closing date for applications under the Community Support Scheme 2026 was the 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Almost 100 applications were completed & submitted under the “Festivals, Tourism and Events” Scheme.

The assessment process is currently underway. The final CSS report of approved grants will be tabled to Elected Members at the March Plenary meeting.

## HUMAN RESOURCES, CITY & COUNTY LIBRARIES & ENVIRONMENT

### LIBRARY SERVICES

#### ATHENRY LIBRARY

Athenry Library has been a lively hive of activity this month, with each week bringing new faces, new conversations, and plenty of community spirit.

Our book club gathered for another warm and enthusiastic meeting, with nine members settling in for a lively discussion. The room buzzed with opinions, laughter, and the kind of thoughtful debate that reminds us why shared reading is such a joy.

Midweek has taken on a new energy too, thanks to our Duplo Freeplay sessions every Wednesday morning. What began quietly is now steadily blossoming, with more children arriving each week—tiny builders eager to stack, sort, imagine, and create. The sound of clattering bricks and excited chatter has quickly become one of our favourite midweek melodies. Thursdays have become equally vibrant with our digital drop-in clinics, running for two hours each week. These sessions have been fully attended, as members of the public come in with phones, tablets, laptops, and all sorts of digital queries. Whether it's setting up an email, navigating online forms, or simply learning how to make the most of their devices, the atmosphere has been one of patience, relief, and plenty of “aha!” moments.

Athenry Library continues to grow as a welcoming space where curiosity thrives, creativity is encouraged, and neighbours connect in meaningful ways.

#### BALLYBANE LIBRARY

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#### NATALYA KORNIYENKO, JOURNALIST AND COORDINATOR OF UKRAINIAN BOOK COLLECTION

In collaboration with Natalya Korniyenko, Ukrainian Journalist, Writer, Cultural Manager, based in Ireland, who kindly donated a collection of books in Ukrainian to Ballybane library. We hosted a launch of said books in the library on January the 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3pm. Approximately 25 people enjoyed an afternoon of Ukrainian poetry and prose readings by Natalya and friends.





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## LAUNCH OF UKRAINIAN BOOK COLLECTION

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### GALWAY CHILDCARE COMMITTEE

In association with the Galway Childcare Committee, we continue to host the local childminders on Tuesday mornings. This is an important lifeline for these ladies who work at home alone and enjoy their Tuesday morning catch ups in the library with space for their children to play.

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### HEALTH SERVICE EXECUTIVE COMMUNITY NURSES

In collaboration with the local Health Service Executive Community Nurses, we continue to facilitate the following meet ups: The first 3 Tuesdays of each month New Mothers and Babies meet with their local public Health Nurses for guidance and mentorship. On the Third Wednesday of each month the Local HSE Lactation specialist meets with new mothers to support them. In association with Galway Music Generation, we facilitated the return of musicians each Wednesday to work with parents and young children. There are two events each week, one for babies and one for toddlers. These are popular and well attended.

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### BABY RHYME TIME

Library staff continue to dedicate Friday mornings to encouraging early literacy amongst our youngest members by facilitating a special hour between 10 and 11 am to leading a rhyme time and sensory session for babies and toddlers.

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### CRAFTING IN BALLYBANE

We had a lovely morning with the ladies in our Wednesday Craft Group where Joanna and Peter taught the ladies how to make their own St Brigid's Day crosses. There was a lot of chat and laughter, and everyone went home with their own cross. Some of the ladies from far flung places taught the group their variation on the traditional knot on the cross. There followed a great discussion about different countries' approach to holidays and customs. We celebrated the beginning of the Bank Holiday weekend with a crafting



session in our Maker Space where nine children spent two happy hours making their own Carnival Masks. Thanks to our own multi-talented Joanna for running this session.

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### CARNIVAL MASKS IN BALLYBANE LIBRARY

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## MAKING ST. BRIGID'S CROSSES



## BALLINASLOE LIBRARY

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### HISTORY TALK: ST GABRIEL'S CONVENT, ST JOSEPH'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL & BALLINASLOE LIBRARY – JANUARY 24TH

A large audience gathered in the Church Gallery at Ballinasloe Library for Abbie McGowan's presentation on the history of St. Gabriel's Convent and St. Joseph's Industrial School. The event offered an engaging overview of newly uncovered research and marked the launch of a new oral history project dedicated to preserving local memories and experiences.

Attendees filled the space, listening attentively beneath the gallery's distinctive stained-glass windows as Abbie introduced the aims of the project and shared insights from her



work. The session sparked thoughtful reflection and demonstrated strong community interest in exploring and documenting this significant part of Ballinasloe's past.

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### ABBIE MCGOWAN SPEAKING TO AN ENGAGED AUDIENCE

## LOUGHREA LIBRARY

January unfolded as a lively and welcoming month at the library, filled with visitors, creativity, and community spirit. Early in the month, on Thursday, January 8th, toddlers and their families gathered for a cheerful morning of storytime and LEGO Duplo fun. That same day, the weekly adult craft group settled in for its first creative session of the year, setting the tone for a month of hands-on making.

The following day, Friday, January 9th, the first Digital Skills drop-in clinic of the month opened its doors, offering patient support to anyone hoping to build confidence with technology.

Mid-January brought the joyful bustle of school visits. On Wednesday, January 14th, the 5th class from St. Ita's National School arrived, filling the library with curiosity and excitement. Two weeks later, on Wednesday, January 28th, the 3rd and 4th classes from the same school followed, eager for their own library adventure.



The adult craft group continued to meet each Thursday—January 15th, 22nd, and 29th—creating a warm, familiar rhythm for regular participants. Families returned on Saturday, January 24th for a lively LEGO Free Play Day, and on Friday, January 30th, the library hosted a special “Make a Brídeog Doll” craft table, where visitors of all ages had taken part in a beloved seasonal tradition.



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#### BRÍDEOG DOLLS FOR ST. BRIGID'S DAY

Book lovers gathered on Tuesday, January 27th, for the monthly Loughrea Library Book Club, sharing an hour of lively discussion and good company.

One of the month's highlights arrived on Thursday, January 29th, when Máirín Mhic Lochlainn and Pádraig Ó Briain brought *Scéal, Scéal Eile* to life as part of the Moth & Butterfly International Festival of Storytelling & Improvisation—an enchanting celebration of Irish-language storytelling.

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#### MÁIRÍN MHIC LOCHLAINN AGUS PÁDRAIG Ó BRIAIN LE SCÉAL, SCÉAL EILE



Age Friendly initiatives had continued throughout the month, with Digital Skills clinics returning on Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. Beginning Tuesday, January 27th, the Positive Ageing Week Local Heroes Exhibition opened, running for two inspiring weeks and celebrating remarkable members of the community.

## CLIFDEN LIBRARY

Clifden is now welcoming the first signs of Spring with the celebration of St Brigid's day. We saw borrowers support New Year's resolutions with books from our collection from Healthy Ireland and new recipe books.



Children enjoyed the lovely St Brigid's day activity pack, creating and bringing works of art home.

We had our Junior Saturday chess club which saw players as young as 5 enjoying chess games.



In the evenings dedicated learners attended English language classes and we enjoy having conversations with the students as their English continues to improve.

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### LOTS OF ACTIVITIES AT CLIFDEN LIBRARY



## GALWAY CITY LIBRARY

Galway City Library hosted two awareness events for IPAS residents during this month. One was on getting an Irish Driving Licence. This event was run by Galway City Partnership's Bridge Project in conjunction with An Garda Síochána. The second event was on the Irish Taxation system and was in conjunction with the Bridge Project and the Irish Revenue Service.



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### AWARENESS EVENT ON APPLYING FOR AN IRISH DRIVING LICENCE

The Galway Advertiser's Art Competition Awards in conjunction with Kenny's Bookshop and Creagal Art took place in Galway City Library. Children of all ages received awards for their artwork, as well as gift bags from Creagal Art.

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### PRESENTATION OF THE GALWAY ADVERTISER'S ART COMPETITION AWARDS



The Ukrainian Ambassador Ms Larysa Gerasko was the guest of honour at the launch of Ukrainian Bookshelf, a collection of Ukrainian and bilingual Ukrainian / English books aimed at building knowledge of Ukrainian literature and culture. The collection was collated and donated by journalist Natalya Korniyenko, Director of the Ukrainian Cultural Centre in Ireland who gave a short presentation about Ukraine, including some spoken word pieces by Ukrainian poets and writers.



LAUNCH OF THE UKRAINIAN BOOK COLLECTION AT GALWAY CITY LIBRARY

## ORANMORE LIBRARY

Oranmore Library had a visit from the Naónra from Gaelscoil de hÍde in early January. Jayme read some stories as Gaeilge for them.



JAYME READING TO PUPILS FROM GAELSCOIL DE HÍDE

ANNE MARIE READING TO A CAPTIVE AUDIENCE



## PORTUMNA LIBRARY

The library was full of energy this month as our Ciorcal Comhrá sessions continued every second Tuesday—over an hour of craic, chat *agus tae*. The group is truly enjoyed by all, proudly age-friendly, and welcoming learners and fluent speakers alike.

Our Adult Book Club met to discuss *Dream Count* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, a title that sparked plenty of conversation and was enjoyed by most of our readers.

We also launched our very first Scrabble for Adults on Thursdays, which has already begun to gather a loyal crowd.

Meanwhile, our 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle remains a constant temptation on the table—anyone passing by is welcome to stop, ponder, and place a piece or two. It has become a real favourite.

Our boxes of LEGO and DUPLO are rarely closed for long. Although Friday is our official LEGO day, we like to “read the room”—if there’s space and eager builders around, we’re more than happy to bring them out.

The Games Shelf is another hotspot, with visitors of all ages dipping in for a quick match or a friendly challenge. It’s become a lovely way for borrowers to connect with one another.

Students from the L.C.A. programme at our local Youthreach Centre continue to visit regularly, using the library’s resources to research their current projects.

We also look forward each week to welcoming the members and staff of the Portumna branch of Ability West, whose visits always brighten the building.

Storytime takes place every Friday, depending on staffing, and remains a cherished moment for our youngest visitors.

And looking ahead, we’re already busy preparing children’s workshops for St Valentine’s Day, with plenty of creativity and fun on the way.

## TUAM LIBRARY

Tuam Library was buzzing with activity throughout the month, as our regular favourites kept the community coming through the doors. Little ones gathered for weekly rhyme times, imaginations ran wild at Saturday’s free-play Lego sessions, and a brand-new weekly craft group settled in every Thursday morning, quickly becoming a cheerful creative hub. Our three book clubs also reunited after the holidays, diving into their January reads, while the monthly breastfeeding support group met on January 8th for another supportive and friendly session.

Music filled the library on January 29th during our ‘Soundbites’ session, which drew an enthusiastic crowd of 27 people.

St Brigid’s Day brought a burst of colour and creativity as 14 children joined us to make bright paper St Brigid’s crosses. Their artwork didn’t stop there—they also added their own drawings of what St Brigid means to them onto our St Brigid’s cloak, lovingly crafted for the library in 2024 by the talented ladies of Brú Bhríde.

On January 31st, we welcomed Money and Budgeting Services Tuam (MABS) for an informative and practical talk that sparked plenty of discussion among attendees.

School visits kept the library lively throughout the month, with 2 primary schools, 5 secondary schools, and 1 Early Learning Centre joining us for tours and activities.

Meanwhile, staff member Margaret Garvey continued her much-appreciated book-drop service for housebound members, delivering books to two households in January and keeping the joy of reading within everyone's reach.

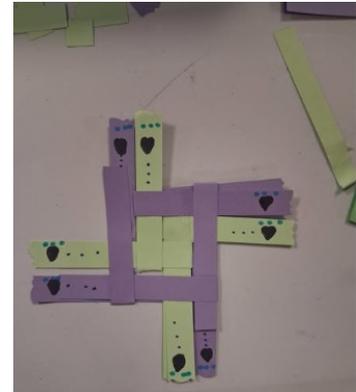


ST. BRIGID'S DAY CROSSES

### SPECIALLY DECORATED CROSS



ST. BRIGID'S CLOAK DECORATED BY LOCAL CHILDREN



### WESTSIDE LIBRARY



Westside Library began the new year by successfully resuming all regular events and community group activities following the Christmas break. Of particular note is the continued high demand for our children's programming. *Baby Rhyme Time* consistently attracts attendance of over 30 participants, while *Grúpa Tuismitheoirí agus Leanaí* with Julie Anne de Brún continues to grow in popularity month by month.

JULIE ANNE DE BRÚN

Class visits re-commenced in January. 1st Class from Scoil Bhríde, Shantalla, attended a storytime session and book swap during their visit.

FIRST CLASS FROM SCOIL BHRÍDE, SHANTALLA



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## SKILLS FOR LIFE



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### A SELECTION OF NEW BOOK STOCK TO ACCOMPANY THE SKILLS FOR LIFE PROGRAMME

A major highlight of our January calendar was our one-to-one Tax Clinics delivered in partnership with the University of Galway, J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics. Both clinic days reached full capacity immediately after advertising, clearly demonstrating the significant demand for tax literacy support within the Westside

community.

We would like to extend our thanks to Dr. Emer Mulligan and her team, Dr. Maggie O'Neill, Tax Clinic Coordinator, and Mary Cosgrove, Lecturer in Taxation, for their collaboration and expertise. These clinics represent the first initiative of their kind in Ireland, and we hope to build on this innovative project in future programming.

In addition, Westside Library's *Skills for Life* collection received a substantial stock enhancement this month. New materials were added to support community learning across the following key areas:

- Basic Digital Skills
- Financial Literacy
- Media Literacy
- Business and Employment Skills
- Health Awareness
- Sustainable Lifestyles and Environmental Awareness

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DR. MARGARET O'NEILL, TAX CLINIC COORDINATOR,  
AND MARY COSGROVE, LECTURER IN TAXATION,  
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY, AT THE TAX CLINICS IN  
WESTSIDE LIBRARY



## ENVIRONMENT

### ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING & ENFORCEMENT

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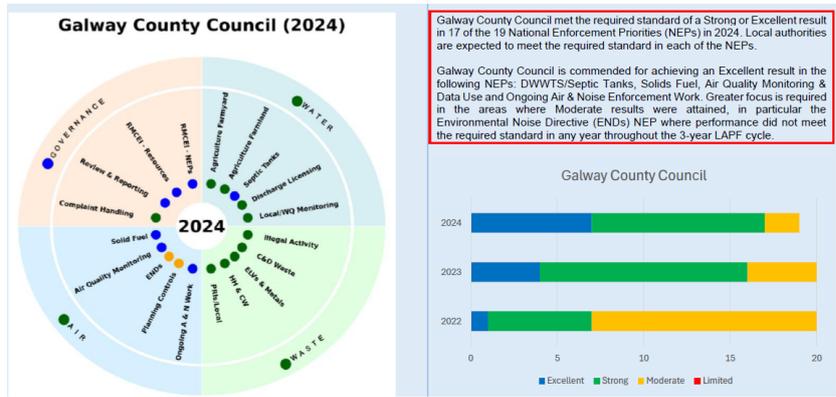
#### RMCEI

The annual returns to the EPA are due at the end of February. Work commenced on this in January and takes up a considerable amount of time for technical staff. Under the water section, work carried out during 2025 in the following areas will be reported:

- Pressures from Agriculture (Farmyards) - slurry/soiled water collection and storage
- Pressures from Agriculture (Farmland) - slurry and fertiliser spreading
- Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems / Septic Tanks

- Discharge Licenses / Misconnections
- Local Priorities and Water Quality Monitoring

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE IN 2024 ACROSS THE DIFFERENT REPORTING AREAS



The Plan for 2026 needs to be finalised which will outline the number of inspections, etc., that will be undertaken in different areas.

AGRICULTURE

We issued a revised certificate under the Sewage Sludge Facility Regulations to Evergreen Fields. This was for the sludge storage hub at Carrownacregg West, Moylough. We submitted completed Annual returns to the EPA for Farm inspections conducted in 2025 - the target of 72 full GAP farm inspections was completed for 2025.

Farm inspections were carried out on foot of public complaints for spreading slurry out of season in early January. Other issues were identified for a farmer not adhering to buffer zones near waterbodies during the open season from the middle of January. Two farmers have been cross reported to the Department of Agriculture for spreading slurry during the closed period. One farmer has been cross reported for spreading slurry within the buffer zone of the Grange River. A further two farmers have been cross reported for storing farmyard manure in fields during the closed period.

CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

The 2026 river sampling programme has been agreed with the EPA. The EPA supply the list of waterbodies they would like sampled and how many times a year each one needs to be sampled. The EPA have added new river locations that they would like sampled this year. Galway County Council will take 180 river samples this year, last year we took 112 samples. Some of the new river bodies that will be sampled this year are Beaghcauneen Lough Stream near Clifden, Inverbeg Lough Stream near Indreabhán, Furnace near Scrib and Drimneen near Maigh Cuilinn. The map below shows where the river sample will be taken from the Beaghcauneen Lough Stream.

ENFORCEMENT

A number of unlicensed discharges that were previously sent warning letters or notices contacted the Council during the month of January and have engaged contractors to carry out the necessary works and submit Discharge Licence applications.

Two Discharge Licence applications that were made on foot of enforcement work are at the final stages of the application process. Works are taking place on site and will be inspected in the coming weeks with a view to issuing the licences.

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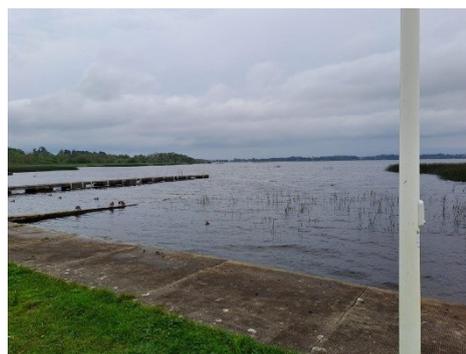
## PRE-PLANNING

A pre-planning meeting took place in relation to the development of a Solar Farm in the townlands of Bushfield, Derrydonnell Beg and Moyveela.

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## BATHING WATERS

Arrangements are ongoing with a contractor to remove reed growth in the bathing area in Portumna. Appropriate Assessment screening needs to take place first and an ecologist has been appointed to undertake this. Reeds will be cleared in time for the start of the 2026 bathing season at the beginning of June.



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## REED GROWTH IN PORTUMNA BATHING AREA

Green coast applications for 2026 were submitted to An Taisce for seven bathing areas in the county. One of these applications was for a new Green Flag designation at Tra na mBan beach in an Spidéal. Water quality has improved significantly here in the last few years after the commissioning of the new Uisce Eireann wastewater treatment plant and it is

hoped that the application will be successful because of this.



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## TRÁ NA MBAN BEACH, AN SPIDÉAL

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## LITTER & WASTE

8 litter fines were issued for offences under the Litter Pollution Act by our Community Warden service during the month of December.

2 cases for offences under the Litter Pollution Act were before Doire an Fhéich and Gort District Courts in January 2026. In regard to the case in Gort, the judge convicted and fined the defendant €500 plus €250 costs with 2 months to pay. In Doire an Fhéich, the defendant was also convicted by the Judge by way of fine of €750 plus an Order for costs in the sum of €500 with 6 months to pay.

## ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

### ANTI-LITTER POSTER COMPETITION:

All schools in County Galway were invited to take part in the Anti-Litter poster competition 2026 with the closing date being 20 March 2026.

### GREEN SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

Green School visits were conducted at Clydagh NS, St. Annin's NS, Rosscahill, Coláiste Mhuire Ballygar, Scoil Mhuire, Maree, Lurga NS, St. Brigids Secondary Loughrea and Ballinderry NS.



### ILLEGAL WASTE COLLECTORS

The Environment Section were notified of a number of significant cases of illegal dumping in the Attymon, Oranmore and Ballinderreen areas of the County in December and early January 2026. These incidents bore the hallmarks of an unauthorised 'man in a van' type



operator. The Council highlighted this issue via our social platforms and the dangers of members of the public engaging unauthorised waste collectors. Our social post was widely shared and was also featured in local newspapers such as this article in the Tuam Herald.

## DOG CONTROL

### PROMOTION OF RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

858 dog licences were purchased during the month of January with 561 of those purchased through the local post office. This is a 14% increase on purchases at the same stage last year. Licencing campaigns were conducted by the dog warden in conjunction with the Community Warden Service in the Caherlistrane, Annaghdown areas of the county as well as a number of housing estates in Atherry.

Three sheep worrying incidents were reported to the dog warden service during the month of January in Annaghdown, Kiltullagh and Ballinasloe. There were no reported injuries to sheep in the incidents reported in Annaghdown. We were unable to locate the dogs involved in the Annaghdown incident but did so in regard to the dog involved in Kiltullagh and it has since been euthanised by the owner.

To coincide with the lambing season, the dog warden service highlighted the responsibility of dog owners and the vulnerability sheep to dog attacks on all the Council's social media platforms.

Galway County Council continue to partner with dog charity MADRA on their spay initiative for dogs in the County, Millies Fund. X applications for neutering vouchers have been received in 2026. The scheme has now been extended to include male dogs.

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#### DOG CONTROL & ENFORCEMENT

11 fixed penalty notices for offences under the Control of Dogs Act were issued during the month of January. 1 fine has been paid to date with the others being processed through the system.

Galway County Council dog warden service attended Gort district court in January in respect of enforcement proceedings against an owner for failing to keep their dogs under control and that had been worrying sheep in Ashfield Gort. The Council agreed that should our costs of €650 be paid in respect of this matter, we would agree to have the matter struck out. The dog warden service were satisfied that measures had been taken by the owner to keep the dogs under control. However, should our costs not be paid within the granted four-month time limit, the Judge has agreed to allow us to re-enter the proceedings.

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#### DOG SHELTER

Twelve stray/abandoned dogs came through the warden service during the month of January.

### OPENING OF TWO HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS IN BALLINASLOE

The Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, officially opened 74 new social homes in Ballinasloe, comprising the An Gort Fada and An Choill Fhada developments in Kilgarve. Both schemes were delivered through Part V and Turnkey Acquisition and were fully funded by the Department of Housing.



The developments provide a mix of one, two and three bed homes, as well as a new playground, supporting long-term housing need in the Ballinasloe area. The Taoiseach acknowledged the strong collaboration between Government, local authorities, developers and community stakeholders in bringing the projects to completion.



L-R: AN TAOISEACH, MICHÉAL MARTIN, MR. DAMIEN MITCHELL, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, CLLR. DAVID COLLINS, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY, MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, CLLR. MICHAEL CONNOLLY

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the delivery as a significant milestone for the town and highlighted ongoing work to provide new social homes, advance affordable housing initiatives and bring vacant properties back into use.





L-R: AN TAOISEACH MICHÉAL MARTIN, MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chief Executive noted that the projects reflect the scale of work underway across the county, with multiple delivery routes being utilised – including direct build, turnkey, Part V and AHB partnerships – to meet local housing demand. He acknowledged the commitment of the Housing Unit and the continued support of the Department despite construction-sector pressures.



The Director of Services confirmed that Galway County Council continues to progress a balanced countywide housing programme, focused on new delivery, regeneration, vacancy activation, energy upgrades and supports for residents with mobility and accessibility needs.



## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

A targeted survey was carried out to gauge the level of demand for affordable housing in Portumna. It aimed to profile the applicants that would be interested in a possible affordable housing development on St. Joseph's Road. The survey received 196 responses and it demonstrated a clear demand for affordable housing in the area. It is planned to run further targeted surveys to gauge the demand in other areas.

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING SURVEY – PORTUMNA



## PART 8 PLANNING NOTIFICATIONS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS IN RAHEEN AND PÁIRC NA HABHAINN IN ATHENRY

Part 8 Planning Notifications will appear in the Connacht Tribune newspaper on Friday 13th February in relation to two affordable housing developments at Raheen and Páirc Na hAbhainn in Athenry. A Part 8 notification is the statutory public notice that a local authority in Ireland must issue when it proposes to carry out certain types of development under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). This process applies when a council is undertaking its own development, such as housing, roads, community facilities, or public infrastructure. Plans and particulars of the proposed developments are available for viewing on Galway County Council's online consultation portal at <https://consult.galway.ie>.



3D VISUALIZATION OF PÁIRC NA HABHAINN SCHEME IN ATHENRY

## INTRODUCTION

This report provides an expanded analysis of Tenancy & Estate Management (TEM) activity during 2025, highlighting complaint trends, estate-based intervention outcomes, enforcement activity, and the Council’s statutory duty-of-care responsibilities. It also outlines the planned expansion of the “Boots on the Ground” model for 2026.

## COMPLAINT TRENDS AND SERVICE DEMAND

The year 2025 saw a significant increase in tenancy-related complaints, driven by higher tenant engagement, visibility of staff in estates, and improved reporting channels.

### COMPLAINTS RECEIVED, CLOSED AND OPEN YEAR-END

- Complaints received rose from 118 in 2024 to 188 in 2025—a 59% increase.
- Complaints closed increased to 131, but the overall closure rate fell from 92.4% to 69.7% due to the higher volume of cases.
- Open cases at year-end increased sharply from 9 to 57, representing a six-fold rise.

## INTERPRETATION OF TRENDS

The scale of the increase reflects a combination of factors:

- Greater visibility of TEM officers during estate visits encouraged more tenants to report issues directly.
- Early-stage issues previously unreported were identified through proactive checks.
- Increased public awareness of reporting pathways contributed to higher demand.

This shift indicates a more engaged tenant base but also highlights increasing operational pressure on case resolution capacity.

## ESTATE VISITS AND PROACTIVE ENGAGEMENT

In 2025, the TEM team conducted 19 structured estate visits, forming a cornerstone of the Council’s proactive estate-management strategy.

### KEY OPERATIONAL OUTCOMES

- Household Composition Regulation: Officers corrected multiple cases of unapproved household changes, improving the accuracy of tenancy records.
- Restricted Dog Breed Compliance: Non-compliant tenants were identified, advised and monitored to bring them into conformity with legislation.

- Waste Management Enforcement: Officers negotiated new waste arrangements, significantly reducing refuse-related issues.
- Resident Participation: Support was provided to new or emerging Residents' Associations, strengthening local community structures.

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## ENHANCED BENEFITS OBSERVED

The visits also yielded broader community and compliance benefits:

- Strengthened trust between tenants and Council staff.
- Earlier identification of risks such as overcrowding or property neglect.
- Improved estate cleanliness and safety through direct action.
- Greater tenant awareness of responsibilities and reduced incidence of repeat breaches.

These benefits demonstrate the value of sustained on-site presence and early intervention.

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## ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY AND LEGAL OUTCOMES

Enforcement remains a critical tool for addressing serious tenancy breaches and safeguarding communities.

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## ENFORCEMENT FIGURES FOR 2025

- 100% court success rate across all cases progressed.
- 4 possession orders secured:
  - 2 in Ballinasloe
  - 1 in Tuam
  - 1 in Kinvara
- 1 exclusion order obtained in Oranmore.

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## IMPORTANCE OF ENFORCEMENT

Successful legal action:

- Sends a clear message that tenancy conditions will be upheld.
- Protects compliant tenants from anti-social behaviour and intimidation.
- Reinforces the Council's commitment to safe and peaceful communities.
- Supports officers by ensuring investigative work leads to enforceable outcomes.

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## DUTY OF CARE AND INTEGRATED APPROACH

The Council's legal and ethical duty to ensure tenants experience peaceful enjoyment, safety, and a harassment-free environment is central to the structure of TEM operations.

The integration of:

- Complaint handling,
- Estate visits, and
- Legal enforcement

creates a cohesive pathway from early detection to resolution. This coordinated model ensures issues are addressed proportionately, promptly, and in a manner that protects community wellbeing.

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## OUTLOOK FOR 2026: EXPANSION OF “BOOTS ON THE GROUND”

Building on the successes of 2025, the Council plans to significantly increase the scope and frequency of estate visits in 2026.

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### PLANNED ENHANCEMENTS

- Greater presence in new housing developments, where early engagement is most impactful.
- More structured, frequent visits to ensure early identification of emerging issues.
- Focus on supporting the growth of resident-led groups, embedding positive estate culture from the outset.

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### EXPECTED BENEFITS

- Improved compliance and reduced long-term casework.
- Stronger tenant–Council relationships.
- More stable and safer estates.
- Reduced escalation to enforcement by addressing problems at source.

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## CONCLUSION

The 2025 operational year was characterised by substantial increases in tenant engagement and complaint volumes, enhanced by the proactive presence of officers in estates. Despite the increased workload, the Council achieved important compliance outcomes, improved tenant relationships, and maintained a robust enforcement record. The planned expansion of on-site engagement in 2026 positions the Council to further strengthen estate management, support tenants, and uphold its duty to protect safe and peaceful communities

## HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT

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### HAP GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL 2025

Metric	Galway County Council	Nationally
Total active HAP tenants as of 31/12/2025	1,274	49,569
Total set up 2025	143	6,553
Total exits 2025	225	10,606

Galway HAP Landlords payment 2025	€ 14,067,061	
Differential rent accrual 2025	€ 4,925,675	
Recoupment from Department	€ 9,141,386	

71 referrals from homeless to HAP placefinder with 17 tenancies set-up and 7 Transfers.

430 HAP inspections carried out in 2025

€269,282 Recouped from the department for the administration of HAP in 2025

#### HAP CAP RATES FOR 2025/2026

Local authority	Galway County Council
1 adult in shared accommodation	€330
Couple in shared accommodation	€360
1 adult	€575
Couple	€650
Couple or 1 adult with 1 child	€850
Couple or 1 adult with 2 children	€875
Couple or 1 adult with 3 children	€900

#### RAS GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL 2025

Metric	Y/E 2024	Y/E 2025
Total number of private RAS properties	103	91
Total number of AHB	217	271
Differential rent accrual		€279,335
Recoupment from the department		€866,023
Total paid to AHB		€476,320
Total recoupment from the department		€1,342,343
Total recoupment admin		€194,221

20 RAS Inspections carried out in 2025

## RAS 2026

- 100% rent payment for new RAS landlords based on value for money and current market values.
- 2 months rent paid to landlord where property was damaged.
- Nationwide advertising campaign from The Housing Agency to promote and encourage landlords / tenants to consider RAS as it is felt a lot of people don't know about it.
- The Department of Social Protection starting to transfer long term Rent Supplement Recipients in AHB units to AHB RAS.

## PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, FIRE & EMERGENCY & CLIMATE CHANGE

### GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AWARDS CONTRACT FOR R332 KILBANNON ROAD IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

Galway County Council is pleased to announce the award of the construction contract for the R332 Kilbannon Road Improvement Scheme to Jons Civil Engineering Company Limited. The contract is valued at €4m and is funded by the Department of Transport under the Specific Improvement Grant programme. The scheme, designed by O'Connor Sutton Cronin, is approximately 1.55 km in length and will provide enhanced connectivity, safer travel options, and sustainable transport facilities for the local community.

The R332 is a strategically important regional route linking the N17 Tuam Bypass to the N84 at Kilmaine, Co. Mayo. Traffic volumes on this route have increased significantly since the opening of the Tuam Bypass, with Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) rising from 860 in 2017 to approximately 2,800 in 2018. This increase has highlighted safety concerns at Kilbannon village, where the road narrows and visibility at the crossroads is poor. There are currently no dedicated facilities for pedestrians or cyclists. Construction is scheduled to commence in January 2026 and is expected to be completed by December 2026.

The Kilbannon Road Improvement Scheme will address these issues by delivering:

- Realignment and widening of the R332 through Kilbannon village and northwards to the GAA grounds.
- A shared cycle-track and footway linking St. Benin's National School to Kilbannon GAA Club.



- Controlled pedestrian and cyclist crossing at Kilbannon settlement and courtesy crossings on adjacent side roads.
- Minor realignment of local roads L-2210 and L-6486 at the crossroads.
- A sustainable drainage system and improved road safety measures.

## A8 WASTEWATER TREATMENT FOR CRAUGHWELL AND CLARINBRIDGE

Following the updated announcement from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in November last year in relation to funding proposals under the A8 Rural Water Programme for wastewater treatment facilities at Craughwell and Clarenbridge, a follow-up meeting has taken place between Galway County Council, the Department and Uisce Éireann. As this is being advanced as a pilot scheme for the provision of public wastewater treatment infrastructure in currently unserved towns and villages, all parties are working collaboratively to establish the appropriate delivery and funding mechanisms to achieve the objective of providing wastewater capacity in these strategically important settlements. Positive progress has been made in relation to the design approach, the planning pathway and the overall delivery structure. By continuing to work collectively, it is anticipated that the scheme can be progressed in a timely and structured manner. Members will be kept updated as discussions are concluded and the project advances to the next stages.

## NRPO UPDATE

### N59 OUGHTERARD FOOTBRIDGE

Development consent for the proposed pedestrian footbridge in Oughterard was approved by An Coimisiún Pleanála on 5 February 2026.

The associated Compulsory Purchase Order has also been confirmed by the Commission.



## TAKING IN CHARGE

The Taking in Charge target for 2026 - 8 estates Taken in Charge and/or for Bond Release.

The Table A hereunder outlines output for 2026.

Table A – Taking in Charge

Estates Taken in Charge	1
Estates pending Ratification of Minutes	0
Estates for consideration at next MD meeting	1

Bond Release (Estates not Taken in Charge)	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>

In addition to the above, the following is position @ 05/02/2026

Applications received	0
Estates – advertised for Taking in Charge	0
Estates – Works Complete	3
Estates – TIC Led Estates – Works in Hand	25
Estates – Developer led Estates –	32
<i>Bond Claims</i>	3

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

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

### SENIOR EXECUTIVE HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER APPOINTMENT

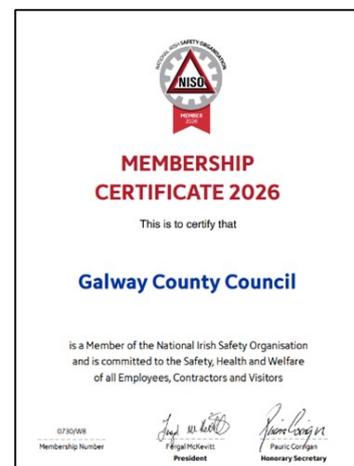
We welcomed our new Senior Executive Health & Safety Officer, Claire Forde, on 5 January 2026. Claire brings extensive experience from operational and construction environments, with a strong focus on risk management, compliance, and continuous improvement. She looks forward to working closely with managers, frontline staff, and contractors to support practical, risk-based health and safety across the organisation. Staff are encouraged to reach out, make contact through MS Teams, or drop by her desk to say hello over the coming weeks.

### OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY (SP27)

The Occupational Health and Safety Policy (SP27) was reviewed and formally approved at the SMT on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026. A copy of the updated policy is now available in the Health and Safety section of the Intranet/SharePoint

### NISO MEMBERSHIP 2026

Galway County Councils NISO (National Irish Safety organisation) membership for 2026 has been confirmed, and the certificate received.



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## SAFETY (HAZARD) ALERTS

A recent HSA Safety Alert relating to non-compliant machinery products has been issued and circulated. The alert is available on the Health and Safety section of the Intranet/SharePoint for reference.

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## ANNUAL HEALTH AND SAFETY SEMINARS

The annual outdoor/technical staff H&S seminars for 2026 will take place on

- 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – Loughrea, Loughrea Hotel & SPA
- 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Ballinasloe, Shearwater Hotel
- (TBC) – Connemara Coast Hotel

Full Attendance is required. Further details and seminar agendas will be issued to relevant teams in due course

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## NSAI EXTERNAL AUDITS

Our Bi-Annual NSAI ISO 45001 Health & Safety management system surveillance audits have been scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> December 2026. Additional information will be shared closer to each audit date.

## ACTIVE TRAVEL PROGRAMME - ACTIVE TRAVEL FOOTPATH AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS



Galway County Council has been working directly with the National Transport Authority to develop a 2026 Active Travel Programme for County Galway.

A total allocation of €2.650 million has been provided to Galway County Council for 2026. The majority of funding in 2026 will be targeted at the existing Active Travel Design Schemes and on the Safe Routes to Schools programme, on completion of works on the Bus Stop Enhancement Programme and completion of the transport studies.

It is proposed to allocate the funding as set out below:

<b>Active Travel Design Schemes</b>	<b>2026 Allocation</b>
Oranmore to the Train Station Active Travel Scheme	€100,000
Ballinasloe R446 Bridge St. to Harris Rd. Active Travel Scheme	€700,000
Tuam Active Travel Scheme Design - Vicar St. to Sports Grounds on the Dublin Rd (R332)	€50,000
Athenry Church St to Tuam Rd (via Station Rd) Active Travel Scheme	€120,000
Pedestrian Crossing at St. Joseph's Road Portumna	€64,000
Glenbrack Road, Gort Active Travel Scheme	€27,000
Headford Active Travel Scheme	€157,000
Loughrea Active Travel Schemes Design	€80,000
Kinvara Pedestrian Crossing	€20,000
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>2026 Allocation</b>
SRTS R1 Oranmore - Calasanctius College, Gaelscoil de hÍde & Scoil Iósaif Naofa	€450,000
SRTS R1 Scoil Chroí Naofa, Athenry	€9,000
SRTS R1 Athenry Boys National School, Athenry	€9,000
SRTS R2 Scoil Sailearna, Indreabhán	€149,000
SRTS R2 Scoil na bhForbacha, Na Forbacha	€166,000
SRTS R2 St Brendan's National School Loughrea	€9,000
SRTS R2 Gort Community School, Gort	€9,000
SRTS R2 Ballinderreen National School	€11,000
SRTS R4 Scoil Shéamais Naofa, Bearna	€10,000
SRTS R4 Tuam Educate Together NS	€10,000
SRTS R3 Carnaun NS, Athenry, H65TX86	€12,000
SRTS R3 Coldwood NS, Craughwell, H91KN52	€12,000
SRTS R3 Cor an Droma NS, Baile Chláir, H91AD85	€12,000
SRTS R3 Crumlin NS, Ballyglunin, H54VY03	€13,000
SRTS R3 Killeen NS, Ballyshrul, Portumna, H53DP84	€13,000
SRTS R3 Killeeneen NS, Craughwell, H91E293	€13,000
SRTS R3 Milltown NS, Milltown, H54RR60	€13,000
SRTS R3 Scoil Áine Naofa, Loch Cutra, Gort, H91C6D6	€13,000
SRTS R3 St. Augustine's NS, Clontuskert, Ballinasloe, H53X568	€13,000
SRTS R3 St. Thomas NS, Peterswell, H91TP89	€13,000
SRTS R3 St. Cuanas, Kilcoona, Headford, H91FX95	€13,000

## ORANMORE TO TRAIN STATION ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME

Approval has been received from the National Transport Authority to progress the Section 38 public consultation for the Oranmore to Train Station Active Travel Scheme (Ref:

GCO/23/0013) and Ballinasloe Active Travel Scheme (Ref: GCO/23/0013). Preparatory work is underway, with publication for Oranmore in Connacht Tribune and the opening of the consultation on Consult.ie scheduled for mid to late February 2026, with Ballinasloe following after.

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## ACTIVE TRAVEL & SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS) PROGRAMME UPDATE

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### R1 SRTS

Scoil Íosa, Oranmore – Construction works are progressing on site.

Gaelscoil de hÍde, Oranmore – Construction tender documents are at final review stage and scheduled for publication on 4 February.

Calasanctius College, Oranmore – Construction tender documents are also nearing completion, with publication due on 4 February.

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### R2 SRTS

Scoil na bhForbacha – NTA Gateway 3 approval has been secured. Phase 4 Section 38 public consultation is scheduled for 6 February.

Scoil Sailearna, Indreabhán – NTA Gateway 3 approval has been secured. Phase 4 Section 38 public consultation is scheduled for 6 February.

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## HEADFORD ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME

The Section 38 public consultation closed on 9 January, with approximately 400 submissions received. These submissions are currently under review, and engagement with key stakeholders is ongoing.



## CLIMATE CHANGE

### COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION

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#### COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION FUND

The 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the Community Climate Action Fund closed to applications in 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 the county. Galway County Council received 85 applications, the highest number in the country. These

applications are currently being assessed and recommended projects will be put forward to the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment for final approval.

Communities are currently implementing projects under the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the Community Climate Fund. Ballinasloe Town Hall Theatre recently completed the installation of solar



panels and segregated bins with support from this fund.

SOLAR PANELS -  
BALLINASLOE TOWN HALL  
THEATRE

### OILEÁIN ÁRANN DECARBONISATION ZONE FUND

The three islands of Oileáin Árann form the Decarbonisation Zone (DZ) for Galway County. To support Climate Action in the DZ, Galway County Council launched the Pilot Oileáin Árann Climate Action Fund in 2025. The €60,000 fund was open to organisations, businesses and communities of Oileáin Árann. One of the successful applicants was the local community-owned Comharchumann Fuinneamh who received funding to subsidise Home Energy Assessments for local residents. 25 assessments have been completed to date, equipping homeowners with a clear roadmap for improving their home's energy efficiency, improving comfort and reducing bills. This programme remains open to homeowners.



## 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.



### NEW HAZMAT UNIT

## CAPITAL PROJECTS

### LOUGHREA FIRE STATION

A mini-competition for the appointment of a Main Contractor was issued via e-tenders on the 30 January 2025, with a deadline of the 06 March 2026. It is hoped to appoint the Main Contractor in mid-April 2026.



### PROPOSED NEW FIRE STATION LOUGHREA

### BRIGADE MECHANICS WORKSHOP ATHENRY



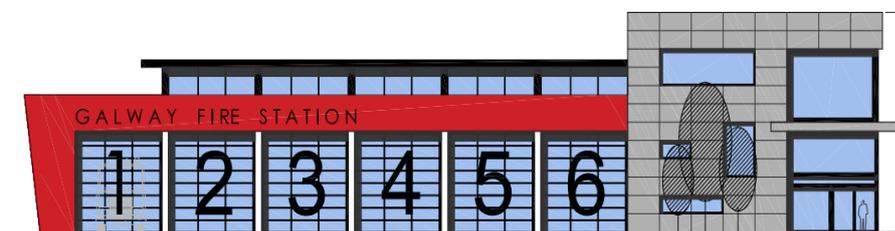
(Indicative Only)

Preliminary information has been sent to the Planning Section for comment, and a reply is still awaited. The submission of the Part 8 planning application is now delayed until the end of February 2026.

### PROPOSED NEW BRIGADE MECHANICS WORKSHOP ATHENRY

### HEADQUARTERS AND GALWAY CITY FIRE STATION

A request for permission to appoint a design team was submitted to the NDFEM and additional information requested was submitted. A decision is expected imminently. Discussions are ongoing in relation to environmental issues and variations to the City Development Plan with the next meeting scheduled for the 16 February 2026.



(Indicative Only)

### PROPOSED NEW HEADQUARTERS AND CENTRAL FIRE STATION GALWAY CITY

## PREVENTION

The information in the following is based on the January 2026 figures. The Fire Authority received 23 Fire Safety Certificate applications and issued decisions on 12 applications. 8

Disability Access Certificate applications were received, and decisions made on 6 applications. 1 new licence was issued in January, and 23 inspections were conducted.

## TRAINING

### NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE (USAR) PROJECT

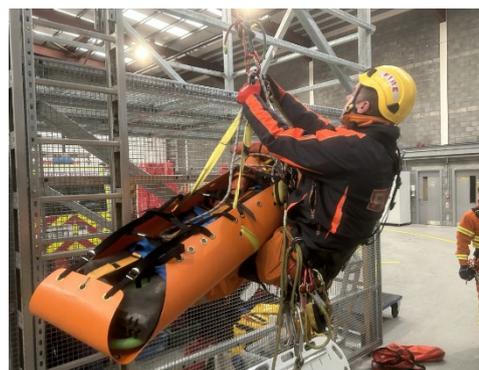
To date 13 personnel have undertaken the USAR 1 Technician Course at the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service Learning and Development College, Cookstown, and 4 of these are currently undertaking the USAR 2 Technician Course (2 weeks) at the Merseyside FRS Learning and Development College, Liverpool from the 09 – 20 February 2026. A further 2 students are scheduled to attend the USAR 2 Technician Course in Liverpool in April 2026. Specialist training will also commence in mid-2026.

GFRS will be conducting a number USAR Rope Access and Confined Space Rescue Courses at Carnmore, with the first pilot course scheduled for the 02 – 06 March 2026. GFRS are also leading on the production of national guidance and training documentation for rescue from height and confined space rescue. Draft documentation is scheduled to be reviewed at the next national USAR project meeting on the 18 February 2026.

The national USAR training kit is still being managed by GFRS at Cranmore Airport. USAR Personal Protective Equipment has now been issued. USAR specialist equipment and vehicle deliveries are scheduled to commence in late Q2 2026 with an anticipated go-live date of November 2026. GFRS are managing national contracts for the supply of remotely operated vehicles and sensors, rescue from height and confined space rescue equipment with an approximate value of €500k.



USAR TRAINING AT CARNMORE



### COMPLETED TRAINING JANUARY 2026

#### NDFEM COMPRESSED AIR FOAM SYSTEM COURSE

- Attendee: 1 x full time junior officer.
- Location: Tullamore Fire Station.
- Purpose: to assist fire authorities in developing and updating their ability to deliver operator training for compressed air foam systems, through the

provision of a course for instructors who are involved in providing training locally to brigades.

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### ROPE RESCUE INSTRUCTOR COURSE

- Attendees: 3 x retained personnel, 3 x full time personnel, 2 x senior officers
- Location: Carnmore Fire Training Centre
- Aim: this training is to enhance the capability of Galway Fire Service to develop and deliver training in the area of rope rescue.



ROPE RESCUE  
INSTRUCTOR  
TRAINING IN  
ATHENRY FIRE  
STATION




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### NDFEM URBAN SEARCH & RESCUE COURSE

- Attendee: 2 x retained firefighters, 2 x full time firefighters.
- Location: Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service Learning & Development Centre, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone
- Purpose: to assist fire authorities in developing and updating their ability to manage an incident involving significant structural collapse. This module provides the attending personnel with the initial core skills and knowledge necessary to effectively use USAR tools and equipment at such incidents.



URBAN SEARCH & RESCUE TRAINING BUILDING,  
COOKSTOWN, CO. TYRONE

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### PLANNED TRAINING FEBRUARY 2026

TRAINING COURSE	FROM	TO
NDFEM USAR Technician 2 course	08/02/2026	20/02/2026
NDFEM Managing Fire Service Incidents Module 1	16/02/2026	20/02/2026

## CIVIL DEFENCE

### ACTIVITIES

Training and recruitment recommenced in the New Year across our five units. Twenty potential new volunteers have completed induction across the county, with a further twelve scheduled to attend early next month.

Search and Drone crew, with the assistance of Clare Civil Defence, were requested by An Garda Síochána to assist in the search of a missing person in the Woodford area. Crews responded and commenced both drone and ground searches. The missing person was recovered deceased approximately two hours after the search began.

Volunteers from Galway participated in the National Ambulance Service College exercise for student paramedics in Ballinasloe. This was an Interagency exercise with all the Principal Response Area's participating.

The Civil Defence Officer delivered a presentation on Civil Defence to the Loughrea Municipal District at their monthly meeting.

### TRAINING

Additional boat crews from Ballinasloe, Loughrea and Galway City have attended additional Advanced Powerboat Training courses. This is essential training for all boat crews.

One Civil Defence Advanced Driving Instructor attend a three-day Severe Weather Off-Road Driving Instructor Course in the Curragh, Co. Kildare. This qualification will allow Galway Civil Defence to certify its drivers to the required standard for responding in adverse conditions.

The Assistant Civil Defence Officer attended three days of training on Management of Flood Incidents, delivered by Rescue3 in the Phoenix Park, Dublin.

## PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL PLANNING DATA

KEY Statistics: 1st JANUARY – 31st January 2026	
Applications Received/Valid	155/119 (77%)
Granted	120
Grant Rate	85%
Refused	22
Breakdown of Decisions Granted Outline (2)	
Permission (96)	
Retention (20)	
Permission Consequent (0)	
Extension of Duration (2)	

Percentage of applications received via Portal/Hardcopy	89%
Stage 1LRD	
Stage 2 LRD	
Major Meetings	1
SID Meetings	
Red III Applications	3

#### KEY STATISTICS 1<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2026 – 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2026.

<b>Exempted Development Applications (under Section 5)</b>	16
Exempt	
Not Exempt	2
FI	
Withdrawn	
Decision Pending	14
Appealed	

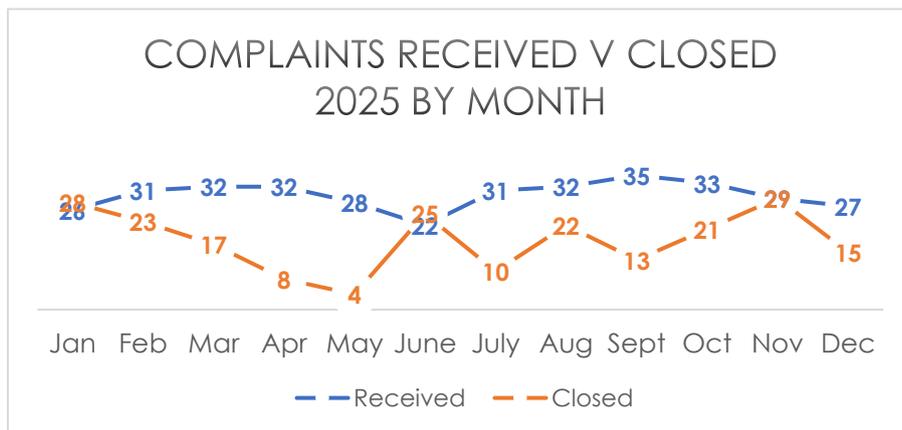
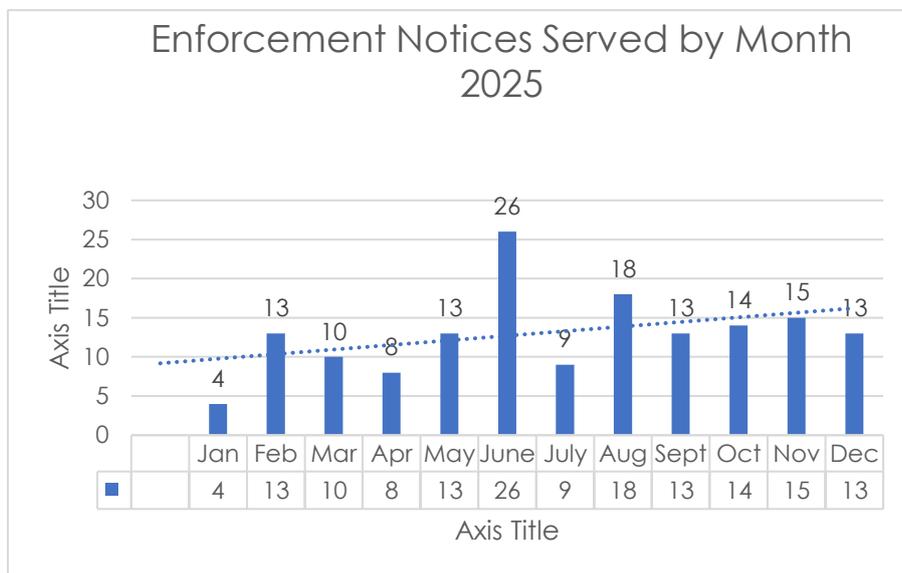
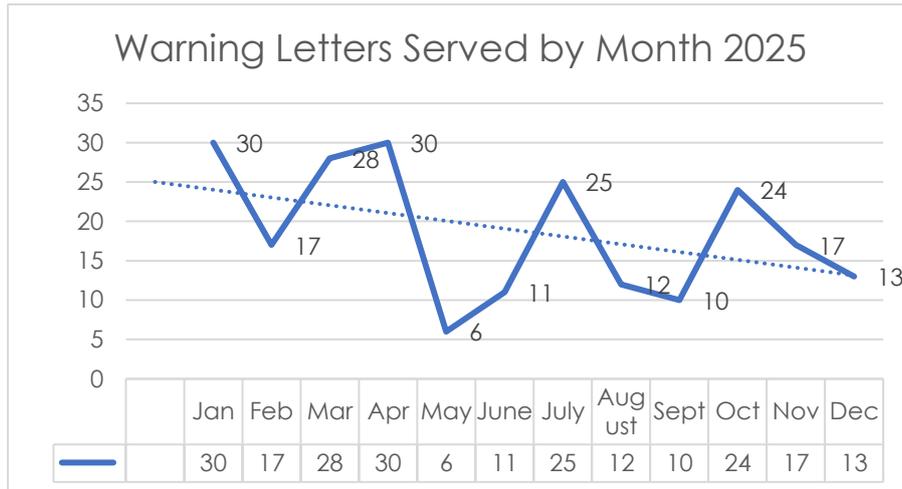
#### COMMENCEMENTS AND COMPLETIONS 1<sup>st</sup> JANUARY – 31st January 2026

Submitted and Validated Commencement Notices	80
Submitted and Validated Certificates of Completion	6

#### PLANNING MEETINGS BY MONTH 2026

	A	B	
1	PPM per MD per Month	January	Feb
2	Athenry/Oranmore	3	
3	Ballinasloe	0	
4	Connemara N & S	7	
5	Loughrea	5	
6	Tuam	2	
7	<b>Total per month</b>	<b>17</b>	
8			

## ENFORCEMENT



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## KEY PLANNING UPDATES

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### COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN/DEVELOPMENT PLAN VARIATION

CE Report for Variation No. 1 to be considered by Members on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Workshop was held for Members on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026 in advance of Council Meeting. At this stage, it is expected that the CDP Review will commence in June 2026.

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### RESIDENTIAL ZONED LAND TAX

The Residential Zoned Land Tax aimed at increasing housing supply came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025.

Galway County Council has published two separate maps regarding RZLT in 2026: the annual final map and the draft annual map.

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### THE ANNUAL FINAL MAP -PUBLISHED ON THE 31/01/2026

Scoped-in sites mapped in the annual final map will be liable for RZLT from the 1st of February 2026. The annual final maps include the areas outlined below:

Baile Chláir	Clifden
Bearna	Maigh Cuilinn
Oranmore	Oughterard
Garraun	Portumna
Briarhill	Headford
Ballinasloe	An Cheathrú Rua
Tuam	An Spidéal
Athenry	Ballygar
Dunmore	Glenamaddy
Kinvara	Moylough
Loughrea	

These scoped in land parcels identified on the Annual Final Maps 2026 will be charged as of the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026. Landowners liable for RZLT will be required to register with Revenue to make an annual return to Revenue and pay any RZLT liable by the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 2026.

For more information on the payment of the tax please see revenues website-  
<https://www.revenue.ie/en/property/residential-zoned-land/registering.aspx>

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### REZONING REQUESTS

If the landowner feels the economic activity that is taking place on their land does not reflect the current zoning, they may seek a rezoning of their lands. Such requests must be made to Galway County Council between **1<sup>st</sup> of February to the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2026**. Rezoning requests provide an opportunity for an exemption from the RZLT on Final Map.

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### THE ANNUAL DRAFT MAP - PUBLISHED ON 1ST FEBRUARY 2026

The Draft Annual Maps 2026 includes only one settlement, i.e. Gort as this plan was reviewed and agreed in 2025. Gort's scoped-in sites **will not** be liable for RZLT until 2027.

Submission can be made on the annual draft map to exclude or include parcels from being liable to RZLT for 2027 by **1<sup>st</sup> April 2026**.

**Submissions on the Annual Draft Map may be made as follows:**

- In writing and addressed to: “RZLT”, The Planning Department, Galway County Council, Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway, H91H6KX

or

- By email to: [rzt@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:rzt@galwaycoco.ie);

or

- Online by visiting: <https://consult.galway.ie>;

**not later than 1 April 2026.**

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## CDP MONITORING REPORT

Currently being drafted by Forward Planning Team.

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## 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.

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## TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF RZLT

31 January 2026	GCC publish Final Map of land in scope for the tax for 2026. The 2026 liability is based on this map.  Landowners may make a request to GCC between 1 Feb and 1 April to change the zoning of their land where identified on this map.
01 February 2026	GCC publish Draft Annual Map for 2027, identifying land considered in scope for the tax in 2027, land proposed to be removed from scope and land proposed to be added for the first time. Landowners may make submissions regarding land identified on these maps.
01 April 2026	Deadline for change of zoning requests to Galway County Council in respect of land included on the Annual Final Map for 2026 published on 31 January 2026.  Deadline for criteria-based submissions in respect of the Annual Draft Map for 2027 published on 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2026 for inclusion or exclusion of relevant land from the annual RZLT map for 2027.

11 April 2026	Publication of submissions received on draft Annual Map by GCC  Publication of rezoning requests received on Final Map by GCC
30 April 2026	A rezoning request acknowledgement letter containing details of the recent planning history of the land will be issued by 30 April from GCC to the landowner.
23 May 2026	Payment and filing date (with Revenue) for land identified on final maps for 2026 as being zoned for residential use and serviced on 1 Jan 2022 and land which became zoned and serviced in the course of 2022 and 2023.
30 June 2026	GCC will notify landowner of its decision on rezoning requests (No appeal mechanism for this).
1 July 2026	GCC will notify the landowner of retention or removal from maps. Landowners can appeal to An Bord Pleanala on or before 1 August 2026 if they disagree with decision.
1 August 2026	Final date for appeals of LA decision (Draft Annual Map) on submissions to An Bord Pleanala

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## VACANCY SURVEY

Vacancy survey is now underway.

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## URDF

Contracts were signed for carpark design on 7<sup>th</sup> 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. Discussions with the NTA with respect to the carpark design have also taken place.

It is expected that the Final Business Case for the main works (Rail loop; Platform) will be issued to the Department in the next week or so.

URDF Call 4 expected to be announced shortly.

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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

A Joint Local Authority working group has been set up to deliver the Joint Economic Development Strategy.

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## 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.

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## JOINT RETAIL STRATEGY

The Joint Retail Strategy was endorsed by the Elected Members at the Plenary meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> January. The City Council Elected Members ratified the Strategy at their Council meeting on 09<sup>th</sup> February.

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## DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Review of Development Contributions Scheme has commenced.

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## 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 Galway City and County. This month, LEO Galway continued to support small and micro businesses through their range of financial / soft supports and advisory services outlined below.

### TRAINING COURSES & PROGRAMMES

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#### SHORT TRAINING COURSES

To support the small business community in navigating the challenges of today's business environment, LEO Galway offers a comprehensive range of high-quality training supports designed to meet specific business needs. -quality training supports designed to meet specific business needs

The full training schedule, including dates and registration details, is available on the Local Enterprise Office Galway website. The following programmes are available in March:

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#### MANAGING CASHFLOW FOR YOUR BUSINESS

This practical interactive online training will help clients identify and address cashflow issues within their business.

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## AI TOOLS FOR BUSINESS

This introduction workshop will equip clients with the knowledge and practical examples needed to leverage AI tools effectively and drive meaningful business outcomes.

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## LEAN FIRST: YOUR FOUNDATION FOR SMARTER, DIGITAL READY WORK

A practical workshop showing how Lean strengthens processes and prepares business for digital and AI.

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## PRESENTATION & PITCHING SKILLS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

This online presentation / pitching skills session will help clients to meet goals in sales, business and partner development or raising finance.

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## START YOUR OWN FOOD BUSINESS

This Food Development Programme is to help those with a food idea, or those at a very early stage of starting up a food business (typically the first 24 months). The objective is to determine the viability of the product and to provide participants with a base knowledge of what is involved in setting up a food business.

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## GRANT AID & FUNDING 101 WORKSHOP

This online workshop will include aspects of the supports and grants that are available for entrepreneurs in Ireland.

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## HOW TO CREATE A PODCAST

This step-by-step workshop will teach how to record, edit and upload, along with all the tools needed to start, host and release a podcast.

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## UNDERSTANDING FINANCIALS FOR BUSINESS PLANNING

A comprehensive workshop designed to equip small business owners and start-ups with the essential skills for effective record-keeping and business planning.

These programmes will equip participants with practical, actionable skills to stay competitive in a rapidly evolving business environment.

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## BUSINESS ADVISORY CLINIC

Our Business Advisory sessions give clients the opportunity to speak with one of our business advisors, who offer general guidance on starting a new business or expanding on an existing business.

During the session, our advisors will outline the supports available through the Local

Enterprise Office, including training, mentoring, and any other relevant services suited to the client's stage of business.

Each advisory session is a free 30-minute consultation and runs weekly throughout the year. A €10 deposit is required at the time of booking; this is fully refundable once the client attends the appointment or provides at least 48 hours' cancellation notice.

Please keep an eye on our website for the upcoming available dates.

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## MENTORING

Our mentoring programme is designed to match 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 and more. A mentoring session consists of 3 hours of support from the mentor.

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## 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.

The programme introduces participants to the fundamentals of starting a business, including business planning, legal and registration requirements, record-keeping, taxation, cashflow, market research, marketing, competition, costing and pricing, networking, guidance on developing and growing a business, as well as an overview of LEO funding and supports.

The most recent SYOB programme started on 5<sup>th</sup> February and is run twice weekly until 26<sup>th</sup> February. It is currently delivered as seven evening classes, with each session lasting 3.5 hours. The next programme will begin on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, again delivered as an evening course, running twice weekly from 6:00pm to 9:30pm until 26<sup>th</sup> March.

With a new programme every four weeks, there are ongoing opportunities for prospective entrepreneurs to get involved and take the first step toward building their business.

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## IDEA TO IMPACT

LEO Galway is currently running an Idea to Impact programme (formerly known as Lean Launch). This programme is designed for individuals at the early stages of developing a business idea or those seeking guidance to increase customers and sales. Participants receive expert support in conducting practical market research and real world sales activities to determine the viability of their concept.

Market research is a critical component of any successful enterprise, and this hands-on programme ensures that participants gain the insights needed to validate their ideas and make informed decisions about their business potential.

The current programme started in October 2025 and will continue until April 2026.

## THE STRATEGIC GROWTH PROGRAMME FOR BUSINESS LEADERS

The Strategic Growth Programme is a dynamic 12-month programme designed for ambitious business leaders seeking to accelerate growth. Limited to just 12 participants, it combines expert-led workshops, personalised strategy sessions, and practical implementation support. The first phase focuses on building strategic foundations, while the second drives execution through peer accountability and collaboration.

By the end of the programme, participants will have strengthened their strategic capabilities, scaled their ventures, and joined a powerful network of growth-focused leaders. This programme started in November 2025 in the Galway County Council offices.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### LOCAL ENTERPRISE WEEK 2026

Local Enterprise Week 2026 will take place from 2nd to 6th March. The programme brings together a diverse range of events and training opportunities aimed at supporting entrepreneurs, startups and established SMEs across the county. This year's offering places a strong emphasis on Lean, Working in a Multi-Generational Workplace, AI, Digital Capability and includes a Pop-Up Gaeltacht and Craft Fair and much more.

Events will be delivered across both city and county. The schedule of events is outlined below, with full details available on our website.

Date	Event	Venue
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Lunch & Learn	Tuam
	Pop-Up Craft Fair: Seachtain na Gaeilge	GCC
	Cybersecurity & GDPR	Online
	Business Advice Clinic	LEO, GCC
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Mind the Gap: Thriving in a Multi-Generational Workplace	Portershed
	AI Works for Ireland	Google HQ, Dublin
	Pop-Up Craft Fair: Seachtain na Gaeilge	GCC
	Managing Cashflow for your Business	Online
4 <sup>th</sup> March	AI Forward for SMEs	Portershed
	Lunch & Learn	Ballinasloe
	Business Advice Clinic	Ballinasloe
	Pop-Up Craft Fair: Seachtain na Gaeilge	GCC
	AI Tools for Business	Online

5 <sup>th</sup> March	Lean First: Your Foundation for Smarter, Digital Ready Work	BIA Innovator Campus, Athenry
	Design Mingle	CREW
	Selling at Scale for Ambitious SMEs	Platform 94
	Lunch & Learn	Clifden
6 <sup>th</sup> March	Digital Futures (& Launch of Tuam Strategic Plan 2025 – 2030)	Tuam
	Women Empowering Women: Celebrating International Women’s Day	Galway City

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## DESIGN MINGLE

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### FOR THE LOVE OF CINEMA

This Design Mingle session will feature award-winning creative producers Luke and Jake Morgan of Morgan Brothers, a West-of-Ireland production company specialising in film, animation and music.

Morgan Brothers are known for ambitious yet emotionally grounded work that centres on love, character and authentic storytelling. They are proudly bilingual and passionate about the Irish language, creating Irish stories for the world through music-driven, emotionally resonant narratives often infused with comedy.

Their short film, *The Boat*, executive produced by Brendan Gleeson, was Academy Award-qualified and won the Grand Prix Best Irish Short at Cork International Film Festival and Best Irish Short at Foyle Film Festival. Their Irish-language feature, *Froggie*, premiered at Galway Film Fleadh, screened at Santa Barbara International Film Festival, and won Best Film at Worcester Film Festival.

#### Event Details

- Date: 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026
- Venue: CREW, Wellpark Road, Galway
- Schedule: 11.30am - 1.30pm

## PAST EVENTS

### MENTOR BRIEFING DAY

The LEO team held a Mentor Briefing Day at the Connacht Hotel on 22nd January, welcoming more than 40 mentors from our panel on the day. The purpose of the session was to provide a comprehensive update on the supports available through LEO, along with an overview of the enterprise hubs and networks accessible to clients across Galway. As the mentor panel went out to tender in 2025, the group included both newly appointed mentors and existing panel members, making the session an important opportunity to ensure all mentors have the knowledge required to effectively signpost clients to the most appropriate supports.



MS. CAROLINE  
MCDONAGH  
ADDRESSING  
ATTENDEES AT THE  
MENTOR BRIEFING  
EVENT

The event included presentations from the LEO team, Caroline McDonagh, Stephanie Colombani, Sandra Regan, Eoin Connaire and Mairéad Herlihy, as well as subject-matter experts on the Lean, Green and Digital LEO supports, followed by a Q&A session and dedicated networking time. Strong participation and discussion throughout the morning highlighted the value of connecting with our mentor panel and the strength of our wider mentor community. Feedback from attendees was very positive, noting the usefulness of the updates and the opportunity to engage with the LEO team and mentor peers.

### NETWORK IRELAND GALWAY

Stephanie Colombani attended Network Ireland Galway Branch's first event of 2026, hosted by their new President, Sharon Kelly, at the newly opened Radisson RED.

The 2026 theme, *“The Power of Self Belief,”* resonated strongly throughout the night, serving as a reminder of how believing in one’s own abilities can open doors and propel us forward in unexpected ways.

Attendees were also joined by the newly elected Network Ireland President, Karen Ronan, who spoke with clarity and conviction about the strength of the Network and the importance of the connections members build together.

Jennifer Flaherty, the 2026 Awards Co-Ordinator, shared her candid experience of stepping outside her comfort zone to enter the Network Ireland Awards and the personal growth that came as a result.

Another standout moment was the introduction of the chosen charity for 2026: the National Breast Cancer Research Institute, based in Galway. Member Faith Fahy spoke powerfully about her own experience and highlighted the impactful work happening behind the scenes at NBCRI.

The guest speaker, Denise O’Brien, delivered an engaging and thought-provoking talk that tied seamlessly into the #powerofselfbelief theme. She explored imposter syndrome, confidence, and finding clarity—using the imagery of the yellow brick road to remind everyone that everything they need is already within them.



MS. STEPHANIE COLOMBANI, LEO GALWAY AND MS. SHARON KELLY, PRESIDENT OF NETWORK GALWAY

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## STAKEHOLDER NETWORKING FORUM HOSTED BY INTREO GALWAY

On 19<sup>th</sup> January, the stakeholder networking forum was held to strengthen our working relationships and support coordinated planning for 2026. Each stakeholder organisation



nominated one or two representatives, and all participants were given a five-minute slot to present their services. These presentations provided a clear overview of who they are, what they do, and their strategic priorities for 2026. Eoin Connaire and Sandra Regan represented LEO Galway and presented services and supports available to stakeholder clients on the day. The event concluded with structured roundtable discussions focused on shared priorities for 2026, identifying

opportunities for partnership, and exploring potential joint initiatives.

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MR. EOIN CONNAIRE PRESENTING LEO SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

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### SHOWCASE IRELAND 2026

Ireland is globally renowned for its craft and design, and the Showcase trade fair continues to serve as a major international launchpad for Irish makers. Showcase 2026 took place from 18th to 20th January at the RDS, Dublin.

With almost 400 exhibitors across Fashion, Jewellery and Home & Gift, the three-day trade fair welcomed up to 3,400 registered trade buyers from Ireland, the UK, Europe, Japan and the UAE. The Local Enterprise Network hosted 104 stands, with LEO Galway represented by seven client companies:



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ARTANA GALLERY



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MICHELLE CHAMBERS CERAMICS



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SPORTSKN

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MY TRIBE – WEARABLE GLASS ART





ÚNA HEANEY DESIGNS

MNE FINE ART



Photo By Marta

PhotoByMarta

PHOTO BY MARTA

## PORTERSHED LEAVING CERTIFICATE COMPUTER SCIENCE HACKATHON

On Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> January, Sandra Regan, Local Enterprise Office Galway attended the PorterShed Leaving Certificate Computer Science Hackathon as a member of the judging panel.

Students from eight schools across Galway and Mayo took on a full day of hands-on, curriculum-aligned problem solving, showcasing creativity, teamwork, and technical skill. Now in its fourth year, this hackathon, designed with Ross Conboy (The Bish), brings Computer Science coursework beyond the classroom and into a real-world, collaborative environment.

The event was formally opened by the Minister for Education & Youth, Hildegard Naughton T.D., who spoke about the importance of digital skills, innovation, and learning that extends beyond the exam paper.

MS. SANDRA REGAN ADDRESSING PARTICIPANTS AT THE LEAVING CERTIFICATE COMPUTER SCIENCE HACKATHON





## HACKATHON PARTICIPANTS – LEAVING CERT COMPUTER SCIENCE STUDENTS

### SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

FACEBOOK:	8.5k Likes	Reach: 12.3k
INSTAGRAM:	3.7k Followers	Reach: 3.4k
LINKEDIN:	2k Followers	Impressions: 4.8k
X (TWITTER)	1.9k Followers	

### WEST REGIONAL ENTERPRISE PLAN

A recent planning workshop held at PorterShed brought together the Western Regional Enterprise Plan (WREP) steering committee and the West Regional Skills Forum (WRSF) to outline strategic ambitions for 2026, chaired by Mark Gantly, facilitated by Denise Rocks, and



addressed by Sarah Morgan, National Skills co-ordinator with the Department of Further and higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.



This collaboration focuses on driving the region's economy by addressing emerging technical needs and strengthening established industry clusters across Galway, Mayo, and Roscommon.

### DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND RESILIENCE

Central to the 2026 outlook is the adoption of AI for SMEs, addressing critical skills gaps and digital transition, such as confusion and fear of implementation. This is paired with a focus on Cyber Security, essential for regulatory compliance and trust. The workshop also emphasised enhancing Sales and Commercial Capability to bolster the international competitiveness of regional firms.

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## HIGH GROWTH SECTOR AMBITIONS

The plan continues to drive the global competitiveness of the MedTech and BioPharma sectors by expanding the regional footprint and deepening the coordination between industry and academia. Furthermore, dedicated working groups are addressing Supply Chain and Operations Management to ensure resilience against global disruptions. The workshop also identified emerging opportunities in Space technologies, leveraging the region's existing research excellence.

By aligning training provision with these specific 2026 goals, the WRSF and WREP aim to ensure the West remains a leader in innovation and sustainable enterprise.

## HERITAGE OFFICE

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### ICAN COMMUNITY FUND – SUPPORTING GALWAY’S COMMUNITY HERITAGE

The ICAN Community Fund provides targeted financial support to volunteer groups across County Galway who are part of the Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN). The fund is designed to help communities digitise, preserve, and share their local history and heritage online, strengthening local engagement and building connections with the wider Irish diaspora.

In January 2026, Galway community groups were awarded funding to progress projects that contribute to the creation and enhancement of their digital community archives. These grants—up to €1,500 per group—support a wide range of heritage activities, the following is a list of Galway County ICAN Groups who were granted funding:

**Name of Group:** **Maigh Cuilinn Heritage Group/*Cumann Staire Ruaidhrí Uí Fhlaitheartaigh***

**Grant Amount:** €1,476

**Grant Purpose:** Bilingual digitalised Townlands ARCGIS map and StoryMap.

**Name of Group:** **Milltown Heritage Group**

**Grant Amount:** €1,430.49

**Grant Purpose:** Purchase of flatbed scanner and archival storage devices.

**Name of Group:** **Moylough Community Resource**

**Grant Amount:** €678.45

**Grant Purpose:** Purchase of a digital camera, film scanner, Office 365 subscription, computer monitor and a camera case.

**Name of Group:** **Oughterard Heritage Group**

**Grant Amount:** €1,500

**Grant Purpose:** The development of the Oughterard Kids Heritage Trail and Children’s Podcast which includes the graphic design and printing

cost associated with the production of the trail and podcasting workshops.

**Name of Group:** Skehana & District Heritage Group  
**Grant Amount:** €1,500  
**Grant Purpose:** Purchase of wireless microphone and stand, publication of materials and pamphlets and the printing of map boards.

**Name of Group:** Woodlawn Heritage Group  
**Grant Amount:** €1,263  
**Grant Purpose:** The digitalisation of cassette and dictaphone tapes, transfer of files from floppy disk and a hard drive for storage.

Delivered in partnership with Local Authority Heritage Officers, including the Galway County Heritage Office, and supported by the National Museum of Ireland and The Heritage Council, the ICAN programme empowers local communities to safeguard their own heritage and contribute to a growing national network of digital archives.



MINISTER OF STATE FOR NATURE, HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY CHRISTOPHER O'SULLIVAN HELD A MEETING IN KILKENNY WITH LOCAL AUTHORITY HERITAGE OFFICERS. PHOTO CREDIT: THE HERITAGE COUNCIL

## NATIONAL FAMINE COMMEMORATION – FIRST ADVANCE MEETING AT THE IRISH WORKHOUSE CENTRE, PORTUMNA

The 2026 National Famine Commemoration will take place at the Irish Workhouse Centre, Portumna, Co. Galway, on Sunday, 17 May 2026. This year's commemoration is being coordinated by Galway County Council in partnership with the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport (D/CCS), the Office of Public Works (OPW), the Defence Forces, the Department of the Taoiseach, An Garda Síochána, and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, with the support and input of the Board of the Irish Workhouse Centre, Portumna.



SITE MEETING FOR THE 2026 NATIONAL FAMINE COMMEMORATION, IRISH WORKHOUSE CENTRE, PORTUMNA. PHOTO CREDIT: MARIE MANNION

The first advance meeting of all stakeholders was held at the Irish Workhouse Centre on 9 February 2026. Liam Hanrahan, Director of Services, Economic Development & Planning; Michael Owens, Director of Services, Corporate Services, Rural, Community & Tourism Development and Integration and Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer represented Galway County Council at this meeting.



FIRST ADVANCE MEETING OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS WAS HELD AT THE IRISH WORKHOUSE CENTRE. PHOTO CREDIT: MARIE MANNION

## PLANNING

## BIODIVERSITY

### HARE'S CORNER – TREE DISTRIBUTION DAY

On 17 January, Galway County Council and Galway City Council jointly delivered the Hare's Corner Tree Distribution Day, a major biodiversity action event supporting landowners, community groups, farmers and schools across the county. Over 12,500 native trees were distributed on the day, providing a significant boost to habitat creation through new native woodlands, wildlife hedgerows and orchards.

The event was coordinated by the Galway County Biodiversity Officer with on-the-ground support from Kim O'Connor in the Climate Action Unit and Galway City Council staff, ensuring smooth logistics and strong engagement with participants. A social media reel produced by Galway County Council after the event has now been viewed over 10,000 times, greatly enhancing the public reach and visibility of the initiative.

The exceptionally high uptake and strong public response underline the continued demand for practical, accessible biodiversity actions and demonstrate the value of cross-authority collaboration in delivering nature-positive outcomes. This completes the Hare's Corner Project 2024 – 2025.



### WILD TRAD TUNES – VIDEO LAUNCH

The Wild Trad Tunes – Rewild Your Repertoire video was launched across Galway County Council's social media platforms following its completion by filmographer Conor Donelan. The film captures the creative process of the workshop delivered in partnership with Athenry Music School and featuring musicians Fergal Scahill, Ruth Smith and Katharine Mac

Mághnuis. The project narrative circulated with partners highlights its focus on the intersection between traditional music and biodiversity.

Since going live, the video has achieved over 9,000 views across all platforms, significantly broadening the reach of the initiative and helping us engage a wider and more diverse audience. This digital success builds on the strong public interest recorded during earlier project phases, reflected in the positive public response and workshop engagement documented in project reports and shared communications.



The production and launch of the video were supported by the Arts Office Creative Ireland Creative Communities Engagement Officer, whose involvement helped amplify the project’s visibility and strengthen cross-programme collaboration.

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

### ATHENRY/ORANMORE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

During the February period there is a more focused approach to the general maintenance of the road network which includes sign replacement, hedge trimming, opening of water tables, pothole repair etc. A sample of these works is as follows

*Ongoing flood relief projects* - progressing as the need arises with the installation of new culverts, bridges, soakaways, gullies, etc.



COMPLETION OF  
BRIDGE REPAIRS AT  
CALTRABREEDAGH,  
ATTYMON



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FLOOD RELIEF, WATERDALE, TURLOUGHMORE



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FLOOD RELIEF, MONIVEA

Routine maintenance - continues throughout the Municipal District with direct crews carrying out openings to water tables on both the Regional & Local roads to alleviate surface water runoff



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OPENING OF WATER TABLES ON NATIONAL AND LOCAL ROAD NETWORK



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ACTIVE TRAVEL PROJECTS

Preparation is underway for the pending widening of footpaths on the Tuam Road, Athenry at the New Line junction.

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VEGETATION REMOVAL AT NEW LINE JUNCTION, ATHENRY TO IMPROVE VISIBILITY.



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## ROAD REPAIRS

Due to the inclement weather we experienced through the winter months, it has taken its toll on the road network, so repairs are ongoing throughout the district to address the damage.



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### SURFACING AT GORTACLEVA, CLAREGALWAY



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### REPAIRS TO THE N84 AT ADDERGOOLE

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## OTHER ISSUES



The Area office continues to address the issues with illegal dumping at clothes banks and public bins. Items are removed from these locations on a regular basis by Municipal District outdoor crew.

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## BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

During January 2026, Ballinasloe MD crews were focused on maintenance of public roads in terms of drainage, pothole repair, signage repair, hedge and verge cutting, and minor improvement works. Contractors continued to complete any outstanding projects from 2025. This also included periods of low temperatures where salting operations were required. A new salt bin was installed in the Fairgreen paid car park off Society Street, Ballinasloe.

A number of tidy ups were completed on illegal waste sites/littering on Housing Estates in Ballinasloe Town during January 2026.

Preparation of the 2026 Roads Programme continues, with submissions received from all elected representatives in the Municipal District. Tender for Recycling of Roads in Ballinasloe MD was published in January 2026 with a return date of 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

Tenders for Overlay and Inlay projects are being prepared and will be advertised on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026 to ensure that we receive the most competitive rates possible.

In the first week of January 2026, Ballinasloe Cycling Club held the Cyclocross National Championships at the Fair Green in Ballinasloe. Assistance was provided by Ballinasloe crews in the setup for the event, which was ran off very successfully.

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THE FOLLOWING ARE EXAMPLES OF WORKS UNDERTAKEN IN JANUARY 2026



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NATIONAL CYCLOCROSS EVENT AT NIGHT HELD IN BALLINASLOE FAIRGREEN, JANUARY 2026



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VERGE AND HEDGECUTTING IN BALLINASLOE NORTH ENGINEERING AREA



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DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT WORKS IN GLENAMADDY

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INSTALLATION OF SALT BIN IN BALLINASLOE TOWN FUNDED BY NOTICE OF MOTION ALLOCATION



### WINTER MAINTENANCE

It has been a busy Winter Maintenance season across the MD so far. Crews carried out Salting runs over 17 nights since December 1<sup>st</sup> 2025, and they had a particularly busy period over Christmas and extending into the new year. Some nights required two runs. The dedicated P2 and P3 routes were treated throughout.



### VERGE MAINTENANCE



Verge Maintenance of Regional and Local

roads has been ongoing since the beginning of 2026 across the MD, with priority given to the more heavily trafficked routes and those serving critical infrastructure, bus routes and community and sporting facilities. The images below were taken of the R340 Regional Road which serves Ceantar Iorraís Aithneach out to the junction with the N59.

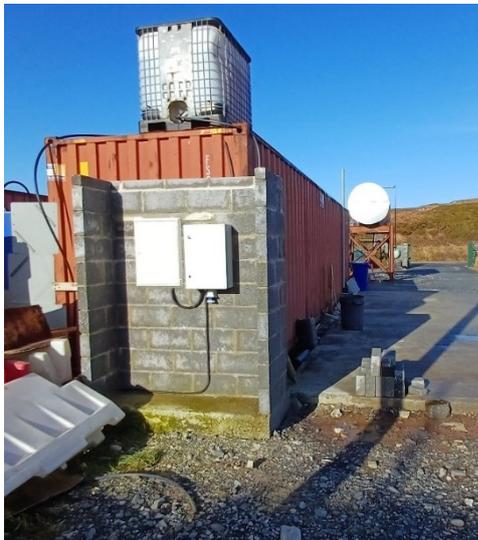
While there were some complaints on the grounds of aesthetics, there really is no cost-effective alternative to treating long sections of public road to the current practice of using tractors and flails. The Bird Nesting season will recommence 1st March, and all verge maintenance works will cease prior to that.

### ROADS COMPOUNDS, STATIC RISK ASSESSMENT FUNDING EXPENDITURE UPDATE

Funding was secured for upgrade works to a number of Council Depots and Compounds in



both Engineering Areas. Photos below show some of the works that are being undertaken in the Old Dump Compound in Clifden. The main gate and wall have been replaced. Perimeter fencing has been repaired and replaced where needed. Redundant materials have been removed and the site cleaned up significantly. Lighting and Electrical repair works are ongoing but is



complicated by legacy Water Services Meter Point Reference Numbers that need to be regularized.



## LOUGHREA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### PRIMARY FOCUS OF ACTIVITY

We continue to complete any outstanding projects from 2025 and address NOM funded projects. Hedge cutting, drainage maintenance, road repairs and all other routine maintenance works are continuing.

Additional roads projects advised to our elected members are now being completed and preparatory work has commenced on “Early Start” roads as advised to our elected representatives.

Preparation of the 2026 Roads Programme continues, with submissions received from all elected representatives in the Municipal District. Tenders for our bound Overlay and Inlay projects are also now being advertised to ensure that we receive the most competitive rates possible.

A sample of works on-going is as follows:



RESURFACING  
WORKS ON FOOT  
OF HSA  
INSPECTION, GORT  
DEPOT

INSTALLATION OF  
DROPPED ACCESS  
KERB, CROWE  
STREET, GORT



HEDGE CUTTING  
OPERATIONS, GORT

NEWLY ERECTED WARNING AND  
REGULATORY SIGNAGE AT  
MULLAGH AND KILTORMER  
CROSSROADS (L4300/L4303) AND  
RATHGORGIN (L7179)



LOCAL  
ROAD  
SURFACE  
WATER  
DRAINAGE  
WORKS,  
LOUGHREA

### ROAD MAINTENANCE

Winter conditions throughout the month continued to place significant pressure on the road network across the Tuam Municipal District. These weather events accelerated the deterioration of pavement surfaces, increased the formation of potholes, and contributed to recurrent drainage issues at a number of known problem locations.

Tuam Roads Crews focused their resources on the following priority activities

#### POTHOLE REPAIRS

Ongoing reactive maintenance was carried out across all route classes, with crews responding to a high volume of defect reports arising from the adverse weather. Priority was given to locations on Regional and Local Primary routes.

#### DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS

Works were undertaken at numerous locations to alleviate flooding and standing water, including clearing blocked gullies, opening water tables, and reinstating existing drainage channels. Additional localised improvements were also completed where repeated surface water issues were identified following recent storms.

#### GENERAL REACTIVE WORKS

Crews responded to public reports and councillor queries relating to drainage and minor road failures, and structural deterioration caused by heavy rainfall and ground saturation.

Overall, maintenance operations required continuous reprioritisation throughout the month to address weather-related impacts and ensure the safety of road users.

#### EDGING OF ROAD VERGES AND OPENING OF WATER TABLES



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## PLANNED WORKS COMPLETED IN JANUARY

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### INSTALLATION OF NEW PUBLIC LIGHTING IN CAHERLISTRANE



Installation of new public lighting is progressing well in Caherlistrane. The presence of ducting installed along the footpath in previous years has allowed Galway County Council ground staff to advance current civil works without interruption.

Electric Skyline are now on site installing the new lighting columns and lanterns. Works are proceeding as scheduled, with final commissioning to follow once all poles have been erected, connected, and tested.



Mise, le meas,

**Chief Executive**  
**Galway County Council**  
**17<sup>th</sup> February 2026**