





CORPORATE SERVICES

PRESENTATION OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CHAINS OF OFFICE

The new Municipal District chains were presented to the Cathaoirigh of the 5 Municipal Districts at their meetings this month.'

ATHENRY MD



L-R: MR. LIAM HANRAHAN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL PRESENTING THE NEW ATHENRY/ORANMORE MD CATHAOIRLEACH CHAIN TO CLLR CILLIAN KEANE

BALLINASLOE MD

L-R: MR. DAMIEN MITCHELL, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL PRESENTING THE NEW BALLINASLOE MD CATHAOIRLEACH CHAIN TO CLLR PETER KEAVENEY



---

## CONNEMARA MD

---

L-R: CLLR. GERRY KING, CONAMARA MD. CATHAOIRLEACH ACCEPTING THE NEW CONAMARA MD CATHAOIRLEACH CHAIN FROM MR. UINSINN FINN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES



---

## LOUGHREA MD



---

L-R: MS. EILEEN RUANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL PRESENTING THE NEW LOUGHREA MD CATHAOIRLEACH CHAIN TO CLLR PAUL KILLILEA

---

## TUAM MD

---

L-R: MR. MICHAEL OWENS, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES MR. MICHAEL OWENS, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL PRESENTING THE NEW TUAM MD CATHAOIRLEACH CHAIN TO CLLR. KAREY MCHUGH.



## GREATER GALWAY FORUM VISIT TO KILKENNY



LEFT & BELOW: GREATER GALWAY FORUM ATTENDEES IN KILKENNY



LEFT: MS. MÉABH CONAGHAN, GREATER GALWAY FORUM CHAIR

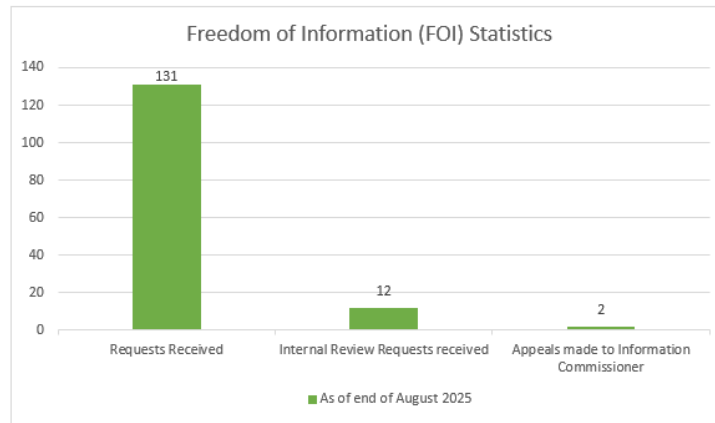
RIGHT: MR. LARS POWER, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL



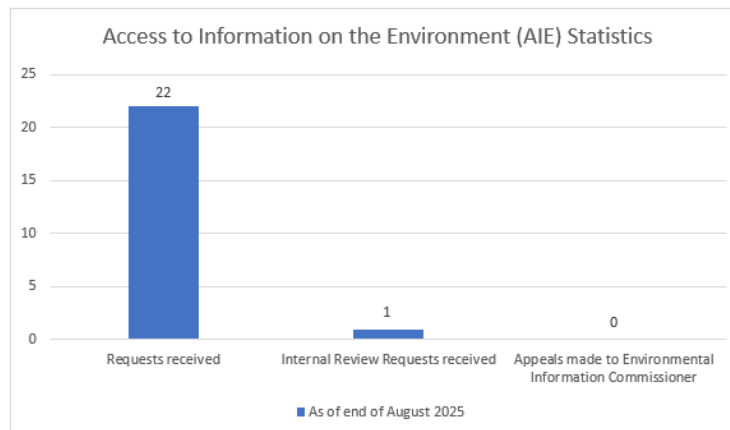
# FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION & DATA PROTECTION

2025 YEAR TO DATE STATISTICS TO 31.08.2025

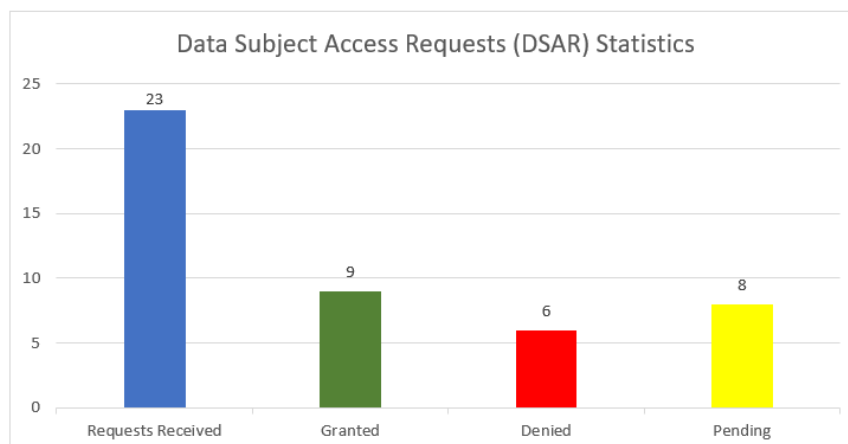
## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



## ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT



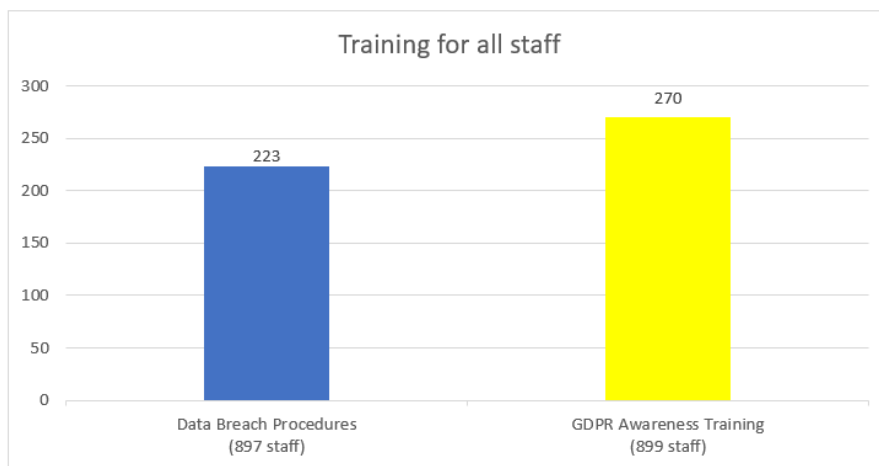
## DATA PROTECTION



- 23 Requests received:
  - 17 Subject Access Requests
  - 4 Third Party Subject Access Requests (An Garda Síochána etc)
  - 1 Data Subject Erasure Request
  - 1 Data Subject Rectification Request
- 9 granted, 6 denied, 8 pending decisions.
- GDPR/Data Protection Training:
 

All staff are required to complete mandatory data protection training throughout the year covering GDPR awareness, cyber security, and data breach procedures. August saw the introduction of a new suite of training courses for all staff. Additionally, two unit-specific courses have been developed for HR and IT teams. Further tailored training for other units is planned as part of the ongoing data protection training programme.

In-person sessions were delivered to several units including Water Safety (Lifeguards) to ensure role-specific compliance.



## GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL BRANDED STATIONERY

To support a consistent and professional image across all our communications, we're pleased to share a selection of Galway County Council branded stationery. Branded materials help reinforce our identity and enhance visibility in both internal and external communications. Whether you're attending meetings, or engaging with the public, using these items reflects pride in our work and promotes a unified presentation of the Council.

We encourage you to use these materials as part of your day-to-day work.

A SELECTION OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL'S  
BRANDED STATIONARY



MANAGEMENT TEAM WITH A SELECTION OF OUR NEW BRANDED STATIONARY

## RECREATION AND AMENITIES

### AUGHRIM VISITOR CENTRE – SUMMER SERIES 2025



The Aughrim Visitor Centre has successfully delivered three of its' five scheduled events for its' Summer Series 2025.

Each event has celebrated a unique aspect of Irish heritage, creativity, and historical reflection. The series has proven to be a vibrant platform for community engagement, education, and cultural enrichment.

Launched on June 20th with *“A Rich Harvest of Irish Musical Creativity & Composition”*, our inaugural 2025 event, drew a huge turnout with wonderful community support.

Attendees enjoyed a lively presentation celebrating Ireland’s musical legacy, with particular emphasis on composition and creativity. The event set a high standard for the series and highlighted the Centre’s role in promoting cultural dialogue.



### JUNE 20TH WITH “A RICH HARVEST OF IRISH MUSICAL CREATIVITY & COMPOSITION”





On August 23rd, the Centre hosted its annual “Walkabout and Talkabout on the 1691 Battle of Aughrim”, in collaboration with The Aughrim Cath Eachroma Community Group. Held as part of National Heritage Week, the event focused on historical storytelling and community reflection around one of Ireland’s most significant battles. The collaboration between local groups and the Council underscored the importance of preserving and sharing local history.



AUGUST 23<sup>RD</sup> 2025 “WALKABOUT AND TALKABOUT ON THE 1691 BATTLE OF AUGHRIM”

The third event, “The Raid on Castle Bellew”, took place on August 28th and was presented by historian Joe Clarke. This compelling talk examined the strategic raid that took place on Castle Bellew, interpreting it as a political message to a prominent Jacobite family. The event offered attendees a



deeper understanding of the shifting allegiances and tensions during this turbulent period in Irish history.

“THE RAID ON CASTLE BELLEW” AUGUST 28TH

With two more events scheduled for September (12th & 26th) — “The Wine Geese and the Auhrim Connection” and “An Introduction to the Life and Times of Playwright M.J. Molloy”— our 2025 series, will continue to engage new visitors to the centre.

The Centre has received overwhelmingly positive feedback this year, and attendance figures reflect a growing interest in its programming.

The success of the series so far highlights the value of collaborative cultural initiatives and the strong appetite for heritage-based events in the local community.

The Irish Independent visited the Centre on July 25th, TG4 filmed a musical show case on site on July 30th and Galway FM featured our August 28<sup>th</sup> event via interview with Joe Clarke as part of their 'History Talks' segment on the morning of August 27<sup>th</sup>.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

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.





### OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY

#### JULY & AUGUST STATS (1<sup>ST</sup> JULY TO 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2025)



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

## JULY & AUGUST OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY

Social Media Audience Metrics	Number of Posts	Monthly Post Impressions
 <a href="http://www.facebook.com/galwaycounty">www.facebook.com/galwaycounty</a>	356	674,027
 <a href="http://www.x.com/galwaycoco">www.x.com/galwaycoco</a>	257	62,245
 <a href="http://www.instagram.com/galwaycountycouncil">www.instagram.com/galwaycountycouncil</a>	413	126,197
 <a href="http://www.linkedin/galwaycoco">www.linkedin/galwaycoco</a>	16	5,730
Total Number of Posts	1,042 (259 posts in Irish – 24.85%)	

## FACEBOOK

### JULY AND AUGUST'S TOP THREE POSTS

**Top posts**



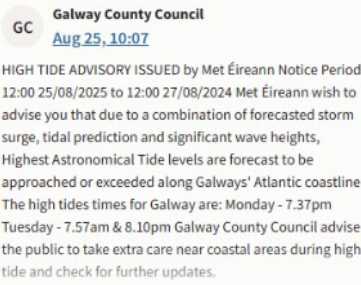
**Galway County Council**  
Aug 19, 12:36

"Féile John Ford" Brings Hollywood Legend Home to Connemara This September, the Connemara coastal village of An Spidéal will pay tribute to one of Hollywood's most influential directors with a major cultural event



**Galway County Council**  
Aug 02, 17:02

Status Yellow - Rain warning for Donegal, Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Sligo Met Éireann Weather Warning Storm Floris: Spells of heavy rain, with a chance of thunder. Possible impacts: • Difficult travelling conditions • Lightning




**Galway County Council**  
Aug 25, 10:07

HIGH TIDE ADVISORY ISSUED by Met Éireann Notice Period 12:00 25/08/2025 to 12:00 27/08/2024 Met Éireann wish to advise you that due to a combination of forecasted storm surge, tidal prediction and significant wave heights, Highest Astronomical Tide levels are forecast to be approached or exceeded along Galways' Atlantic coastline The high tides times for Galway are: Monday - 7.37pm Tuesday - 7.57am & 8.10pm Galway County Council advise the public to take extra care near coastal areas during high tide and check for further updates.

## X (PREVIOUSLY TWITTER)


### JULY AND AUGUST'S TOP THREE POSTS

**Top tweets**



@GalwayCoCo  
Aug 29, 16:22

<iframe src="https://ow.ly/SF8r50W0IFL" https://twitter.com/GalwayCoCo/status/1961464433940517351/photo/1



@GalwayCoCo  
Aug 11, 15:16

Upgrade works at Oranmore Station are set to begin, with a new underpass, to provide access to the new platform and second track planned at the station. The upgrade will also provide step-free access, cycling connectivity, and

and Public Holiday Monday.

**Some potential impacts**

- Dangerous travelling conditions
- Knock on impacts for outdoor events
- Structural damage
- Fall in trees, cables and loose objects
- Power outages
- Wave overtopping
- Localised flooding due to leaves

Warnings will be issued on Saturday 2/8/23 with further updates.

@GalwayCoCo  
Aug 01, 14:57


https://www.meteo.ie/forecast/meteorologists-commentary

https://twitter.com/GalwayCoCo/status/1951296172934480181/photo/1

## INSTAGRAM


### JULY AND AUGUST'S TOP THREE POSTS

**Top posts**




galwaycountycouncil  
Aug 17, 21:16

Our Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr Mary Hoade, at the Milwaukee Irish Fest, promoting Galway, attended mass this morning, presided over by The Most Reverend Jeffrey S. Grob, Archbishop of Milwaukee. Cllr Hoade while representing County Galway also had the pleasure today of meeting the Gardiner Brothers from Galway after their performance on stage, met with district Mayor Dan Devine, Mayor Bryan Glendale and Mayor Shawn Reilly as well as Judge Phil Chavez, ambassador to the US Geraldine Byrne Nason and even local neighbors Pat and Barbara Creaven.



galwaycountycouncil  
Aug 29, 11:46

Galway County Council is delighted to confirm Government approval of €35.75 million in funding to progress the extension of the pier on Inis Oírr. This significant investment has allowed us to award the main construction contract to Ward & Burke Construction Ltd, following a detailed two-year procurement process. The project, part of the National Development Plan, will deliver: - A concrete pier extension - A new breakwater to protect against waves and storms - Increased berthage capacity for vessels, particularly during the busy summer season. The announcement was made on Inis Oírr by Minister Dara Calleary and



galwaycountycouncil  
Aug 08, 15:11

From Áras an Chontae, Galway County Council 🌟 Best of luck to the Galway Ladies Senior Camogie Team 🏏 As you take to the pitch this Sunday in the All-Ireland Camogie Final at Croke Park, know that the Members and Staff of Galway County Council are proudly behind you every step of the way. Your dedication, skill, and spirit inspire us all. 🙌 Gaillimh Abú! 🇮🇪 🇮🇪 Ó Áras an Chontae, Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe 🌟 Adh mór ar Fhoireann Camógaloichta Shínsearach Bán na Gaillimhe 🌟 Agus sibh ag dul chun páirce an Domhain seo i gCluiche Ceannais Camógaloichta na hÉireann i bPáirc an Chrócaigh, bíodh a fhios gaibh go bhfuil

## LINKEDIN


### JULY AND AUGUST'S TOP THREE POSTS

**Top posts**



Galway County Council  
Aug 28, 12:01

Galway County Council is currently assessing the demand for Affordable Housing across County Galway, and we want to hear from you! We invite you to take part in a



Galway County Council  
Jul 13, 10:00

Vacancy/Fólintais: CLERICAL OFFICER/OIFIGEACH CLÉIREACHAIS https://ow.ly/eUpJ50WmSQ2 #jobfairy #gaillimh #galway



Galway County Council  
Aug 01, 09:25

Vacancy/Fólintais: Senior Executive Planner/PLEANÁLAÍ SINSEARACH FEIDHMIÚCHÁIN https://ow.ly/x9Fk50WytvL #jobfairy #gaillimh #galway

---

## GOOD NEWS STORY: BALLINASLOE AND TUAM LEISURE CENTRES - ENHANCEMENT

Ballinasloe and Tuam Leisure Centres have been recently enhanced through a refurbishment of their changing room facilities, thanks to funding secured by Galway County Council through Sports Capital Grants.

These investments will improve the hygiene, functionality, and overall user experience of the centres, addressing long-standing concerns raised by both Leisure Centres' staff and members, as these centres approach their 20th year in operation.

The Facilities team within Corporate Services played a pivotal role in delivering this project.

From the initial tendering process to researching the most suitable best practice flooring materials available, coordinating contractor engagement, and supervising the works on-site, these projects have been executed to a very high standard and within scope.

The teams' hands-on involvement was critical in achieving upgrades that meet both operational and user needs.

Scope of Works Completed at each Leisure Centre:

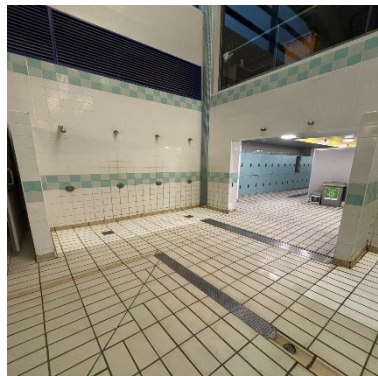
- Removal and storage of existing cubicles for reuse.
- Demolition of six internal walls in male and female changing rooms.
- Removal of outdated shower units and skirting tiles.
- Preparation of floors for new resin flooring, chosen for its durability and ease of cleaning.
- Installation of whiterock sheeting in shower areas to improve hygiene and aesthetics.
- Application of resin flooring in changing rooms and poolside showers.
- Installation of new, modern shower units.
- Retiling around showers adjacent to the steam room.
- Reinstallation and fitting of new cubicles.
- Final cleaning and preparation for reopening.

These refurbishments are not just cosmetic—they directly address key issues identified during staff consultations in both leisure centres. The previous flooring and wall tiles had become “impossible to keep clean,” negatively impacting membership renewals and new sign-ups.

The new resin floors and whiterock wall cladding now offer a brighter, cleaner, and more hygienic environment, making daily cleaning faster and more effective."

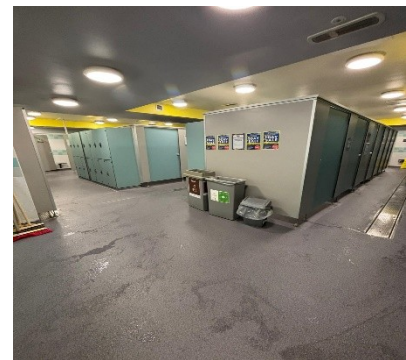
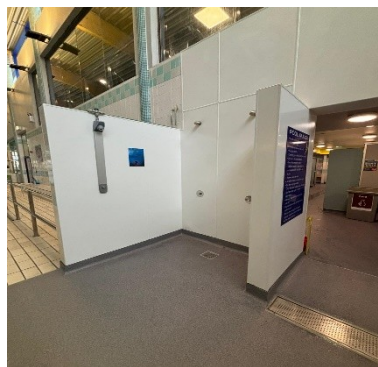
---

### BALLINASLOE LEISURE CENTRE BEFORE PICTURES



---

### BALLINASLOE LEISURE CENTRE AFTER PICTURES



---

### TUAM LEISURE CENTRE BEFORE PICTURES



---

## TUAM LEISURE CENTRE AFTER PICTURES



## COMMUNITY, RURAL & TOURISM DEVELOPMENT & INTEGRATION

### LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

An LCDC Meeting will be held online on the 30th September. Agenda items include a presentation from Comhairle na nÓg on the Dormant Account Fund 2024. Presentations will also be presented on the Pride of Place competitions.

---

### SICAP SUPPORT WORKSHOP

The Department of Rural & Community Development & Gaeltacht are hosting a SICAP “In our Words” Event on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October in Radisson Hotel, Athlone. This event will be an inspiring showcase of community led Social Inclusion projects and initiatives supported by the Government of Ireland, European Union and the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht and shared through the voices of those with lived experience. This event aims to create a shared sense of purpose among stakeholders and open the door to meaningful collaboration to improve social inclusion and community initiatives.

### HEALTHY IRELAND – HEALTHY COUNTY GALWAY

---

### WOMEN’S HEALTH PROGRAMME

Healthy County Galway is delighted to announce the rollout of our next community-focused initiative aimed at supporting women’s health and wellbeing across the county. Building on the success of the Women’s programme in Spring 2025, *Empowering*



Women's Health returns this autumn with a fresh line-up of expert speakers and engaging topics centred around Perimenopause, Menopause, and Post menopause.

The programme will run over five weeks on Thursday evenings from late September to late October, streamed live to a wide network of venues including offshore island and rural communities.

The Talk-Series will run over five weeks on Thursday evenings

**Empowering Women's Health**  
Perimenopause - Menopause - Postmenopause

A 5-week Women's Health and Wellness Programme

Streamed live to venues across County Galway

Expert guest speakers  
Practical health & wellness tips  
A warm space to connect with women  
Enjoy a cup of tea and chat

**Thursdays 6.45pm-8.30pm**  
25th September  
2nd October  
9th October  
16th October  
23rd October

**Venues**

- Comhar Caomhán, Inis Oírr
- Inishbofin Community Centre
- Comharumann Aran, Inis Mór
- Comhacht Forbartha, Inis Meáin
- Loughrea Resource Centre
- SCUL Sanctuary, Clarinbridge
- Chlann Resource Centre, Oughterard
- Forum Connemara Offices, Glenties
- Recess Community Center, Recess
- Ard Ri House Hotel, Tuam
- Moycullen Community Centre

Scan the QR to register or call your venue  
Form also available by visiting [www.linktr.ee/healthycountygaway](http://www.linktr.ee/healthycountygaway)

Partners: Galilinh, HSE, Pobal, etc.

from late September to late October, streamed live to a wide network of venues including offshore island and rural communities throughout Galway County.

Each session offers practical advice, expert insights, and a welcoming space for women to connect, chat, and enjoy a cup of tea together. This initiative reflects our commitment to inclusive health promotion and is delivered in partnership with the HSE, Forum Connemara, Comhar na nOileáin, and local resource centres.

**Empowering Women's Health**  
Perimenopause - Menopause - Postmenopause

On Thursdays 6.45pm - 8.30pm

**Programme Schedule and Speakers**

25 September	Geraldine Connolly Consultant OB/GYN Women's Health	Paula Herbert Yoga Instructor
2 October	Joan Dooley Community Herbalist	Ian Claxton Acupuncturist
9 October	Cynthia Neeedo Vital Health Promotion Officer Cardiovascular & Bone Health	Orlaith Kilgallon Physiotherapist Pelvic Health
16 October	Mrs. Lisa Corbett Vital Sense Community Nutritional	Karen Concannon Sports Scientist Physical Exercise
23 October	Lailaha Mulla Galway Recovery College Mental Health	M. N. Chonghaile Breastwork Facilitator Breastwork

You can register either by:  
• scanning the QR code  
• visiting [www.linktr.ee/healthycountygaway](http://www.linktr.ee/healthycountygaway)  
• emailing [info@hse.ie](mailto:info@hse.ie) or [galway@hse.ie](mailto:galway@hse.ie)

Partners: HSE, Pobal, etc.

## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE – TAKING STOCK CAMPAIGN

Healthy County Galway is partnering with the IFA and Teagasc to bring a free community health event to Mountbellew, County Galway. The event will be hosted in the Agricultural College on Wednesday, 1st October, from 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM. This initiative is designed to support the health and wellbeing of women working in agriculture and rural areas, recognising the unique challenges they face and the importance of accessible health services.



**Supporting Women's Health in Agriculture and Rural Communities**

MOUNTBELLEW AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

**FREE EVENT**  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October  
10.30am - 1:30pm

Mountbellew Agricultural College, Co. Galway  
H53 WE00

Join Us for a Free Community Health Event!

**What's Included:**

- ✓ Preventative Care Guidance
- ✓ Free Health Checks
- ✓ Expert Speakers (Covering Health & Wellbeing Topics)

Partners: HSE, IFA, Teagasc, CR Heart Stroke Centre, etc.

Organised in collaboration with Mountbellew Agricultural College, the event will offer preventative care guidance, free health checks, and expert speakers covering a range of health and wellbeing topics. It provides a valuable opportunity for women in rural communities to access support, connect with others, and learn more about maintaining their health in a practical and engaging setting.

This initiative is supported by a strong network of partners including Healthy Ireland, HSE, Teagasc, Irish Farmers' Association (IFA), and the CR Heart Stroke Centre, reflecting a shared commitment to improving health outcomes in rural Ireland.

## FARMERS / MEN ON THE MOVE – PROMOTING HEALTH IN CONNEMARA



Healthy County Galway in partnership with Galway Sports Partnership is pleased to support *Farmers on The Move* and *Men on the Move*, a new physical activity programme designed to promote men's health and wellbeing in the Connemara region. Starting Wednesday, 24th September, the programme will run for eight consecutive weeks at Spórtlann Naomh Anna, Leitir Móir, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM each evening.

This initiative encourages men of all ages and fitness levels to get active in a relaxed, supportive environment. Each

session focuses on improving physical fitness, building confidence, and fostering social connection. Refreshments will be provided, offering participants a chance to unwind and chat after the session.

Delivered in partnership with Forum Connemara CLG and Galway Sports Partnership, *Men on The Move* reflects a shared commitment to inclusive, community-led health promotion. The programme is part of a broader effort to support healthier lifestyles and strengthen community ties through accessible and engaging local initiatives.



## DEMENTIA CAFES AND SOCIAL CLUB IN CONNEMARA

### MEMORY CAFÉ – LETTERFRACK AND ROUNDSTONE



The Memory Café in Letterfrack launched in July of this year and continues to offer a welcoming and supportive environment for individuals living with memory loss and their caregivers. As part of the Connemara Memory Café initiative these monthly informal gatherings have been set up to provide opportunities for social connection, engaging activities, and refreshments in a relaxed setting.

The Letterfrack Memory Café will be hosted at two venues for facilitate activities including The Wild Goat Café in Connemara West on Monday 1st September, and The Clover Fox, Letterfrack on 6th October, 3rd November, and 1st December, from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM. The Roundstone Memory Café is

also about to commence and will be hosted at the Roundstone Community Centre (Lower Hall) on the 11th September, 9th October, 13th November, and 11th December, from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM.

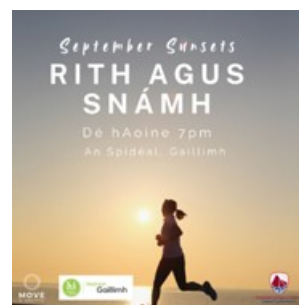
The July session in Letterfrack was a great success, with a strong turnout of participants who benefitted from the thoughtfully planned activities and schedule coordinated by Kathleen Aspell, our dedicated facilitator. These initiatives are supported by Forum Connemara CLG, Healthy County Galway, the HSE, and SICAP.



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

In addition to its support for Memory Cafés in Roundstone and Letterfrack, the Healthy County Galway programme continues to champion a wide range of community-led health and wellbeing initiatives across the county. The latest examples include:

“September Sunsets – Rith agus Snámh” in An Spidéal, a community event promoting physical activity and social connection through a sunset run and swim, supported by Galway County Council, Healthy Ireland, and Move & Breathe.



Qi Gong Classes led by Ann Keenaghan, offering a six-week free programme for both men and women. Held at Sean Scoil Salearna starting 23rd September at 10:30 AM, these sessions promote gentle movement, mindfulness, and holistic wellbeing in a scenic and welcoming setting.



These initiatives reflect the programme’s commitment to promoting inclusive, accessible, and locally driven health initiatives that foster community spirit and wellbeing across Galway.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

### AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

---

#### POSITIVE AGEING WEEK

Positive Ageing Week is an annual initiative to emphasize the **positive aspects of ageing** and highlight the **significant roles older people play** in our families and our communities. The theme for Positive Ageing Week 2025 is "[Challenging Ageism: Reframing How We Think, Feel and Act towards ageing and older persons](#)", a continuation of 2024 focusing on promoting inclusivity and respect across generations by addressing negative stereotypes about ageing.

Positive Ageing Week 2025 is taking place on the week of the 29<sup>th</sup> September with the launch of the PAW Heroes in the Town Hall Theatre, Galway on the 30<sup>th</sup> September at 1pm. At this event 29 PAW heroes from across Galway City and Galway County who exemplify active and healthy ageing will be presented with a memento of their profile by the Mayor of Galway City, Cllr Mike Cubbard and the Cathaoirleach of Galway County, Cllr. David Collins. Galway City and Galway County Council has worked in partnership with **COPE Galway, Galway City Partnership, Galway Rural Development, Forum Connemara, Comhar na nOileain, the HSE and our Library service** to create this unique exhibition of Older People

---

#### AGE FRIENDLY STRATEGY

The strategy is currently contracted out for translation. The joint elected members briefing (Galway County and Galway City Councils) took place on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Eleven elected members were in attendance. The next step is for the strategy to be tabled before the respective relevant SPC in each Local Authority for adoption. Thereafter a launch of the strategy will be organised for later in the year.

---

#### NATIONAL AGE FRIENDLY AWARDS

The awards which are jointly hosted by Galway County and Galway City Councils takes place on October 23rd in the Galmont Hotel Galway. Two Galway projects (Jacinta Barrins Climate 60+ Drive and Positive Ageing Week – Local Heroes Campaign) were shortlisted and the judges visited both projects on August 28th.

---

#### AGE FRIENDLY GENERAL

The Galway County Older Persons Council met on September 4<sup>th</sup> to welcome new members and start planning for 2026. A new chairperson of the National Network of OPC's (NNOPCs) that will be elected at the next meeting of NNOPC in September. Nomination forms have

issued through the local OPCs. The Age Friendly Sports Day event is on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September at the National Indoor Arena, Sport Ireland Campus, Blanchardstown. Registration forms were issued out through the local Age Friendly Programme and interested groups and individuals had until September 5<sup>th</sup> to register.

---

### COMHAIRLE NA NOG

County Comhairle na nOg are to host this year's Youth Conference on Tuesday 21st October in the Council Chamber. The Cathaoirleach has kindly confirmed his attendance to open the event.

---

### COMMUNITY AWARDS

Pride of Place judging will take place in the Marconi Mens Shed, Clifden on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September where the Men's Shed will showcase the inter-agency approach taken to establish and develop the Men's Shed. It was established exclusively by male family carers who have benefited from ongoing partnership projects between the HSE Carers Department, Forum Connemara, and Galway County Council through Creative Ireland and Healthy Ireland funding. The Marconi Men's Shed has been entered under the Community Wellbeing Category.

The judging panel will visit Clarinbridge Tidy Towns on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September where Clarinbridge will showcase their important community amenities and facilities which impact on quality of life for residents and visitors as part of their entry in the Population Category of 300-1,000.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

The PPN hosts its first Plenary event on 16<sup>th</sup> September in the Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry with more than fifteen Departments showcasing Galway County Council's various grants for 2025 and upcoming grants for 2026 along with other information tables. Doors open at 4pm. Opening address will begin at 5pm.

Guest speaker Mr. Donal Quinn, solicitor will give a presentation on Estate Planning & Wills followed by presentations from various departments in Galway County Council.

The PPN has held two Secretariat meetings, one on 14<sup>th</sup> July and one on 1<sup>st</sup> September. The PPN has now two proposed representatives on the Local Community & Development Committee.

In July Ms. Heneghan from the Secretariat and Ms. Connolly attended the first PPN National workshop in Portlaoise on "Building Community Resilience for times of Emergency" which had representatives from all PPNs in the country. In August the PPN Secretariat contributed to the "Development Of New Strategy To Support The Community And Voluntary Sector".

## RURAL GRANTS SCHEME

### TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL, GORT STREETScape SCHEME

Gort Town Team have continued to work with the County Council Rural Development Team to encourage the completion of shopfront repair and painting upgrades to the Main Square, Crowe and Bridge Steet in Gort. Significant progress has been made during July and August 2025 with a strong visual impact evident in the Town Centre and over €67,000 has been paid to Property Owners and Leaseholders to date under the Scheme.

A total of 70 properties have been offered grant aid in the period since November 2024 where detailed Offers were issued on the foot of a Scheme Launch in June 2024.

On March 6<sup>th</sup> 2025, a 'Spring into Action' Scheme Re-launch Event was held in Gort Town Hall. The session provided invaluable insights, on conservation, best practice and how to finalise colour consultants and funding claims with presentation by Galway County Council Conservation Officer (Ann Marie Cusack) on the Gort ACA (Architectural Conservation Area). Carpenters, Painters and Local Sign-Writers were also in attendance to provide advise to approved applicants. Administrative Staff from the Rural Development Team in the Community Section of the Council staff held information clinics at the Gort Resource Centre to assist property owners to file their funding claims on the 14/5/2025, 24/6/2025 and again at the end of July 31/7/2025. A further 'clinic' session will be held in September.



PHOTO: GORT MARKET SQUARE, STREETScape SCHEME, JULY 2025.  
PHOTOGRAPH: GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

By the end of August 2025, 39 grants have been paid to local property owners and tenants for completed properties and a further 31 grant claims are on track to be finalised by the end of September 2025. There may be some capacity to add a small number of properties to the scheme however this will depend on a deadline extension being approved by the Department of Community, Rural Development and the Gaeltacht. The scheme is mainly seasonal and weather dependent and relies on availability of carpenters, sign-writers and painters.

Each approved applicant invested a minimum matching funding of 20% of their project costs as the grant scheme allowed for up to 80% of eligible costs incurred by the property owner or leaser for the following works.

- Green enhancement of entrances terraces with planting.
- Painting of buildings/shop fronts in carefully selected colours which will complement the host building and streetscape.
- Decluttering and repair of shopfronts, this can include removing unnecessary signage, flagpoles wiring etc.
- Appropriate illumination and lighting of architectural features of buildings
- Replacement of signage with traditional wooden fascia with hand painted lettering or an approved contemporary design dependent on the building.
- The scheme has been really well received by the locals and has had high recognition on the Gort Town Team Facebook Pages  
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16r67roFcV/>

---

## TV GORT STREETScape SCHEME

SAMPLE BEFORE PICTURES - KEY LOCAL LANDMARK, CORNER OF MARKET SQ AND CROWE ST, SULLIVANS HOTEL, GORT

---





## ARTS OFFICE

### CULTURE NIGHT

Culture Night takes place on Friday 19th of September from 4pm to midnight. With over 50 events, our Culture Night programme includes music, theatre, visual arts, poetry, zine-making, photography, drumming, crafts and storytelling for all ages. Events will happen throughout the day and late into the evening across our five Municipal Districts. Preparations are well underway and the Arts Office invites everyone at the Council to support their local Culture Night events.

[Click here for the programme in English](#)

[Cliceáil anseo don chlár i nGaeilge](#)

THE MARINE INSTITUTE SINGERS,  
CULTURE NIGHT 2024. PHOTO:  
AENGUS MCMAHON



---

## WHERE LIGHT LINGERS AT KYLEMORE ABBEY

As part of this year's Culture Night Late, Galway County Council proudly presents 'Where Light Lingers', an immersive light, performance and sound experience at Kylemore Abbey in Connemara in partnership with Kylemore Abbey and produced by Culture Works. This stunning nighttime event will captivate audiences as the grounds of Kylemore Abbey are transformed into a magical experience through light and performance by local and national artists.

After dusk falls, audiences will wander through illuminated pathways and corners on the grounds of Kylemore Abbey and discover a series of artistic and site-specific interventions: ambient soundscapes, soft illuminations and close-up performances. Each moment of this journey will offer space for reflection and wonder, with artists presenting works that echo the natural and cultural richness of the place.

Galway based artists Jane Cassidy, Linda Schirmer and Alannah Robins will come together with Dublin based Aoife Dunne, Wexford based Gillian O'Shea and Connemara's choir Cantairí Chonamara to create an unforgettable Culture Night.

Audiences are invited to Kylemore Abbey from 8:30pm, with performances to start at 9pm on Friday 19 September.



Funded by the Arts Council, Department of Culture, Communications and Sport and Galway County Council. In partnership with Kylemore Abbey. Produced by Culture Works.

---

### WHERE LIGHT LINGERS POSTER

---

## GALWAY CITY OF FILM/ CEANTAR SCANNÁN

Congratulations to Oisín and Saidbh Mac Coille who have received our Ceantar Scannán Short Documentary Bursary 2025.

Oisín Mac Coille is a Galway-based writer and director with a background in short film and television. Originally from Cork, he has been living and working in Galway for almost twenty years.

Oisín’s work focuses on telling personal, human stories with honesty, care, and an eye for the quiet moments that often go unnoticed. His project, ‘Art That Rises’, follows his ten-year-old daughter, Saidbh, as she searches for belonging and joy after being diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at the age of eight.

Like many children living with lifelong conditions, Saidbh has faced challenges that have left her feeling isolated or different. The film captures the simple but powerful moments where creativity offers her — and others — the chance to belong, to feel normal, and to just be a child again.

Oisín’s work is shaped by real-life experiences, with a focus on quiet resilience, small joys, and the stories often happening just beneath the surface. When not working, he’s usually found being kept busy by his daughters or figuring out the next story worth telling.

The Short Documentary Bursary is managed on our behalf by Ardán. Oisín and Saidbh will receive €3,000 to help them make a short documentary of between five and fifteen minutes in duration. Alongside the bursary, they will be mentored by filmmaker Donal Haughey.

---

OISÍN AND SAIDBH MAC COILLE



---

## MEITHEAL BY BRANAR

The Arts Office is delighted to support Branar’s Meitheal programme once again in 2025/2026. After a competitive open call, ten artists and producers will be supported in the creation, development and presentation of work for young audiences over the next year.

Maise Lee a theatre director based in Galway County is the successful artist being supported by the Arts Office. This new cohort join the programme’s alumni, further strengthening the network of artists and producers creating high quality work for children and young people.

[Click here for more information about this year's Meitheal](#)

---

## DANCE ARTIST RESIDENCY SCHEME – MAGDALENA HYLAK

The culmination of Magdalena Hylak’s Dance Artist Residency took place on Saturday 30 August. Magdalena brought dance practitioners, programmers and dance organisations together for a dynamic symposium that centred on dance as a living practice of performance and considered how presence, embodiment, and individual authorship shape

the evolving nature of dance. The symposium included a masterclass with Fearghus Ó Conchúir; keynote presentations from Ella Clarke and Mary Nunan; a panel discussion and film screening of AFTERMATH by MAGDALENA HYLAK AND LIONEL KASPARIAN.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE SYMPOSIUM](#)

That evening Magdalena curated a Triple Bill of Evening Performances at the Black Box Theatre featuring new work by Magdalena Hylak, Fearghus Ó Conchúir and Mufutau Yusuf.

[Click here for more information about Dance Triple Bill](#)



DANCE TRIPLE BILL POSTER

---

## TINY MUTINY- A GALWAY COUNTY INITIATIVE FOR YOUNG ARTISTS

Sparkcatchers! is set to present Tiny Mutiny '25, a free family-friendly arts event showcasing the creative talents of young artists from across County Galway. This year Tiny Mutiny is part of Clifden Arts Festival and celebrates the next generation of filmmakers, musicians, dancers, writers and animators.

Tiny Mutiny '25 highlights the achievements of teenagers recognised through the Tiny Mutiny Project Awards and First Sparks Bursaries.

The production provides a platform for young artists to shine, offering both stage and screen opportunities to present their work to the public.

The event features a stop motion animation by Dean Oates; live music from singer-songwriter Millie Ross; a reading by writer and illustrator Aibhín-Lily Ralph; and a comedy film from Bog Standard Films, the creative team of Colm O'Neill, Conor O'Brien, Luca Newell and Connor Gurney.

Digital animator Michelle Jennings and contemporary dancer Amy Lazor will share works in progress developed through their First Sparks Bursaries.

The programme concludes with a panel discussion where the young artists and their mentors reflect on their creative journeys over the four-month Tiny Mutiny programme.

Now in its second year, Tiny Mutiny continues to nurture young talent across County Galway, offering mentorship from professional artists and helping participants to explore, develop and realise their creative ambitions.

The project is commissioned by Galway County Council Arts Office in partnership with Sparkcatchers! and supported by Galway County Council and The Arts Council.

Admission is free and this will all take place on Saturday, September 20 in The Town Hall, Clifden at 4pm.



TINY MUTINY ARTISTS 2025

---

## TUAM YOUTH CIRCUS

The Arts Office has supported Galway Community Circus over the past four years to pilot, develop and establish a Youth Circus programme in Tuam. Youth Circus is about providing opportunities for artistic, personal and social growth in a fun, non-competitive atmosphere.

In 2025/2026 there will be 32 weeks of Youth Circus classes at The Family Centre (TUSLA Building) Sports Hall. Autumn term is September to December, and spring term is January to June. Class registration for the 2025-2026 circus school year is currently open. Classes begin the week of 15th September. These classes are for ages 5-12.

**Flea Circus:** Introduces children aged 5 to 7 years to circus arts through a variety of fun games and activities. At this young age, the principles of teamwork, self-belief and understanding are foundational, paving the way for further development as they grow older.

**Junior Circus:** Classes are designed for young people aged 8 to 12 years. Students engage in



the various disciplines of circus, including aerial, manipulation, balance, acrobatics, clowning, as well as stage presence.

---

GALWAY COMMUNITY CIRCUS OPEN DAY 2024. PHOTO ANITA MURPHY

---

## GALWAY THEATRE FESTIVAL AND FISHAMBLE AUTUMN RESIDENCY

Congratulations to Ari Bhatti, Rosa Mäkelä and Sarah-Jane Scott the 3 Galway County theatre artists who were selected to take part in the Galway Theatre Festival and Fishamble: The New Play Company's Autumn Residency. Seven artists were selected in total. The week-long residency ran from 01 – 05 September in Galway City and was facilitated by Literary Manager Gavin Kostick. Artists received a stipend, accommodation, theatre tickets, guest lecture and access supports where needed. They are all developing new projects for the stage while learning dramaturgical skills to support their theatre practices in the future. Their new work from this residency will be considered for inclusion in Galway Theatre Festival's 2026 programme.

[Click here for more information about the artists and residency.](#)



---

L-R: ARI BHATTI, ROSA MÄKELÄ & SARAH-JANE SCOTT

---

## PUBLIC ART

The *'Stone Walls and The Grass is Green'* Percent for Art Commission in Baile Chláir is making good progress. The Stage 1 selection panel was held on Friday 25 August. Four submissions were shortlisted: two teams of two artists and two individual artists.

A site visit with the selected artists, Sharon O'Grady (Arts Officer), Ramona Burke (Arts Office Administrator), Rina White (Curator), Vincent Lyons (Baile Chláir Public Arts Advisory Panel) and Paul Sheedy (Executive Engineer, NPRO) was held on Tuesday 19 August.

The applicants had around an hour and a half onsite, walking the area and familiarising themselves with its context, site concerns and so on.



The artists have received a Stage Two Brief requesting proposals and information on the upcoming road improvement works planned for Baile Chláir. The Stage Two Selection Panel will be held on Friday 03 October at Áras an Chontae.

---

PUBLIC ART SITE VISIT, BAILE CHLÁIR

## CREATIVE IRELAND

At this time of year, many Creative Ireland initiatives across Galway County reach their final stages. It presents an ideal opportunity to reflect on the programme's cultural and community impact, as exhibitions are unveiled, and new video content is released. The following section outlines some of the most recent developments delivered through Galway County Council's Creative Ireland programme.

---

## MENDING HEARTS EXHIBITION LAUNCH

This Creative Health & Wellbeing project has been delivered over the course of the last two years in partnership with Galway City Council, Saolta Arts, Healthy Ireland, and Croí. The project involved arts and creativity projects with cardiovascular patients, as well as their families and carers, in both acute and community settings throughout Galway City and County. The County based workshops culminated in an exhibition of work at Ballinasloe Library which was launched by Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Collins who spoke on the importance of creativity for wellbeing and congratulated the participants on their remarkable work. This has been a highly attended project and there is great appetite in the community for it to continue beyond the current tranche of funding which was secured in 2024.



---

L-R: MS. OLGA MAGLIOCCO, SAOLTA ARTS, CLLR. DAVID COLLINS, CATHAOIRLEACH OF COUNTY GALWAY, & MS. VALERIE KELLY, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL ATTEND LAUNCH OF MENDING HEARTS EXHIBITION IN BALLINASLOE LIBRARY.

---

## MUSIC IN THE AFTERNOONS

Now in its third year, Music in the Afternoons is a project run in collaboration with Music Connects (Formerly Galway Music Residency) to deliver live music performances in residential healthcare settings throughout Galway County. This year the focus was Connemara and the Aran Islands. Several sessions have taken place already on Inis Mór, as well as Carna and Clifden. As always, the performances have been extremely well received as both musicians and residents report a high level of enjoyment from this project. This is a project which continues to grow year on year, with Galway County Council being awarded additional funds of €25,000 to run a full programme across City & County in 2025. It is hoped that this project can continue as each year more nursing homes get in contact in hopes of taking part.

---

## JAMES MAC MUA AT SHORELINES ARTS FESTIVAL

James Mac Inerney is an internationally acclaimed Professional Makeup Artist, most recognised for being a finalist on the Netflix and BBC series Glow Up season 2 and guest judge for RTÉ's Glow Up Ireland.

As part of the Shorelines Art Festival, Portumna will host a special photography showcase, comprising of 20 looks which promises a unique exploration of the intersection between makeup and art. James Mac uses makeup as a medium to express artistry and tell stories, demonstrating its potential beyond traditional beauty applications. The exhibition touches on themes of identity, personal journey, and the LGBTQIA+ community, as it also pays homage to James' family and friends.



Creative Ireland, Galway County Council is funding this event to keep it free of charge for all, aligning with our ethos that creativity is for everyone, and financial pressures should not be a barrier to participation.

---

## CULTURE & CREATIVITY TEAM PROJECTS

Galway County Council has a Culture and Creativity Team which also feeds into the allocation of Creative Ireland funding. Members are encouraged to manage a project in their own area of expertise which brings creativity into the community. Below is a recent highlight from the C&C team.

As part of Heritage Week 2025, Oughterard Heritage launched their video, **9 Irons** which features the story of John Henry Joyce, a man who was given a ring of 9 irons as a baby as a protection against any harm that might come his way. This is part of the ongoing **Forged**

**Gates** project managed by Heritage Officer, Marie Mannion. Over the last few years Marie has helped several community groups throughout Galway County to research their traditions of blacksmithing and metalwork craftsmanship. The current project, **Forged in Fire**, is well underway in Ballinasloe and we look forward to seeing what historical treasures have been uncovered there.



LAUNCH OF 9 IRONS FILM IN OUGHTERARD COURTHOUSE WITH OUGHTERARD HERITAGE GROUP, MARIE MANNION, HERITAGE OFFICER, VALERIE KELLY CREATIVE COMMUNITIES' ENGAGEMENT OFFICER, AND PAUL MURPHY FILM MAKER.

## GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

### SEANA MHAC WALKING AND CYCLING TRAILS

Galway Sports Partnership was delighted to attend Údarás na Gaeltachta official launch of the Seana Mhac Walking and Cycling Trails by Minister Dara Calleary on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2025.

The Seana Mhach Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure project includes three loops for tourists and visitors to explore and has a downloadable guided audio tour for an enhanced visitor experience.

The project includes the following footpath loops:

Bealach Sheana Mhach (7km) - 2-2.5 hour walk

Lúibín Loch Bhárr an tSrutháin (2.69km) - 0.75-1 hour walk

Lúibín Loch na mBruaichíní (3.35km) - 0.75-1 hour walk



Nestled in the heart of Connemara, these trails showcase the breathtaking beauty of the boglands and provide a fantastic opportunity for walking, hiking, and connecting with nature.

---

## BALLINASLOE COMMUNITY SPORTS HUB

---

### BUGGY BUDDIES

The Buggy Buddies programme returned to Ballinasloe in July and August and was once again a huge hit with new mothers in the community. The programme offered a supportive and active space for mums to connect, move, and enjoy time outdoors with their little ones.

The sessions saw a steady increase in participation. In fact, we welcomed new participants during the final three weeks, showing the growing interest and value of the programme.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and many of the mums and new mums are already looking forward to the next block starting in the Autumn!



---

BALLINASLOE COMMUNITY SPORTS HUB HAD A BUSY SUMMER SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE ACTIVE THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS.

---

### SCOIL UÍ CHEITHEARNAIGH JULY PROVISION – JUNIOR CAMP HIGHLIGHTS

As part of the July Provision programme at Scoil Uí Cheiternaigh, we introduced the fantastic Mini Athletics Programme to the Junior Camp, bringing energy, fun, and skill-building to the Irish school setting.



With 24 enthusiastic kids taking part, we split them into two groups to ensure each child received focused attention and maximum engagement during their sessions. The Mini Athletics activities were a hit, helping the children develop fundamental movement skills in a playful and structured environment.

---

## INVOLVE YOUTH SERVICES MULTI-SPORT CAMP RECAP

What was planned as a four-day Multi-Sport Camp turned into a three-day adventure due to unpredictable weather disrupting Day three's athletics session. Despite the setback, the camp was a great success, with 10–12 enthusiastic participants each day exploring different sports across Ballinasloe.



### **Day 1 – Gaelic Football @ Ballinasloe GAA Club**

The camp kicked off at the Ball Wall, where kids learned the fundamental movements and basic skills of Gaelic football. It was a great start, with lots of energy and engagement.

### **Day 2 – Tennis @ Ballinasloe Tennis Club**

Hosted at the newly upgraded facilities, Tennis Coach Ronan Flanagan led a dynamic session. Many kids were trying tennis for the first time, and Ronan was impressed by their positive attitudes and natural talent.

### **Day 3 – Cancelled due to weather**

Unfortunately, our athletics day was called off due to poor weather conditions.

### **Day 4 – Soccer @ Ballinasloe AFC Astro turf**

The final day featured soccer drills and fun games, rounding off the camp with laughter and skill-building on the astro turf.

**Feedback from Involve Youth Services** was overwhelmingly positive. The kids had a fantastic time, and there's hope that many will continue their sporting journeys by joining one or more of the local clubs in the upcoming season.

---

## BALLINASLOE RFC INCLUSIVE RUGBY SUMMER CAMP

A fantastic few days were had at Ballinasloe RFC for their Inclusive Rugby Summer Camp! Blessed with great weather, the camp was filled with energy, laughter, and learning as children of all abilities came together to enjoy the sport in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Participants picked up valuable rugby skills, with standout moments including the ever-popular 'Rob the Nest' game and the thrill of scoring tries on the crash mats—both clear favourites among the kids.

A massive credit to the dedicated coaches and volunteers, whose hard work and enthusiasm ensured the camp ran smoothly.

Special thanks to the children, whose energy, enthusiasm, and teamwork made the camp so enjoyable for everyone involved. Their smiles and spirit truly lit up the pitch!

The final day brought a wonderful surprise: Connacht players John and Matt Devine dropped by to run drills with the children, creating unforgettable memories and inspiring young players with their presence.



---

## INCLUSIVE KAYAKING

On Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th August Galway Sports Partnership hosted a two-day inclusive Kayaking Camp on Loughrea Lake with Let's Enjoy Outside. 12–18-year-olds took

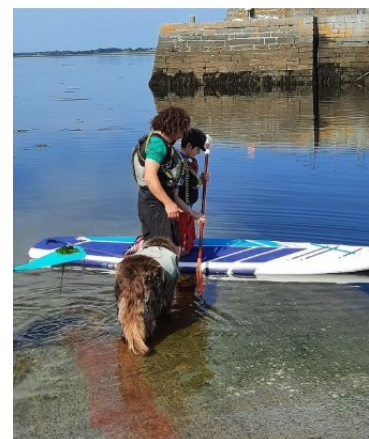


part in the morning session and over 18's took part in the afternoon session. This camp was supported through HSE funding and there were 14 participants in total.

---

## INCLUSIVE STAND UP PADDLEBOARDING

Galway Sports partnership working with Wet Mongrel Adventures were delighted to host an Inclusive Stand-Up Paddleboarding session at Tarrea Pier in Kinvara on 12<sup>th</sup> August. There were ten participants on the day from the local ANOA Group (Autism Neurodivergent Oranmore&Athenry).



---

## ESF + SOCIAL INNOVATION IN SPORT OFFICER

Gary Flannery began his role with Galway Sports Partnership in April as European Social Fund Plus Social Innovation Sports Officer. The objective behind the role is to encourage sport and physical activity for minority and disadvantaged groups within the community.

One ESF+ Officer is to be allocated per county, and 21 officers have been recruited across the country to date.

Strong engagement has been made with several key stakeholders over the past few months in Galway via Gary's role. This has seen very positive discussions with Jigsaw, Compass, Western Region Drug and Alcohol Task Force, Venture Out, Dóchas don Óige, Galway City Partnership, Planet Youth, Cuan Mhuire and the Galway and Mayo Education and Training Board.

Projects developed by ESF+ Officers are co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through Sport Ireland.

---

## CLUB OSAAT – SUPPORTING RECOVERY THROUGH SPORT

One of Gary's successes over the past number of months has been **Club OSAAT** (One Step At A Time). This is a new initiative designed to support individuals recovering from substance and gambling abuse through sport and physical activity. Inspired by a common recovery mantra, the club promotes staying present and progressing gradually.



Club OSAAT has offered members a range of activities including hiking, kayaking, padel ball, and football to date.

Looking ahead to 2026, Club OSAAT members plan to raise funds to give back to the community, reinforcing the club's ethos of recovery, empowerment, and contribution.

Club OSAAT aligns with **National Recovery Month**, which is celebrated each September across Ireland, and will continue with upcoming events such as go-karting and a retreat day



featuring yoga, mindfulness, and personal development and is a collaborative effort between the Western Region Drug & Alcohol Task Force, Galway Sports Partnership, Compass, Cuan Mhuire, Southwest Mayo Development Company and Venture Out.

Meetings have already begun with other stakeholders for future initiatives. Gary would love to hear from anyone connected to minority or disadvantaged target groups to collaborate and discuss future events.

Innovation is a critical element of the ESF+ role, so please contact Gary at [gflannery@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:gflannery@galwaycoco.ie) with any queries or ideas.

---

## MEN ON THE MOVE

September is a popular time of the year for people to get back into routines and take up new programmes and we are delighted to be working with a number of stakeholders to bring new programmes in both Leitir Móir and Letterfrack in the Autumn!



---

## HEALTHY IRELAND OUTDOOR SWIMMING INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT

Galway Sports Partnership was allocated €28,000 under the Healthy Ireland Outdoor Swimming Infrastructure Grant in 2024. As part of this grant new railings/ladders were installed at Portumna Swim area along with three Beach Shelters at Traught, An Spidéal and Inis Meáin. Inis Meain Swim Shelter was co-funded through a Healthy Ireland Age Friendly Grant.

The Swim Shelters have had beautiful murals painted and have been well received in all three areas.



SPIDDAL SWIM SHELTER PAINTED BY RONAN O'CONNOR



INIS MEÁIN SWIM SHELTER PAINTED BY MAUREEN CONCANNON



TRAUGHT SWIM SHELTER PAINTED BY ANNE MESSNER

### GORT ACTIVATOR WALKING PROGRAMME

Galway Sports Partnership was delighted to run a six-week Activator Programme in Gort in late August. The programme is taking place at Gort Community Centre with 20 Older Adults availing of the programme. This programme was funded by Healthy Galway.

### BALLINASLOE OLDER ADULTS' ACTIVITY DAY

Galway Sports Partnership along with Galway Rural Development hosted an Older Adults Activities Day in the Emerald Ballroom on 23<sup>rd</sup> September from 11am-1pm. This event took place as part of European Week of Sport and to celebrate Positive Ageing. There were guest speakers on the day with Frank Fahey of FitWalk Ireland being the highlight as Frank has been key to the delivery and roll out of Activator Programmes and Signage in Galway and has worked with a number of Women's/Mens Sheds, Active Retirement and Community Groups

**OLDER ADULTS ACTIVITIES DAY**  
 Tuesday 23rd September  
 11am-1pm  
 Emerald Ballroom, Ballinasloe H53 F582

Bring a friend!

GUEST SPEAKER  
**FRANK FAHEY**  
 FITWALK IRELAND

Free Tea & Coffee

- Information stands
- Try our Social Games
- Activator taster

across Galway. There were also information stands to highlight various activities and supports available along with plenty of activities on the day to keep people up and active and in some cases sitting and active with inclusion to the forefront of the day! This event was co funded by Galway Rural Development and through Galway Sports Partnership HSE funding.

---

## ACTIVE ISLANDS AUTUMN PROGRAMMES

Through our research for this Dormant Account and Údarás na Gaeltachta funded project the residents of the Islands main asks were for supports during the Autumn and Winter months particularly for Older Adults and afterschool programmes.

We are delighted to be bring Older Adult Classes to all four Islands in partnership with Siel Bleu. These 10-week programmes will involve an initial in person assessment and information day followed by 9 weeks of online classes hosted by the Comharchumann on each of the islands.

Island Couch to 5k – we are delighted to support a Couch to 5k on all four Islands starting in September. We have designed these to help create a community on each of the islands and that these can be stepping stones to various runs that take place on the islands and towards Inis Meain parkrun and the possibility of extending parkrun to the other islands.



We have a number of supports for after school programmes for the Autumn/Winter period with one exciting project being the roll out of our Glow Games Programme to the islands with their own specific equipment that can be shared amongst the islands over the Autumn and Winter Months.

---

## HER OUTDOORS WEEK 2025 RECAP

As part of Sport Ireland’s national initiative, HER Outdoors Week is all about providing more opportunities for females of all abilities to experience the outdoors.

HER Outdoors Week took place 11-17<sup>th</sup> August this year and was a vibrant celebration of women embracing the outdoors. Over the course of the week, 14 exciting events were hosted across Galway City and County, offering a wide variety of outdoor experiences. A total of 265 participants registered, reflecting strong community engagement and interest. Six outdoor clubs were awarded grants to host events, supporting inclusive programming and sustainable club development.

Galway Sports Partnership collaborated with several National Governing Bodies in the delivery of events, including Canoeing, Rowing, Mountaineering and Orienteering.

Participants had the opportunity to engage in a diverse range of activities, such as paddlesports, sailing, coastering, hiking, forest school, outdoor activator poles, swim and sauna, sea scouts, mountain skills, navigation, and rafting.

The week welcomed women of all ages, abilities, generations, cultures, and backgrounds, promoting inclusivity, empowerment, and connection through outdoor adventure. HER Outdoors Week successfully showcased the power of outdoor sport to unite communities and inspire women to explore, enjoy, and thrive in nature.



---

COASTERING WITH REAL ADVENTURES CONNEMARA

---

RAFTING ON THE RIVER CORRIB



---

STAND UP PADDLEBOARDING WITH RUSHEEN BAY

---

### SANCTUARY PADDLERS

The Sanctuary Paddlers Programme is a powerful example of how sport can foster inclusion, connection, and community. Launched on 15th August, the current six-week course has welcomed 12 participants from asylum-seeking, International Protection, and ethnic minority backgrounds. Developed through a collaboration between Galway Sports Partnership, Canoeing Ireland, Galway City Partnership, and Galway Kayak Club, the

programme is funded by the BRIDGE Project (Galway City Partnership) and SICAP. It offers participants the chance to complete a Level 1 or 2 Beginner Kayak course, equipping them with the skills and confidence to continue in the sport and integrate into club life.

Based in Woodquay, Galway, the location is central and easily accessible by public transport, ensuring participation is feasible for those living in Direct Provision or without private transport. Integration is a core focus, with participants encouraged to connect with existing club members and enjoy shared experiences on the water. Feedback from participants so far highlights the joy



and connection it brings—whether it's spending quality time with family, discovering Irish nature, or meeting new people. The Sanctuary Paddlers Programme is more than a sport initiative; it's a celebration of solidarity, belonging, and the transformative power of community.

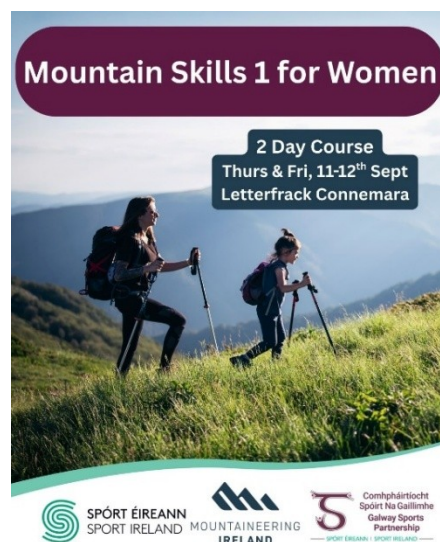
## MOUNTAIN SKILLS TRAINING FOR WOMEN

As part of the Sport Ireland Women in Sport initiative, Galway Sports Partnership successfully secured funding through Mountaineering Ireland to deliver two Mountain Skills 1 (MS1) training courses in 2025.

The first course took place in August in Leenaun, Connemara, with six women participating. The second course took place on 11–12th September in Letterfrack, Connemara, with an additional six women taking part.

The MS1 course provides participants with essential personal proficiency skills for safe and enjoyable mountain exploration. It covers key areas such as navigation techniques, mountain safety, hazard awareness, and appropriate equipment use, laying a strong foundation for independent hillwalking.

In addition to the hands-on training, each participant receives a 12-month membership to Mountaineering Ireland, supporting their continued engagement in the outdoors. This



initiative not only builds confidence and competence in the mountains but also promotes greater female participation in adventure sports across Galway.

---

## BUGGY BUDDIES ATHENRY, AN SPIDÉAL, DOUGHISKA AND BALLYBANE



Buggy Buddies is a postnatal-friendly exercise programme designed for mothers and carers of young children. Funded by Galway Sports Partnership through the HSE and Sport Ireland’s Women in Sport initiative, the programme was delivered in collaboration with Athenry Playgroup and led by experienced instructors Helen Daly, Airike Monahan and Sinéad McKiernan. The six-week course ran throughout July and August across community locations: Doughiska, Ballybane, Athenry and Spiddal. A

total of 58 women registered to take part, reflecting strong local interest and engagement.

Designed to accommodate all fitness levels—particularly new mums—the programme offers a safe, social, and supportive space to get active without the need for childcare. Participants enjoyed the opportunity to move, connect, and recharge in a relaxed outdoor setting, promoting both physical and mental wellbeing. Buggy Buddies continues to demonstrate the value of community-based fitness programmes in empowering women and fostering social connection.



Looking ahead to Autumn, Buggy Buddies locations will include Doughiska, Ballybane, Salthill, and Ballinasloe. Additionally, targeted information sessions will be held in Westside, Galway City to engage women living in nearby Direct Provision centres, ensuring the programme remains inclusive and accessible to all.

## INTEGRATION

We delivered over 50 clinics over the months of July and August, focused on Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and International Protection Applicants in accommodation centres.

Issues discussed covered a range from training and employment activation to specialist health needs and domestic violence. We signpost to relevant service providers.

We collaborated with the Jesuit Refugee Service to deliver activity days to families in accommodation centres in Tuam, Clifden and An Cheathrú Rua. We also liaised with GRETB to deliver information sessions to International Protection Applicants on education pathways.

The Community Integration Forum continues to meet on a monthly basis, as do the Intercultural and Health & Wellbeing Working Groups. These fora are opportunities for key stakeholders to raise issues and share learning.

In July, Jennifer O’Brien of the Sanctuary Runners presented at the Community Integration Forum meeting on the work of Sanctuary Runners.

## TOURISM

### MILWAUKEE IRISH FEST 2025

A delegation from Galway County Council, led by Leas-Chathaoirleach Cllr Mary Hoade and Chief Executive Liam Conneally, accompanied by Councillors Michael Regan and Michael “Moggie” Maher, and Director of Physical Infrastructure Uinsinn Finn, undertook a strategic visit to the US Midwest in August 2025, with the centrepiece being Galway’s participation at the Milwaukee Irish Fest—the world’s largest celebration of Irish culture, attracting over 120,000 attendees annually.

While in Milwaukee the delegation attended a special meeting of the Milwaukee City Council held in conjunction with the city’s Irish Fest celebrations. The meeting, chaired by former council member Michael T. Murphy, featured contributions from Mayor Cavalier Johnson, Galway City Mayor Mike Cubbard, and Ireland’s Ambassador to the United States, Geraldine Byrne Nason. Galway County Council was represented by Councillor Mary Hoade.

The Council’s stand at Milwaukee Irish Fest, co-hosted with Galway City Council and supported by partners such as Tourism Ireland and Aer Lingus, provided a high-profile platform to promote County Galway as a premier visitor destination. The event also marked over three decades of Galway’s presence at the festival, reinforcing our international profile and strengthening transatlantic tourism links. The expansion of Shannon Airport’s transatlantic routes was highlighted as a key opportunity to grow US visitor numbers to county Galway

### MILWAUKEE FEST WELCOMES GALWAY



During the visit, the delegation engaged in a series of meetings with government, tourism, cultural, and business leaders in Illinois and Wisconsin. Notably, Galway County Council met with representatives from Washington County, Wisconsin—our twinning partner since 2003—to deepen civic and cultural ties. Discussions focused on tourism, economic

development, and public policy, with valuable insights exchanged on local democracy, housing, and community infrastructure.



L-R: MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND CLLR. MARY HOADE, LEAS CHATHOAIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY

---

L-R: MR. LEONARD CLEARY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY CITY COUNCIL, CLLR. MIKE CUBBARD, MAYOR OF GALWAY CITY, CLLR. MARY HOADE, LEAS CHATHOAIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY AND MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

---





L-R: MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, MS. GERALDINE BYRNE NASON, IRELAND AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES, AND CLLR. MARY HOADE, LEAS CHATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY

L-R: CLLR MARY HOADE, LEAS CHATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY, MR. CAVALIER JOHNSON, MAYOR OF MILWAUKEE



L-R: CLLR MARY HOADE, LEAS CHATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY, MR. CAVALIER JOHNSON, MAYOR OF MILWAUKEE, CLLR. MIKE CUBBARD, MAYOR OF GALWAY CITY, MS. GERALDINE BYRNE NASON, IRELAND AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES

## CHICAGO

During the visit to Chicago, the Galway County Council delegation participated in a comprehensive programme designed to deepen transatlantic cooperation and promote Galway's cultural and strategic interests. The itinerary included a City Hall briefing on the

Green Social Housing Strategy, tours of urban renewal projects at the Chicago Architecture Center, and networking with Irish American organisations, offering valuable opportunities to exchange best practices in housing, urban development, and cultural animation while strengthening connections with Galway’s diaspora.

The visit commenced with a breakfast meeting at Ireland House, where representatives from the Consulate General of Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, and World Business Chicago discussed investment, business support, and knowledge exchange. As part of the Sister Cities engagements, the delegation also visited 2112—Chicago’s first incubator for music, film, and creative technologies—where a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with CREW to formalise future collaboration.

These activities reaffirmed Galway County Council’s commitment to international partnerships, local diplomacy, and the promotion of Galway’s rich cultural heritage. The delegation’s engagements have laid the groundwork for future collaborations, enhanced.



GALWAY DELEGATION'S BREAKFAST MEETING WITH ENTERPRISE IRELAND, IDA IRELAND, CHICAGOLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND WORLD BUSINESS CHICAGO

L-R: MR. UINSINN FINN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, CLLR. MICHAEL REGAN, CLLR. MARY HOADE, LEAS CHATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY, MR. CAVLIER JOHNSON, MAYOR OF MILWAUKEE, AND MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL.



---

## WASHINGTON COUNTY

In Washington County, Wisconsin, the delegation marked the 22nd anniversary of the twinning relationship between the two counties. During meetings with Chairperson Jeffrey D. Schleif and other local officials, the group explored collaborative opportunities and learned about the county's "Next Generation Housing" initiative, which provides affordable housing in exchange for community service participation.



Further meetings were held with Commissioner Lissette Castañeda and Jung Yoon from the Department of Housing, focusing on Chicago's Green Social Housing strategy and its \$135 million revolving fund for sustainable, mixed-income housing. The delegation also met with the Chicago Architecture Centre to exchange ideas on repurposing heritage buildings for cultural and community use, drawing parallels with Galway City Council's own initiatives in this area.



The visit concluded with attendance at a session of the Economic Club of Chicago, a prominent forum for civic and business leadership. This provided an opportunity to engage with senior stakeholders on current economic and social issues. The delegation also met with Mayor Brandon Johnson to discuss shared priorities and future cooperation.



This visit proved to be a highly worthwhile engagement, reinforcing Galway's international partnerships and opening new avenues for collaboration in housing, cultural development, and economic innovation. The delegation gained valuable insights into best practices and policy approaches that will inform future initiatives in Galway, while also showcasing the county's strengths and ambitions on a global stage.

---

## SITE VISIT TO THE HAWTHORN HOTEL

THE HAWTHORN SITE FEATURING MICHAEL OWENS, DIRECTOR, PETER FITZGERALD (OWNER OF CONNAUGHT HOTEL GROUP), DIRECTOR OF SALES DARRAGH O'CONNOR AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE.



L-R: MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND MR. PETER FITZGERALD, OWNER OF CONNAUGHT HOTEL GROUP

Galway County Council recently conducted a site visit to County Galway's newest five-star hotel, The Hawthorn, which is currently under construction at Galway Bay Golf. The delegation included Chief Executive Liam Conneally, Director of Services

Michael Owens, and Tourism Officer John Neary. The group was welcomed on site by owner Peter Fitzgerald and his senior management team, who provided a comprehensive tour of the development, scheduled to open its doors in Spring 2026.

The Hawthorn Hotel represents a landmark investment in Galway's accommodation base, with the project set to create 180 full-time positions upon opening. This development is a major milestone for the county's hospitality sector, raising the bar for high-design, sustainable, and modern accommodations in the West of Ireland. The hotel will feature 114 luxury rooms, a world-class restaurant, and a full-service destination spa, all situated on the picturesque grounds of Galway Bay Golf, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent to an 18-hole championship golf course designed by Christy O'Connor Jr.

The Hawthorn is being developed by the Connacht Hospitality Group, led by Peter Fitzgerald, whose extensive experience in construction and hospitality is reflected in the ambition and quality of this project. The hotel's design prioritises sustainability and environmental responsibility, positioning it as a flagship destination for both domestic and international visitors seeking luxury with a West of Ireland welcome.

The Council's visit reaffirmed the strategic importance of this investment for Galway's tourism sector. The Hawthorn will significantly enhance the county's capacity to attract high-value visitors, support local suppliers, and generate substantial economic benefits. The integration of smart technology and guest-centric digital systems will further elevate Galway's reputation for innovation and excellence in hospitality.

Galway County Council welcomes this transformative addition to the county's accommodation offering and looks forward to continued collaboration with The Hawthorn team as the project progresses towards its opening in Spring 2026.

---

#### EU INTERREG SLOWDOWN PROJECT



Galway County Council, is proud to lead the upcoming 4th Interregional Thematic Workshop and Study Visit of the EU Interreg SLOWDOWN project, taking place in Galway from 22nd to 25th September 2025.

This is a flagship Galway County Council initiative, with the tourism team at the forefront of planning, coordination, and delivery. Over 30 delegates from seven EU countries will visit Galway to collaborate on the development of slow tourism in the county, sharing expertise and building new partnerships.

The week's agenda, includes a series of meetings, interactive workshops, and learning journeys. Delegates will engage in thematic sessions at the BIA Innovator Campus and Renvyle House, and Kylemore Abbey, participate in group work and panel discussions, and experience Galway's best practices in sustainable tourism.

Study visits will showcase East and West Galway, including local food producers, heritage centres, Killary Fjord, and Kylemore Abbey. These learning journeys will highlight Galway County Council's commitment to community-driven tourism and innovation.

Networking opportunities, cultural exchanges will further strengthen relationships with our European partners. The workshop will conclude with a wrap-up session and planning for future collaboration, reinforcing Galway County Council's leadership in sustainable tourism and our tourism team's expertise in delivering impactful projects.

Galway County Council looks forward to welcoming our European colleagues and demonstrating the county's strengths in slow tourism, local heritage, and community engagement.



## HUMAN RESOURCES, CITY & COUNTY LIBRARIES & ENVIRONMENT

### ENVIRONMENT

#### ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

##### SCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

Two programmes from the GLOBE Programme Ireland were offered to all schools in the County. Globe Ireland offers student citizen science campaigns where teachers are given support and students an opportunity to make a valuable contribution to the environment and community using scientific techniques. One programme was on Air Quality and the other on Climate Resilience and Trees.

##### RELOVE FASHION COMPETITION

Galway County Council is again supporting the ReLove Fashion Competition for 2025/2026. The competition is open to individuals, schools, youth groups, girl guide groups, etc. of secondary school age and aims to support a Circular Economy by encouraging entrants to use waste textiles and preloved clothing to create an outfit which is wearable, washable, and sustainable. The programme also aims to change behaviour by developing repair/reuse skills and promoting the use of Swap Shops / Charity Shops by the participants in the future.



## MOBILE WEEE (WASTE ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT) COLLECTION 2025

WEEE Ireland, the Irish compliance scheme for electrical and battery recycling, will hold a series of WEEE collections throughout County Galway starting on Wednesday 1st October 2025. These collections will allow people from towns and villages across the county to dispose of any household electrical, electronic or battery equipment, and batteries, in a safe and environmentally friendly manner. WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) collections are scheduled for the following locations in Galway:

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2025	10am - 4pm	Athenry	Athenry Mart	Athenry, Co. Galway H65DW74
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2025	10am - 4pm	Glenamaddy	SuperValu Car Park	Glenamaddy, Co. Galway F45CT80
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	10am - 4pm	Headford	Headford Mart	Headford, Co. Galway H91K7TH
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	10am - 4pm	Indreabhán	Mícheál Breathnach GAA Club	Indreabhán, Co. Galway H91X750
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	10am - 4pm	Clarinbridge	Car Park at Paddy Burkes	Clarinbridge, Co. Galway H91FX31
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	10am - 4pm	Leitir Móir	Car Park opposite Church	Leitir Móir, Co. Galway H91F5W4
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	10am - 4pm	Maam Cross	Maam Cross Mart	Maam Cross, Co. Galway <u>H91 V520</u>
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2025	10am - 4pm	Maigh Cuilinn	Handball Alley at GAA Pitch	Maigh Cuilinn, Co. Galway H91WTW5
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2025	10am - 4pm	An Spidéal	An Spidéal GAA Club Pitch	An Spidéal, Co. Galway H91NR71
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	10am - 4pm	Woodford	Tommy Larkin's GAA Club	Woodford, Co Galway H62XW18
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	10am - 4pm	Williamstown	GAA Pitch	Williamstown, Co.Galway F45DT73

Further information is available from WEEE Ireland by telephoning 01 2999 320 or at <https://www.weeeireland.ie/contact/>

## DOG CONTROL

A total of 779 licences were purchased during the month of August with 534 of these from the local post office and the remainder processed online. Door-to-door licensing campaigns were carried out by the dog warden service in the Glenamaddy, Dunmore and Garrafrauns area of the county this month.

The numbers of stray and abandoned dogs coming through the service remain high and August was a particularly difficult month for the service with 16 dogs coming through the service.

1 fixed penalty notice was issued by the dog warden service for offences under the Control of Dogs Act 1986 as Amended. 41 fixed penalty notices have been issued year to date with 17 paid in full, 8 partially paid (all with agreed payment plans) with 2 files sent to the Law Agent to initiate legal proceedings for non-payment of fines issued. The remaining fines are still being processed through the system.

## WATER QUALITY AND ENFORCEMENT

### ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLAINTS

A number of complaints were investigated during the month including 2 complaints in relation to septic tanks, both of which were forwarded from the planning section. One system was installed without planning permission and the second investigation concluded that no system was in place at all.

### CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

A red dot notification was received from the EPA in relation to an EPA water monitoring point in the county. LAWPRO are currently carrying out an investigative assessment following which the council will carry out enforcement work if required. LAWPRO and the council are also working together in relation to possible enforcement action on a farmer who has carried out extensive unauthorized work on a river course to straighten the channel. The council continues to liaise with LAWPRO with regards to inspections and enforcement work in the high-water quality status Dawros catchment in Connemara.

### SEPTIC TANK INSPECTIONS

5 verification inspections took place on domestic wastewater treatment systems post improvement works carried out. An EPA audit took place on the 27th August where all open advisory notices were examined and progress with closing these out was recorded.



## WASTE MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT

### WASTE ENFORCEMENT

9 fines were issued by the Community Warden Service during the month of August for offences under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 as Amended. 8 of the fines issued were as a result of littering offences detected at bringbank sites in the County. 56 fines have been issued by the Community Warden Service to the end of August. Of these 56 fines issued, 26 have been paid in full, 10 files have been sent to the Law Agent for commencement of legal proceedings for non-payment of fines with a further 12 cases being processed through the system.



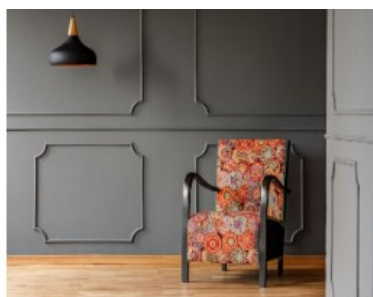
Out of hours monitoring by the Community Warden service continued during the month of August at Bring Bank sites in the County.

A new label has been designed by the Environment section to assist members of the public in regard to the correct use of textile bank services in the County. This label has been placed on textile banks throughout the County and has been translated into multiple languages including Arabic, Ukrainian, Portuguese as well as English and Irish.

### ANTI-DUMPING INITIATIVE 2025

As part of this year's Anti-Dumping Initiative campaign, funding was received to run an Upholstery project, with the aim of promoting the re upholstery of furniture in line with the circular economy, as opposed to getting rid of structurally sound furniture items.

The campaign has been promoted to all communities through the PPN Newsletter and has been well received with queries and expressions of interest received to date.



**Closing date: 5th September 2025**

Have a favorite armchair etc. that just needs some TLC? Here's an opportunity to have it Re upholstered! We're running a lottery where 8 applicants can have an item reupholstered to the value of €800. Email [environment@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:environment@galwaycoco.ie), include name, address, phone number and photos of item.

Note: Costs over €800 must be covered by the applicant. No Leather furniture.

UPHOLSTERY  
CAMPAIGN  
NOTICE  
CIRCULATED  
THROUGH PPN

## LIBRARY SERVICES

### LOCAL STUDIES

The Local Studies Department had a busy month with several email queries and visits to Library Headquarters arranged by appointment.

---

#### EMAILS

Forty email queries were processed, covering various topics and research requests. Some examples include a request from a descendant in America for any information on the Nevin family from the Loughrea area, who all perished (Father, Mother, and 5 children), in a shipwreck enroute to Australia in the Post Famine years. A marriage certificate for 1864, for the one surviving daughter who remained at home, has been located, and this search is still ongoing.

Other emails included requests for information on specific graveyards, on headstone memorial books, for advice on Genealogy research, information on online resources available, and requests for information on engaging private researchers. There were requests for access to ordnance survey maps, including for the Tuam area, and information on buildings, including Grove House, Gardenfield Old School, and An Spidéal, Old Schoolhouse, which currently houses a branch library. There was a request for a photo of the old police barracks in Carna, which we had in our collection of photographs, and for information on the British News Archive, and the Connaught Rangers.

---

#### APPOINTMENTS

These included about 10 visits to view the Irish and British news Archives, including access to “The Western News and Weekly Advertiser”, which is a historic local newspaper now searchable online on the BNA. The microfilm reader was used by a client researching GAA history in County Galway. There were roughly seven appointments by researchers, who were researching topics such as the Redington Family of Clarinbridge. A visiting professor and student from the USA were researching publications on the Magdalen laundries. Sir William Pettys 1659 Census was also requested, as was information on the Blake Family and the Tuam Town Atlas. Another patron wanted to research our volume of “Beatháisnéis, a cúig.”

## SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS FROM THE LOCAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

### GALWAY ARTS FESTIVAL 1989



This 1989 Brochure for the Galway Arts festival, from the Galway memorabilia collection held in the Local Studies section of Galway Public Libraries, provides a nostalgic glimpse back to what was on offer in the festival in the summer of 1989. The programme was certainly very impressive, including concerts by the enduringly popular Sharon Shannon, and American Folk singer Nanci

Griffiths, an Abbey Theatre production, "Mother of all the Behan's", starring Rosaleen Linehan, a Macnas outdoor show, "Tír Faoi Thonn" and many music performances, films and plays, art and photography exhibitions, to mention just a few, with a festival ball held in Seapoint on July 25th.



### THE FLOWER PICTURES OF EDITH HOLDEN



A unique and interesting resource held by Galway Public Libraries, is this two-volume set of books, the Country Diary and the Nature Notes of Edith Holden, which are facsimile copies of the Naturalist Edith Holden's Diaries for the years 1905, and 1906. These books are lavishly

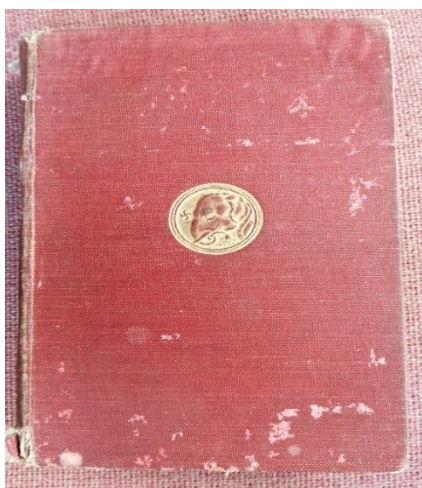
illustrated with beautiful watercolour drawings of flowers, plants, and various animals, and include her notes on individual months and seasons of the year.





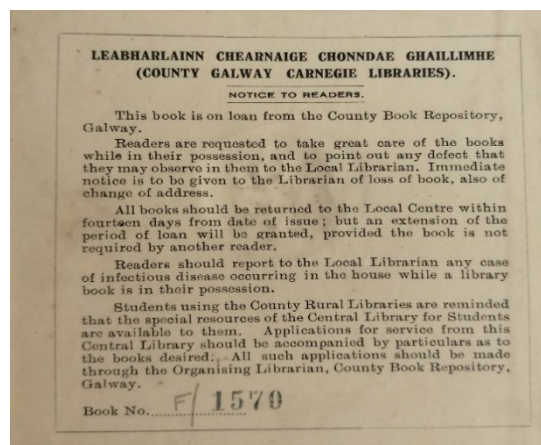
These books will be of special interest to any nature lovers, and to artists, because of the great beauty of the colourful illustrations. Edith Holden (1871-1920) was a talented amateur naturalist, who worked as an illustrator after attending art school. Her life was tragically cut short in 1920, when she died by drowning in the River Thames, while gathering buds from chestnut trees. This set of books will be available in Tuam Library and may be requested at any branch library.

## BOOK RETURNED AFTER 100 YEARS, BORROWED FROM THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY



This book which has recently been returned to Galway Public Libraries, was originally borrowed around 100 years ago, between the years of 1924-1926. Galway County Council took over the running of the County Library service in 1926. Before this, from 1924-1926, the Library Service was operated by the Carnegie Trust, under the Carnegie Rural Libraries' Scheme. The book is a 1923 edition of Rudyard Kipling's, "Plain tales from the Hills". It has a Carnegie Trust Label, but no stamp or label of Galway County Libraries, which were placed on all books after 1926. This means that this book was borrowed between 1924-1926 from the Carnegie Trust Rural

Libraries Scheme, and it is fitting that it has now been returned, after 100 years on loan, having been discovered during a house clearance in Loughrea. Other than small wear and tear and yellowing pages, this 102 year old book is in very good condition, and it even contains a cutting from an old newspaper, a picture of a lady in a cart driven by a Shetland pony, which has been dated to the Irish Independent of September 27th, 1930, and obviously placed in the book by the person who had borrowed it some years prior to 1930, and this date from the newspaper cutting confirms the general timeline in which the book was borrowed. The book will be added to our special collections, as it is now of historic interest



---

## RIGHT TO READ AND ACQUISITIONS UPDATES

---

### SUMMER STARS



Our libraries were very busy this summer with over 3,100 registered participants in the Summer Stars Reading Challenge. From the period of 1<sup>st</sup> of June – 27<sup>th</sup> of August, over 54,000 books were issued to children in Galway. July was the busiest month with over 23,500 books issued on children's cards. Children are now invited to return their reading cards in anticipation of the awards ceremonies in September.

As part of the summer programming, Galway libraries ran a poetry competition on the theme of Nature and received 150 poems for consideration. Winners will be contacted and prizes awarded in September.

---

### LITTLE LIBRARY BAGS

Collections are still underway for My Little Library bags with over 600 bags distributed so far. Children who are starting in primary school are invited to come to the library with their parents and collect their very own bag with books in English or as Gaeilge to help their transition to primary school.

---

### ACQUISITIONS

Along with adding lots of new children's stock this summer, the acquisitions team has focused on topping up the travel section of our collections this summer, with up-to-date titles arriving from O'Mahony's.

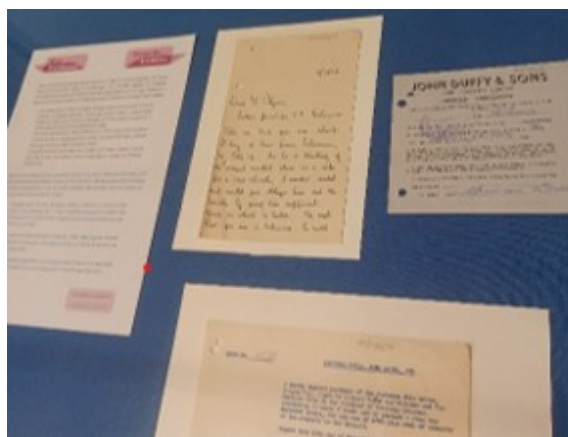


---

### ARCHIVES

**Galway County Council Archives** processed (cleaned, listed & arranged) a small quantity of files, dating from 1974-1982, to add to the existing Pump & Wells collection (GC/WS/PW). New additions include, for instance, files for Cloonascaberry (Cheevers), Kinnure, Loughrea, Rushestown and Gunnod, Newbridge. The overall collection includes over 300 files, which are a rich resource for those interested in the provision of water pumps and wells in rural areas, dating from the mid-1940's onwards. For more details see the online [catalogue](#).

The Archives acquired by donation a small collection of material relating to the Tuam Guild of Irish Country Women's Association, (1980s) (Accession no. 2025/014).



As part of Heritage Week, the Archives hosted a lunchtime talk at Loughrea Library on Galway's Poor Law Unions, with a particular focus on the Loughrea Workhouse. The event drew an audience of 17 attendees, who were deeply engaged as historian Mary Clancy shared compelling stories about the strict and regimented nature of life within the workhouse.

Material relating to the Fair Green in Portumna went on display in the Atrium in County Hall. It includes a holograph letter from Rev. Dr Dignan, Bishop of Clonfert, to Galway County Council, County Manager, Mr C. I. Flynn, regarding the potential establishment of a new church on the Fair Green, contingent upon securing an alternative site for fairs (19 Oct 1948, (GC/CC/151/036).

As always there were many public queries relating to family and local history. Assistance and advice were given, together with access to records relating to [Burial Grounds](#), Registers of Electors, Water Pumps and Workhouses, with the latter generally available on-line on the [Digital Archive](#).

Assistance was given to colleagues seeking historic Manager's Orders and information on a building in public ownership. Over 120<sup>1</sup> files were recalled, for internal reference, from storage between July and August.

<sup>1</sup> Approx 90 from commercial storage & 30+ from the Record Store

## BALLINASLOE LIBRARY

### RIGHT TO READ:

As part of our Summer Stars programme, Ballinasloe Library has hosted a children's drawing class on **July 18th**, exploring all the skills and techniques needed to master the art of drawing. Local children participated in this 90-minute workshop.

On July 26<sup>th</sup>, Alma Jordan, founder of AgriKids, hosted a Farm Safety talk covering topics such as animal safety and behaviours, tractor, quad and PTO safety, working with cows/bulls, understanding farm safety signs and understanding the risks of working on farms.



---

## HEALTHY IRELAND

Ballinasloe Library hosts weekly meet ups for local organisations working with individuals with additional needs. The Brothers of Charity meet every Thursday, the group play bingo, boardgames and often partake in arts & crafts. The HSE are currently using the church gallery on Tuesdays for chair yoga.

---

## CREATIVE IRELAND – COUNTY GALWAY

On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> of July, Ballinasloe Library's International Women's Group hosted a creative workshop for the Belfast cohort of the 'Birds of a Feather' shared Island Creative Ireland project. This project has seen four groups –



Belfast, Inishbofin, Ennis and Ballinasloe – connect through an exchange of crafts, techniques, culture and heritage. The women are currently working on a collaborative mosaic with artist Alison Mac Cormaic which will be installed in the library at a later date.

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> of August, Ballinasloe Library hosted a very special exhibition by Saolta Arts. The project entitled 'Mending HeArts' is a collaboration between the HSE, Saolta Arts, Croí, Creative Ireland and local artists who have been engaging with participants with cardiovascular health issues in both clinical and community settings. Several workshops



were hosted in Ballinasloe Library, Croí Loughrea, and Portiuncula Hospital, Ballinasloe. Cathaoirleach David Collins officially launched the exhibition and Valerie Kelly, Creative Ireland Galway County was in attendance. Over 60 people attended the exhibition launch.

---

## AGE FRIENDLY:

Our Age Action Book Club was still in full swing over the summer months meeting once a month to discuss their book of the month. Branch Librarian, Bríd Grehan is always on hand with book recommendations and curates their reading list, ensuring they are well stocked. This group really enjoys their social meet up in the library.

---

## HERITAGE WEEK:



Ballinasloe Library hosted 4 Heritage Week events, including a mini excavation led by Branch Librarian and Archaeologist Mary Healy on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> of August. Then on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> of August, Galway Community Archeologist Bernie Doherty delivered an engaging session entitled 'Ask the Archaeologist' where local children were able to observe a selection of artefacts. Community Water Officer for the Local Authority Waters Program (LAWPRO), Janet Laffey, delivered a talk entitled 'Our Community, Our Water' to 12 community members. This event was followed by a guided walking tour, led by Regional Tour Guide, Michael Riddell, there were 14 members of the community in attendance.



---

SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS FROM THE GUIDED WALKING TOUR WITH MICHAEL RIDDEL FOR HERITAGE WEEK.

## GALWAY CITY LIBRARY

The Creative Crafters had 88 attendances during the period. The group continues to grow, with both older and younger adult members attending.

Many of the library's regular events (bookclubs, Maidin Chaife, Classical Culture etc.) were on hiatus for July and August as library patrons are away on holidays.

Rhyme Time moved from Friday to Thursdays and continued to be well attended with some minor drop in attendance over the first few weeks while patrons got used to the new day and time. There were 281 participants in this time period.

56 seniors attended the weekly Scrabble for Seniors events over the period.

22 young adults took part in Foróige's Manga/Anime and Table-top gaming sessions in early July.



Friday 11 July - Jay Ryan delivered a puppet show to enthused children and adults. 18 people attended.

Saturday 12 July – artist John Kennedy held a “Meet the Artist” event. 12 people attended.



Tuesday 22 July – artist Freya Pannett launched her art exhibition.

Tuesday 19 August – the Western Family History Association held a drop-in session for members of the public to receive guidance on researching their family tree. 20 people attended this event.





Tuesday 5 August, artist Sarah Deane installed her art exhibition which comprised photographs of Irish bogs and the diversity of life that is found there.



Thursday 21 August – artist Catherine Nolan launched her art exhibition From West to East. 32 people attended.



Thursday 28 August - The second round of public consultation for the Galway City Council South Park public realm project took place in Galway City Library. Members of the public were able to drop in and meet the project team to discuss the proposed changes.

## LOUGHREA LIBRARY

Saturday July 26th – Lego Free Play All Day – approximately 40 children and parents took part throughout the day

Tuesday July 29th – Monthly Adult Book Club – 4 people attended Saturday July 5th Lego Free Play all day – approximately 20 children took part

Wednesday July 9th St. Ita's National School Summer Provision Group Visit – Board Games, Colouring & Knex - 19 children attended

Thursday July 10th St. Ita's National School Summer Provision Group Visit – Board Games, Colouring & Knex -15 children attended



Thursday July 10th Loughrea Adult Craft Group



Saturday July 12th Children's Junk Art All Day – creative building with lots of recycled items, paper, card, tape, foil etc. - 40 children and adults took part throughout the day

Saturday July 12th Lego Free Play All Day – 40 children and parents took part throughout the day

Tuesday July 15th St. Ita's National School Summer Provision Infants Group visit – storytime 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' with colouring – 15 children attended



Wednesday July 16th St. Ita's National School Summer Provision  
Younger Age Group Visit – storytime 'The Selfish Crocodile' with  
colouring – 15 Children attended



Thursday July 17th – Monthly Toddler Storytime with Duplo Blocks  
Play – 20 Children Children attended

Thursday July 17th – Weekly Adult Craft Group

Saturday July 19th – Lego Free Play All Day – 20 children and parents took part throughout  
the day

Thursday July 24th – Weekly Adult Craft Group



Saturday July 26th – Agrikids Farm Safety Event for  
Children – Interactive talk, colouring, activity  
sheets, bring your tractor to the library – 30  
children attended



Thursday July 31<sup>st</sup> – Weekly Adult Craft Group



Thursday August 7<sup>th</sup> – Monthly Toddler Storytime and Duplo Blocks Play – 24 Children attended



Thursday August 7<sup>th</sup> – Weekly Adult Craft Group – 4 attended

Saturday August 9<sup>th</sup> – Lego Free Play All Day – 25 children and parents attended throughout the day

Thursday August 14<sup>th</sup> – Weekly Adult Craft Group – 5 attended

Saturday August 16<sup>th</sup> – Lego Free Play All Day – 20 children and parents attended throughout the day

Saturday August 16<sup>th</sup> – Heritage Week Event – Heritage Open Doors Event – information available all day on the Library Building in Loughrea (former Church of Ireland Church) - approximately 15 people attended

Tuesday August 19<sup>th</sup> – Heritage Week Event – Lunchtime Lecture titled ‘Galway Poor Law Unions’ by Mary Connolly – organized by Patria McWalter – 17 people attended



Wednesday August 20<sup>th</sup> – Heritage Week Event – Book Launch by local author Pat O’Looney - book title ‘Ploughing in the Moonlight’- 115 people attended

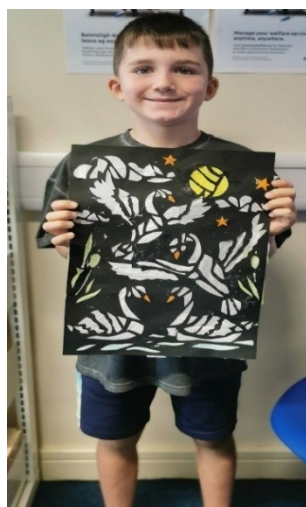


Thursday August 21<sup>st</sup> – Weekly Adult Craft Group - 5 people attended

Thursday August 21<sup>st</sup> – Heritage Week Event – Loughrea Literary & Historical Society lecture by local historian Gerry Kearney titled ‘Overview of the Church of Ireland in Loughrea 1305 –1987’ - 37 people attended



Saturday August 23rd – Heritage Week Event - ‘The Children of Lir’ Storytelling and Papercrafts for Children – 22 attended the storytelling with their parents, 14 booked in for the papercrafts.





Saturday August 23<sup>rd</sup> – Heritage Week Event – lecture titled ‘Conserving our Foundations’ by Galway County Council Community Archaeologist Bernie Doherty in collaboration with Killogilleen Graveyard Committee - 10 people attended

Saturday August 23<sup>rd</sup> – Heritage Week Event – Ask the Archaeologist – Interactive information session for all ages with Galway County Council Community Archaeologist Bernie Doherty



Tuesday August 26<sup>th</sup> – Monthly Adult Book Club

Thursday August 28<sup>th</sup> – Weekly Adult Craft Group

**ORANMORE LIBRARY**

Oranmore Library has been an extremely popular venue over the past month.



We had over 550 children registering for the Summer Stars Reading Programme, held 9 events as well as our usual DUPLO mornings, LEGO@ Sessions, Storytime sessions, Book Club Meetings, Friends of Rinville Woods Committee meetings and Poetry Workshops.

Oranmore Library has received some wonderful new children's books to add to our collection. These were well received by the Summer Stars readers!



Oranmore Library hosted an Art & Poetry Workshop with author Serena Molloy for children aged 8-12 years as part of our Summer Stars Programme. We had 19 participants.



The library hosted a workshop in conjunction with the Environment Section of Galway County Council on the Rinville Park Development Plan. Approximately 35 attended.



This is the second in a series of workshops hosted by Oranmore Library in 2025 for this project. These workshops have inspired the creation of a group of interested people, “The Friends of Rinville Woods”, who meet at Oranmore Library monthly, since the Development Plan was launched.



Oranmore Library hosted part of the **CHERISH Project** exhibition from Friday 15th August until Friday 22nd August as part of **Heritage Week**

The exhibition explored at risk coastal archaeology through images, data, excavation findings, poetry and illustrations.

We created a book display to accompany the exhibition.





**Summer Stars Event:** The library hosted an Explorers Education Programme Marine Workshop in conjunction with the Marine Institute on August 15<sup>th</sup> for children aged 8-12 years. The children examined a range of marine biofacts, from whale bones to seashells and dissected squid under the supervision of Marine biologist Tara Noonan. There were 20 very enthusiastic and interested participants!



## HERITAGE WEEK:

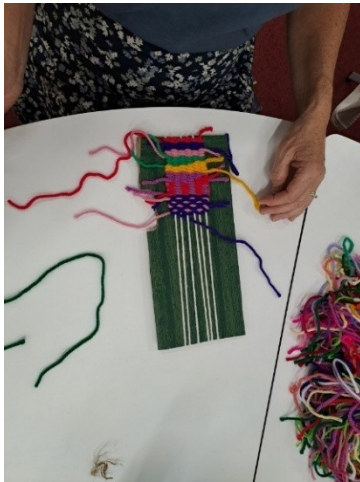
To celebrate Heritage Week Oranmore Library hosted the CHERISH exhibition and talk alongside an Intergenerational Weaving Workshop and a Seashell Arts & Crafts Session.

Geraldine O'Sullivan, Fabric & Fibre introduced participants to the world of wool. She presented the process from choosing the fleece, carding, spinning and weaving and allowed each participant to practice each process themselves.

There were 2 workshops. All the 31 participants thoroughly enjoyed the experience and created wonderful wristbands and bookmarks to take home.

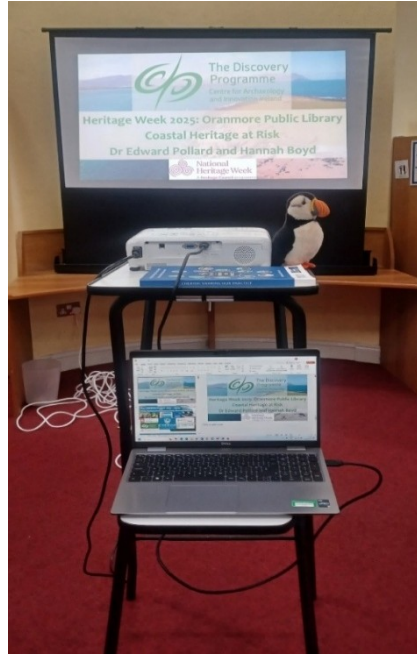


As a result of the workshops in the library, Geraldine has been invited back to Oranmore by the Oranmore Women's Shed to do a workshop with them in the near future.



The CHERISH project presented a lecture about coastal archaeology at risk in Co. Galway and around the island of Ireland. Hannah and Edward shared some of the findings from their recent Coastal Zone Assessments around the Maree Peninsula and learned from attendees about their knowledge of local coastal sites. There were an interested 15 attendees.





On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, staff member Mary Healy led an Art & Craft workshop enabling the children to learn about our coastal heritage through creativity and play using seashells. 11 children participated.



Mary led our “Starting School Storytime” to some very interested children and parents! There were 30 in attendance.



## LEABHARLANN INIS OÍRR

### TAISPEÁNTAS RÉALTAÍ AN tSAMHRAIDH – TÉAMA COIS FARRAIGE GAEILGE:

Chuir brainse Inis Oírr an clár Réaltaí an tSamhraidh chun cinn le taispeántas téama cois farraige. Thugamar cuireadh do chuariteoirí iasc a mhaisiú don ‘fharraige’ s’againn.

Gníomhaíocht shimplí agus an-phoiblí a bhí ann do dhaoine de gach aois, le breis agus 100 rannpháirtí.



### SUMMER STARS DISPLAY – SEASIDE THEME

The Inis Oírr branch celebrated the Summer Stars programme with a vibrant seaside-themed display. Visitors were invited to decorate a fish to add to our growing 'ocean' on display.

This simple yet popular activity appealed to people of all ages, with over 100 participants contributing their creativity.

---

## CUAIRTEANNA ÚDAIR AR INIS OÍRR – RÉALTAÍ AN TSAMHRAIDH

I gcomhar leis an bPleanál Teanga Inis Oírr, d'óstáil an leabharlann cuairteanna spreagúla ó Sadhbh Rosenstock agus Tristan Rosenstock mar chuid den chlár Réaltaí an tSamhraidh.

Bhain na páistí an-taitneamh as amhráin a chanadh agus leabhair faoi 'Theidí' a léamh le Sadhbh, agus spreag Tristan iad le scéalta faoi Inis Mara & Inis Mara 2. Roinn sé a chuid smaointe faoin scríbhneoireacht agus d'oibrigh sé le páistí ar smaointe do scéalta nua.

Cuireadh na himeachtaí ar fáil trí Ghaeilge agus ghlac breis is 30 páiste agus tuismitheoir páirt iontu. Bhí an t-atmaisféar lán le spraoi, foghlaim agus samhlaíocht!



---

## AUTHOR VISITS ON INIS OÍRR – SUMMER STARS

In collaboration with the Inis Oírr Language Plan, the library hosted engaging author visits with Sadhbh Rosenstock and Tristan Rosenstock as part of the Summer Stars programme.

Children enjoyed singing songs and reading books about 'Theidí' with Sadhbh, while Tristan shared the inspiration behind his books Inis Mara & Inis Mara 2. He spoke about his writing process and worked with the children to develop ideas for future stories.



These events were conducted through Irish, and more than 30 children and parents took part. The atmosphere was full of fun, learning, and imagination!

### HERITAGE WEEK



Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Aug: Oughterard Library collaborated with the Oughterard Heritage Group to hold a special event aimed at children to learn about Life in the Stone Age on the Shores of Lough Corrib. Branch Librarian Karen read a story set in the local area during the Mesolithic, then the attendees were free to interact with a beautifully detailed display of replica Stone Age artefacts.



## LEABHARLANN NA CEATHRÚN RUA

### AN CEART CHUN LÉITHEOIREACHT

- Bhí na bunscoileanna áitiúil dúnta don samhradh, ach bhí cuairteoirí againn ó Tigh Nan Dooley agus iad ag déanamh campa samhraidh sa scoil. Bhí cúpla cuairt againn ó na Braithe Cathranach chomh maith. (76 dhuine ar fad)
- Bhí go leor clainne sa cheantar ar laethanta saoire an mhí seo. Ghlac clainne ón Chorcaigh, an Cheatharlach, Dún na nGall, an Chabháin, Cill Mhantáin, an Lú agus Baile Átha Cliath cuairt ar Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua. Bhain siad an-taitneamh as na breagáin agus an cluiche mhór Connect 4 atá againn, agus thóg siad ar fad leabhair ar iasacht.

### RÉALTAÍ SAMHRAIDH

- Bhí áthas orainn fáilte a chur roimh Fearghas Mac Lochlainn agus a hiníon Anna ar 5 Iúil. Chuir siad seisiún álainn scéalaíocht agus ealáine ar siúl sa leabharlann a bhí bunaithe ar leabhar a scríobh Fearghas, *An Slipéar Gloine*. Bhí 17 rannpháirtithe.
- Ar 19 Iúil, chuir Tara ceardlann fhilíochta ar siúl do ghasúir idir 8 agus 12 bliana d'aois. Bhí 3 rannpháirtithe.

- Ar 9 Lúnasa, chuir Nuala Am Scéalaíochta agus Ealaíne ar siúl. Bhí 16 rannpháirtithe, idir muintir áitiúil agus daoine a bhí ar laethanta saoire sa cheantar! Dhéar siad éisc beaga tar éis an scéal a choisteáil.
- Bhí áthas orainn freisin fáilte a chur roimh foireann ó Foras na Mara ar 19 Lúnasa. Chuir siad Ceardlann Mara ar siúl sa leabharlann a bhí mar pháirt do Chlár Oideachais na dTaiscéalaithe. Bhain na gasúir an-taitneamh as! Bhí 4 gasúir i láthair don ócáid.

---

#### FIOSRAITHE Ó NA BPÁTRÚN I LEITH TAIGHDE:

**15/7/25:** Tháinig pátrún isteach ag iarraidh sean-chóip den “Connacht Tribune” a fháil ar líne. Thug muid cúnamh dhó na cóipeanna a bhí uaidh a aimsiú ar suíomh an “Irish News Archive”. Bhí muid freisin in ann eolas a fháil dó faoi chóip tagairt de leabhar i leabharlann eile a bhfuil ag teastáil uaidh.

---

#### TIONSCADAL “ONE MILLION STARS”

Tháinig grúpa le chéile ar an gCeathrú Rua, muintir na háite agus daoine a tháinig le déanaí, chun ‘An Crann Síochána’ a chruthú, crann maisithe le réaltaí lámhdhéanta. Is comboibriú idir an “Galway County Integration Team”, Obair Dheonach Éireann agus Éire Ildánach a bhí sa tionscadal, leis an aidhm chun deireadh a chur le foréigean de gach shórt. Tá sé anois ar thaispeáint anseo sa leabharlann.

---

#### CUAIRTEOIRÍ SPEISIALTA

- Ghlac grúpa ón Ghaeltacht Pop-Up in Áth Luain cuairt ar an leabharlann ar 5 Iúil, agus iad ar saoire i gConamara.
- Bhí Róisín istigh againn freisin ar feadh cúpla lá i mí Iúil chun taithí oibre a dhéanamh. Tá muid ag súil go mór í a fheiceáil ag obair mar leabharlannaí sa todhcháil!

---

#### RIGHT TO READ

- The local primary schools were closed for the summer, but we still had visits from Tigh Nan Dooley as the children were attending summer camp in the school. We also had regular visits from the Brothers of Charity. (**76 visitors** in total)
- There were many families on holiday in the area this month. We had families from Cork, Carlow, Donegal, Cavan, Wicklow, Louth and Dublin visit us in Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua. They had a great time playing with the toys and our giant Connect 4, and all borrowed books while they were in.
-

---

## SUMMER STARS

- We were delighted to welcome Fearghas Mac Lochlainn and his daughter Anna to the library on July 5<sup>th</sup>. They hosted a wonderful storytime and art session in the library based on Fearghas' book, *An Slipéar Gloine*. There were **17 attendees**.
- On July 19<sup>th</sup>, Tara led a poetry workshop for children ages 8 – 12.
- On August 9<sup>th</sup>, Nuala ran a storytime and art session. There were **16 attendees**, a mix between locals and people in the area on holiday! They made little fish after listening to the story.
- We were also delighted to host the Marine Institute in the library on the 19<sup>th</sup> of August. They facilitated a Marine Workshop as part of the Marine Explorers Education Programme. The children loved it! There were **4 attendees**.

---

## RESEARCH INQUIRIES FROM PATRONS

**15/7/25:** A patron visited the library and requested information on accessing old copies of the Connacht Tribune online. We were able to help him access the Irish News Archive website and find the newspaper editions he was looking for. We were also able to direct him to a library that has a reference copy of a book he needs.

---

## THE “ONE MILLION STARS” PROJECT

A group made up of locals and new residents in An Cheathrú Rua came together to create ‘The Peace Tree’, a tree decorated with handmade stars. The project was a collaboration between the Galway County Integration Team, Volunteer Ireland and Creative Ireland, with its aim being to end all types of violence. The tree is now on display in the library.

---

## SPECIAL VISITORS

- A group from the Pop-Up Gaeltacht in Athlone dropped in to visit the library on July 5<sup>th</sup>, as they were on holiday in Connemara.
- We also had Róisín with us for work experience for a few days in July. We are hoping to see her working as a librarian in the near future!



---

FEARGHAS AGUS ANNA AG LÉAMH AN SLIPÉAR GLOINE. / FEARGHAS AND ANNA READING AN SLIPÉAR GLOINE.

## CRANN LE RÉALTAÍ LE HAGHAIDH RÉALTAÍ SAMHRAIDH

---



## CRANN SÍOCHÁIN

---

### TUAM LIBRARY

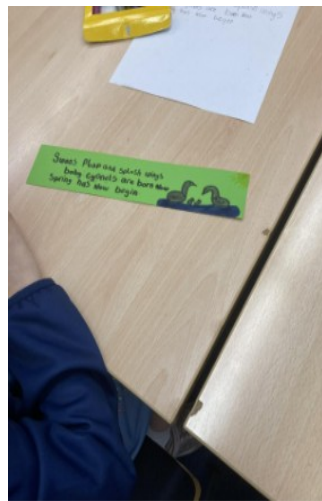
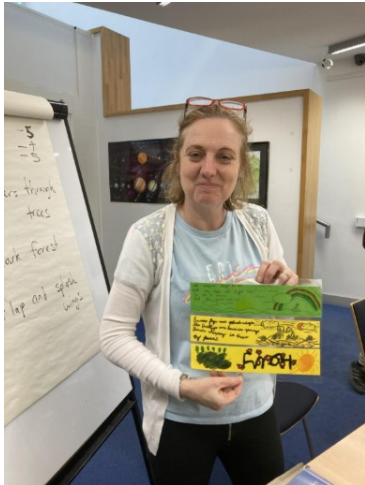
#### SUMMER STARS:



As of August 1st, Tuam Library had signed up 319 children to the Summer Reading Challenge

Summer Stars Event - On Friday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, Kathy Ross facilitated a workshop for children aged 8-12 years. This involved making and decorating a paper pond, using oil pencils. It was a great morning, the children loved the event

Summer Stars event- Serena Molloy hosted a poetry writing and bookmark making event on Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup> for age 8-12 years. 10 children attended and had a great time writing a poem and designing their bookmark



The exhibition by St Joseph's Training Centre (Ability West) continued for the first half of July and was taken down on Monday, July 14<sup>th</sup>

Book drops to housebound patrons continue – making a total of 21 drops made so far in 2025

C-Pens continue to be used with 3 borrowed during the month of July

Tuam artist Jennifer Cunningham held a workshop in conjunction with Tuam Tidy towns as part of her book zine project – 12 people participated, producing beautiful unique pieces



## HERITAGE WEEK

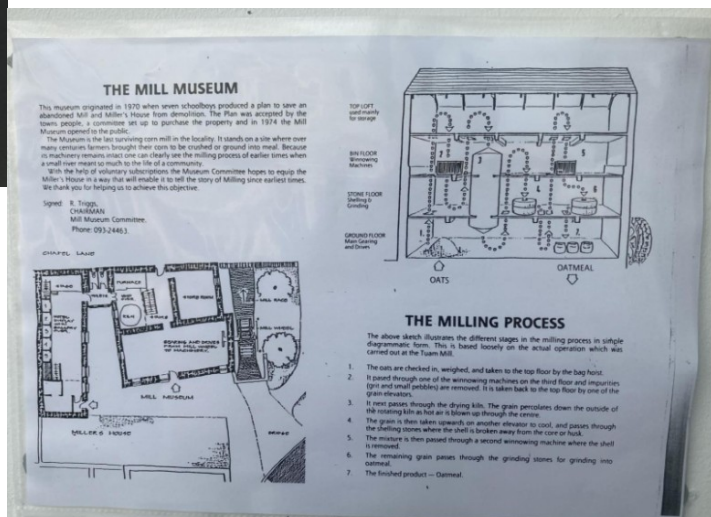


On August 16 the Old Tuam Society held a craft/information evening for children. Patricia Kin-Callaghan and her assistants, Keeva and Mikayla, shared stories of our native animals and plants.

Our second Heritage Week event was a very interesting talk given by Midie Corcoran on the history of the Milling industry in Tuam



As part of Midie Corcoran's talk the Old Tuam Society installed a temporary photography exhibition on the Tuam mill



## WESTSIDE LIBRARY

### COMMUNITY GROUPS

While some of the Community Groups went on Summer Break during the months of July and August, many of the regular groups continued to meet in the library. Westside Library hosted the Ukrainian After School Family Craft Sessions (GCP), the Alzheimer Support Group, the Speckled Eggs Dance Group, the HSE Weaning Workshop and an English Conversation Class for speakers of languages other than English (LOTE).

The BRIDGE Project held another talk and included a presentation by library staff that



resulted in several new library memberships straight after the event. The HSE hosted an immunisation talk for immigrants and hosted a talk about medical issues for the Ukrainian Community.

Helium Arts hosted one of their summer camps over three full days while Galway City Partnership hosted a dance workshop for kids and teenagers

### REGULAR LIBRARY EVENTS

The weekly Rhyme Time, Storytime and Lego Free Play sessions were really popular with local families and Julie Anne de Bruen hosted another well attended Grúpa Tuismitheoirí agus Leanaí.

### WESTSIDE ARTS FESTIVAL “SEEKING DIAMONDS IN THE SKY”



The annual Westside Arts Festival 2025 entitled “Seeking Diamonds in the Sky” was a huge success and is going from strength to strength, together with our longstanding partners, the Westside Resource Centre, Galway City Partnership and Youth Work Ireland, we had a full week of



over 40 events. Festival highlights Included: Musical Performances: Local and visiting musicians bring rhythm to the streets. Exhibitions & Installations:

Featuring works from artists-in-residence exploring air quality and pollution. Craft Workshops: Including the popular Highflyers kite-decorating sessions for all ages. Film Screenings & Talks: Educational and thought-provoking content on climate and culture, stoytelling, puppetry and so much more!

Five hundred and sixty people attended the 20 events that were held in the library during the festival.



SUMMER STARS

Library Staff hosted a number of Summer Stars Craft Workshops in July and August. The children crafted



friendship bracelets, a flower garden out of egg cartons, and painted rocks. The workshops proved extremely popular with up to 50 kids attending each workshop. We had 450 Children sign up for this years' Summer Reading challenge.



---

## HIDDEN DEPTHS PROJECT CONCLUDES

The second part of the Hidden Depths project, led by the University of Galway's public philosophy teams in partnership with **Galway Public Libraries** and funded by the University's sustainability office, welcomed an inter-generational audience to discuss life's big questions around the topic of water.



From ancient philosophy to modern life, the 2-day workshop explored water as a symbol of contradiction, connection, and care all while documenting the results with smart phones. The forementioned clips will become part of 'Hidden Depths' a community-made film.

During the reporting time frame 1147 people visited events in the library and 92 people visited the Sensory Room.

## PORTUMNA LIBRARY

---

### RIGHT TO READ PROGRAMME AND SUMMER STARS



Portumna Library welcomed a visit from the Redwood Primary School Summer Camp, where 20 children enjoyed a lively and engaging experience. Each child selected books to take home, fostering a love of reading.

On **July 11th**, two decorative book art workshops were held as part of the **Summer Stars** programme. Children created imaginative books about monsters and crafted miniature houses using old books—an inspiring blend of storytelling and creativity.





Artist **Laurie Legrande** facilitated four vibrant crafting workshops, with 20 enthusiastic children participating. Another workshop, designed for children aged **3 to 5**, focused on decorating bookmarks and butterflies. The young participants showcased remarkable creativity and proudly brought their artwork home.

A **Farm Safety** talk by **AgriKids** took place on **July 26th**, educating children aged **4 to 8** about staying safe on farms particularly during the busy summer season. The session was both informative and engaging.



On **August 9th**, author **Serena Molloy** led an interactive storytelling workshop, captivating young readers with her dynamic presentation.

---

## AGE-FRIENDLY INITIATIVES

The **Ciorcal Comhrá** Irish language conversation group met on **July 15th** and **July 29th**. This popular initiative continues to foster lively discussions, with 10 adults attending each session.

---

## BOOK CLUB

The monthly **Book Club** convened on **July 10th** to discuss “The Weekend” by Charlotte Wood. The conversation was animated, with members sharing a range of opinions—from glowing praise to constructive critique.

## INIS MEÁIN

Glacadh triocha páiste páirt sa dushlán léitheoireachta samhraidh-Réaltaí Samhraidh.

VACANT HOMES

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Galway County Council is inviting the public to participate in an online survey to assist in establishing the profile of demand and preferred locations in County Galway for affordable homes. Over time, this information will enable the Council to apply to the Department of Housing for future funding for Affordable Housing in various towns across the County, based on identified areas of demand. The survey can be viewed and completed on the Galway County Council website at [www.galway.ie/AHSurvey](http://www.galway.ie/AHSurvey) or [www.gaillimh.ie/SuirbheTI](http://www.gaillimh.ie/SuirbheTI) and can be completed in both **English** or **Gaeilge**.



CONTRACT SIGNING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF CONTRACTORS

On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2025, Galway County Council signed contracts for the construction of a new housing development consisting of 88 no. new residential units, creche and community playground on a 2.7 Ha. site in Baile Chlair (Claregalway). The development also includes car parking, hard & soft landscaping, site clearance works, roads, footways, amenity facilities, public lighting, signage, connections to existing services, and all ancillary site development works.



A multi-disciplinary Design Team, led by Vincent Hannon Architects, were appointed to assist with delivering the housing project and Tobin Consulting Engineers appointed as Project Supervisor Design Process and Tom McNamara, Quantity Surveyors.

The 88-unit housing development at Baile Chlair is being constructed by Coolsivna Construction Group Ltd and consists of a total of 88 residential units, divided into 39 houses and 14 apartment buildings. All proposed houses are to be 2 storeys high, while the apartment buildings will range from 2½ to 3 storeys high. A crèche also forms part of the development proposal and is incorporated into one of the corner apartment buildings. In terms of houses, there will be 2 four-bedrooms, 19 three-bedroom and 18 two-bedrooms. As for the apartments, there will be 15 three-bedrooms, 21 two-bedrooms and 13 one-bedroom, distributed among the 14 apartment buildings, completing the 88 units plus Crèche.

This will be the first Galway County Council own development under the Government’s ‘Housing for All’ policy that will include mixed tenure housing, 22 Social Units and 66 Affordable Units and will be constructed at a cost of €20.7 million. Construction work will begin this month.



### SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK OVERVIEW STATUS REPORT AS AT END OF AUGUST 2025

Galway County Council Social Housing Properties LETTING STATUS									
Asocial Housing Type CATEGORY	Occupied	Available For Letting	Awaiting Minor Repairs	Community Facility	Derelict	Major Refurbishment	Under Construction	Total	
LA	2959	13	27	2	39	1	186	3227	
HAP	1309							1309	
AHB	902	8				10	40	960	
RAS	95							95	
Trav	79	7			1			87	
Leasing	70							70	
MTR	55	1				1		57	
<b>Total</b>	<b>5469</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>5805</b>	

This report provides a detailed overview of Galway County Council’s social housing stock as at the end of August 2025. The analysis covers the distribution of housing units across various social housing types, including Local Authority (LA), Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), Approved Housing Bodies (AHB), Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS), Traveller-specific accommodation, Leasing, and Mortgage to Rent (MTR).

Each housing type is assessed by its current letting status, including units that are occupied, available for letting, awaiting minor repairs, designated as community facilities, derelict,

undergoing major refurbishment, or under construction. Particular attention is given to the 40 derelict units within the stock, with a breakdown of their status in terms of legal checks, demolition plans, planning and compliance requirements, regeneration potential, sales activity, and designation for Traveller accommodation

---

#### LOCAL AUTHORITY (LA)

- Total Units (including Construction units): 3,227
- Occupied: 2,959 (91.7%)
- Available for Letting: 13 (0.4%)
- Awaiting Minor Repairs: 26 (0.8%) – Breakdown
  - Vacant for over 12 months: 4 properties
  - Vacant for 9–12 months: 1 property
  - Vacant for 6–9 months: 7 properties
  - Vacant for 3–6 months: 6 properties
  - Vacant for less than 3 months: 7 properties
  - New property (not previously let): 1 property
- Community Facility: 2 (0.06%)
- Derelict: 39 (1.2%) – Detailed breakdown:
  - Legal Checks: 7 units require title and boundary verification.
  - Demolition: 17 units are marked for demolition.
  - Planning & Compliance: 3 units require planning permission or environmental licensing.
  - Regeneration: 3 units have potential for redevelopment, including possible land acquisition.
  - Sales: 9 units are in various stages of being sold, with some facing viability or infrastructure issues.
- Major Refurbishment: 1 (0.03%)
- Under Construction: 186 (5.8%)

Insight: LA housing forms the core of the social housing stock. While occupancy is high and construction is ongoing, the derelict stock is being actively managed through legal, planning, sales and regeneration pathways.

---

#### HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT (HAP)

- Total Units: 1,309
- Occupied: 1,309 (100%)

---

#### APPROVED HOUSING BODIES (AHB)

- Total Units (including Construction units): 960
- Occupied: 902 (94%)

- Available for Letting: 8 (0.8%)
- Major Refurbishment: 10 (1%)
- Under Construction: 40 (4.2%)

Insight: AHBs are performing well, with a mix of occupied, refurbished, and new units. No derelict properties are reported, suggesting strong asset management.

---

#### RENTAL ACCOMMODATION SCHEME (RAS)

- Total Units: 95
- Occupied: 95 (100%) – Fully utilised.

---

#### TRAVELLER-SPECIFIC ACCOMMODATION (TRAV)

- Total Units: 87
- Occupied: 79 (90.8%)
- Available for Letting: 7 (8%)
- Derelict: 1 – Designated for Traveller-specific housing.

Insight: Traveller accommodation has slightly lower occupancy and higher availability. The single derelict unit is earmarked for redevelopment.

---

#### LEASING

- Total Units: 70
- Occupied: 70 (100%) – Fully utilised.

---

#### MORTGAGE TO RENT (MTR)

- Total Units: 57
- Occupied: 55 (96.5%)
- Available for Letting: 1 (1.8%)
- Major Refurbishment: 1 (1.8%)

As of August 2025, Galway County Council’s social housing portfolio comprises 5,805 units, with a high overall occupancy rate of 94.2%. The Local Authority housing stock remains the most substantial and diverse, with active construction and refurbishment programmes underway. While most other housing types—such as HAP, RAS, and Leasing—are fully occupied and stable, AHB and MTR show signs of ongoing development and targeted investment.

The presence of 40 derelict units, primarily within the LA stock, highlights areas requiring focused intervention. These units are at various stages of legal review, demolition, planning compliance, regeneration, and sale, with one unit designated for Traveller-specific



## SOCIAL HOUSING DEMAND

### APPROVED HOUSEHOLDS BY AREA OF CHOICE & PROPERTY SIZE

AREA OF CHOICE	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4 Bed	5 Bed	6 Bed	Total
Athenry and Environs	221	60	168	28	4	0	481
Oranmore/Claregalway	206	53	156	21	3	0	439
Tuam	136	32	157	30	5	2	362
Loughrea and Environs	133	37	104	4	7	0	285
Ballinasloe South	87	47	69	14	1	3	221
Gort and Environs	84	21	89	10	2	0	206
Ballinasloe North	82	22	85	13	1	0	203
Connemara Central	89	29	72	10	1	0	201
Portumna and Environs	61	14	45	9	0	0	129
Connemara North-West	45	15	51	4	0	0	115
Connemara South-East	59	16	28	7	0	0	110
Headford	52	15	35	8	0	0	110
Galway North	39	6	35	3	0	0	83
Connemara South-West	35	9	32	1	2	0	79
Galway North-East	26	9	29	5	1	0	70
Connemara Islands	6	3	8	0	0	0	17
	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Connemara	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1363</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>1163</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3113</b>

### APPROVED HOUSEHOLDS BY AGE RANGE & PROPERTY SIZE

Age Range	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4 Bed	5 Bed	6 Bed	Total
18 ~ 27	175	33	136	4	0	0	348
28 ~ 37	213	43	364	36	8	1	665
38 ~ 47	216	93	407	79	14	0	809
48 ~ 57	254	98	195	40	5	2	594
58 ~ 65	212	56	48	4	0	2	322
65+	293	65	13	4	0	0	375
<b>Total</b>	<b>1363</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>1163</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3113</b>

### APPROVED HOUSEHOLDS BY BASIS OF NEED & PROPERTY SIZE

BASIS_OF_NEED	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4 Bed	5 Bed	6 Bed	Total
Requires Rent Supplement to pr	620	151	756	93	10	1	1631
Involuntary Sharing	152	28	120	5	1	0	306
Disability requirement - physi	128	64	57	17	3	0	269
Disability requirement - menta	170	29	43	6	2	0	250
Disability requirement - intel	89	32	29	5	1	0	156
Homeless, Institution, Emergen	81	15	43	6	5	0	150
Exceptional Medical or Compass	52	22	30	7	1	0	112
Unsuitable - Particular Househ	22	16	23	6	0	1	68
Unfit	20	19	16	3	0	0	58
Concluded that Mortgage is uns	19	8	20	0	0	0	47
Overcrowded	2	0	14	19	4	3	42
Disability requirement - senso	7	3	12	0	0	0	22
Disability - unspecified	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1363</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>1163</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3113</b>

## SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

---

### SOCIAL WORK TEAM

- Online Referral process for internal referrals, link available on the Intranet.
  - External referrals can be discussed directly with Kieran Keon.
  - More complex cases being identified and case managed.
- 

### CHILD PROTECTION

The current Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Procedures were adopted in January 2023. Kieran Keon, Senior Social Worker is the *Designated Child Protection Liaison Officer* for Galway County Council. All staff must complete the online Children's First Training. If staff have any queries or concerns regarding child welfare & protection issues, contact Kieran Keon.

---

### SEXUAL OFFENCES LIAISON OFFICER (SOLO)

- SOLO role is attached to Senior Social Worker and Designated Child Protection Liaison Officer role.
  - Changes to the Act in 2023, meaning additional responsibility for local authorities in this regard in terms of a 'single agency' response on some cases.
  - Complex Interagency case management is required with the Gardai, Probation services, Galway Simon, COPE etc.
  - If staff have any queries or concerns regarding SOLO, contact Kieran Keon.
- 

### DISABILITY / SOCIAL INCLUSION

- The Galway County Council Strategic Plan 2021-2026 is underpinned by the National Housing Strategy.
- Considerable level of stakeholder engagement internally at Housing SMT, with the HSE and all of the main Disability services providers in the region regarding progression of complex cases, allocations and tenancies.
- The Housing agency have established a *Social Inclusion Advisory Group* to incorporate Disability. Kieran Keon is the Galway County Council rep on the group, who will advise the Housing Agency on Social Inclusion issues such as Disability, 'At risk' Youth, Aftercare, Child Protection and relates issues.
- The Disability Regional Interagency Group (RIG) hosted by the Housing Agency that covers Galway/Mayo/Roscommon continues to meet quarterly to discuss the progression of disability allocations and works towards sharing solutions and ideas across the region. It also allows for direct feedback on housing/disability to the Housing Agency.
-

---

## LOCAL AUTHORITY SOCIAL WORK CONFERENCE 2025

The above is being hosted in October 2025 by Kildare County Council.

### CAPITAL BUILD PROGRAMME

---

#### CAISLÉAN RAITHÍN, ARDRAHAN



The Certificate of Substantial Completion for Units 25-34, Caisléan Raithín, Ardrahan was issued on the 2nd September 2025. The units, to the rear of the existing Caisléan Raithín estate, comprise of 3 No. single storey two bed houses, 1 No. two storey 3 bed house and 6 No. two storey two bed houses.



### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT, FIRE & EMERGENCY & CLIMATE CHANGE

---

#### UISCE ÉIREANN WORKSHOP

Uisce Éireann will host a Water Services Workshop in the Council Chamber on 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 2:00pm. The workshop will provide an opportunity for Uisce Éireann to update members on their plans and to answer any questions you may have about water services and investment plans.

All councillors are strongly urged to attend. Councillors will be emailed further details in advance, along with an invite to submit questions. This will allow Uisce Éireann to consider the issues raised and be better able to provide a comprehensive response at the workshop.

## INIS OÍRR PIER REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Ministers Dara Calleary (Department of Rural and Community Development and The Gaeltacht) and Jack Chambers (Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation) visited Inis Oírr on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August to announce that funding of €35.75 million has been approved, allowing Galway County Council to proceed with the appointment of the works contractor for the project.

The announcement event was attended by the Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council Mr. David Collins and by members of Conamara Municipal District. Employer's Representative and scheme designers Punch Consulting Engineers were represented as were the appointed



contractor Ward & Burke Construction Ltd.

This step in the process to deliver the completed pier project follows approval of the Final Business Case. Compulsory Purchase Orders required to gain control of all land necessary for the scheme have been executed and settlements agreed.

The contractor will commence work on the project immediately. The initial phase involves detailed design and the building and testing of the physical model. Works on



INIS OÍRR



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

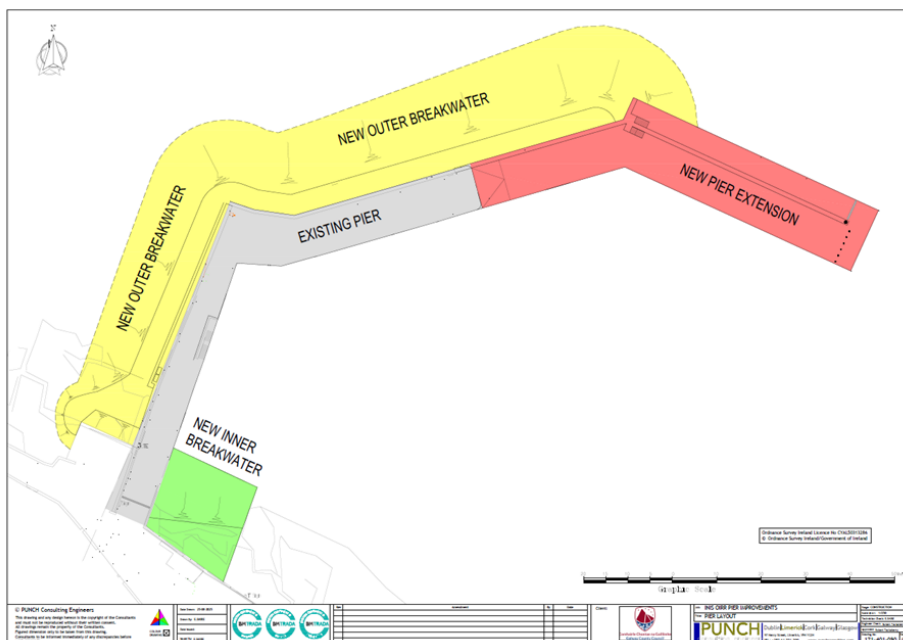


the ground will take place in the summer seasons (April to October) 2026 and 2027. Project completion is programmed for Quarter 3 2027.



The proposed works comprise the construction of a protective breakwater along with a 90m long extension. This will provide a much better protection to vessels in the harbour than is currently afforded resulting in a total length of 135m of additional berthage.

The completed scheme will ensure that wave heights within the harbour are greatly reduced increasing safety and extending the time period the pier is usable, contributing significantly to the island's commercial potential while ensuring enhanced quality of life.



PROPOSED PIER DEVELOPMENT SCHEMATIC DRAWING

PICTURE SHOWING THE  
IMPACT OF STORM  
CONDITIONS ON THE EXISTING  
PIER WITH ASSOCIATED SAFETY  
CONCERNS



### RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT (RI) AND RESTORATION MAINTENANCE (RM)

In 2025, Galway County Council was grant funded by the Department of Transport to the value of €22.65m for RI projects, and €5.33m for RM projects.

Each MD has provided individual progress updates, including photos of completed works, however, on a countywide basis the RI programme is now approximately 75% complete, with the RM 100% complete.

The RI grant is aimed at strengthening the structural integrity of the road network. These works are essential for extending the lifespan of roads and ensuring they can handle current and future traffic volumes, and typically involves:

- Overlaying existing road surfaces with new materials to improve durability.
- Addressing structural deficiencies in the pavement, including drainage.
- Enhancing the road to meet modern standards for safety and usability, including signage and road markings.

The RM grant focuses on preserving the existing road surface through:

- Surface dressing, which involves applying a bituminous binder followed by a layer of chippings.
- Basic preparatory works such as patching and cleaning before dressing.

The goal is to protect the road before it deteriorates to the point of needing full restoration – a cost-effective way to maintain road quality and safety.

### ADDITIONAL RI FUNDING

As part of a Department of Transport mid-year funding review, the Department has offered additional funding in recent weeks for additional works under the RI programme, to the value of €699k.

Galway County Council has accepted this funding offer and will distribute across all MDs, to undertake prioritized additional RI works as identified during the preparation of the 2025 roadworks programme.

#### ADDITIONAL LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME (LIS) FUNDING

In recent weeks, the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRCDG) have advised of 2025 Round 2 Supplementary LIS Funding.

Galway County Council has accepted the funding offer to the value of €843,137. Existing LIS applicants have been contacted, and project funding is being distributed across all MDs.

#### CIS – COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEME 2026-2027

The Department of Transport has advised that it proposes to continue the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) in 2026 and 2027.

Local authorities are invited to apply to the Department for CIS funding for those years, before 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025, in accordance with Circular RW 16 of 2025 Community Involvement Schemes.

It is intended that Galway County Council will publicly advertise inviting applications for inclusion, from residents and local groups who are interested in assisting the Council in carrying out improvement works to Local Public Roads. The closing date for receipt of completed Application Forms is 4.00 p.m. on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025. This funding scheme replaces the 2024-2025 scheme, and therefore previously unfunded scheme applications are required to re-apply.

The closing date for receipt of completed Application Forms is 4.00 p.m. on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Please Note: All applicants who did not receive funding under the 2024/2025 CIS scheme, will be written to shortly by Galway County Council. They will be advised of the details of the new 2026/2027 CIS scheme and requested to notify Galway County Council if they wish to be considered for funding under the new CIS scheme. Notification will be required by the same closing date as new applicants - 4.00 p.m. on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025. If we do not receive notification, the previous application will be archived.

#### GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL TOOK DELIVERY OF 3 NEW 252 REGISTRATION 25T TIPPER TRUCKS

Galway County Council took delivery of 3 new 252 registration 26t Renault Tipper Trucks this month to assist the Municipal District Offices in delivering the roads programme. The total cost of the investment is €600,000 and the trucks will also work alongside the 2 new

Winter Service Trucks purchased earlier in the year in gritting the roads to ensure strategic routes are kept open during extreme cold weather. The 3 new tipper trucks were supplied by Setanta Vehicle Sales North Ltd. based in Dublin.



L-R: MR. DECLAN THORNTON, DRIVER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, MR. NOEL DIVILLY, MACHINERY YARD SUPERVISOR AND MR. UINSINN FINN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL WITH THE 5 NEW TRUCKS.

## TAKING IN CHARGE

The Taking in Charge target - 12 estates Taken in Charge and/or for Bond Release. The Table A hereunder outlines output for 2025.

Table A – Taking in Charge

<i>Estates Taken in Charge</i>		4
<i>Estates pending Ratification of Minutes</i>		1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Remedial Works to take place on estate post TIC</i></li> </ul>		
<i>Estates for consideration at next MD meeting</i>		0
<i>Bond Release (Estates not Taken in Charge)</i>		2
<b><i>Total Taken in Charge/Bond Release</i></b>		<b>6</b>

In addition to the above, the following is position @ 28/08/2025

Estates – advertised for Taking in Charge	0
Estates – Works Complete – Pending Uisce Éireann agreement or Signed Final Report	2
Estates – TIC Led Estates – Works in Hand	18
Estates – Developer led Estates – List of Remedials issued awaiting notification of completion	36
Bond Claims -	1

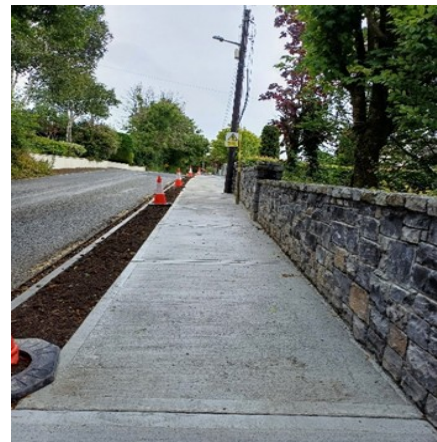
The taking in charge of an estate is a process and at times can be quite protracted. I wish to thank and acknowledge the Taking in Charge team for their work to date.

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

### BEECHLAWN FOOTPATHS SCHEME, BALLINASLOE TOWN – PH3



Footpath construction works are substantially complete. The Road Safety Audit (RSA) Stage 3 has been completed. A review of the Public Lighting along the scheme is required following completion of footpath construction works and this is now in progress. If additional public lighting is required, approval request will follow to NTA Active Travel team.



### BUS STOP ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME (BESP)

Two packages are being progressed: bus shelter installation locations (Plan A) and flagpole installation locations (Plan B). The design has been substantially completed on both packages. Road Safety Audit briefs are being scheduled for proposed locations, as required. Locations included in the bus shelter package include:

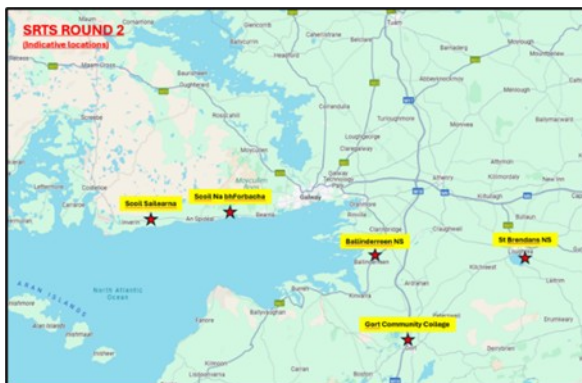
- Joe O'Toole Road, Tuam; Dunmore; Bearná; An Spideal; Oranmore Village; Kiltartan Cross; Letterfrack; Oughterard; Lackagh; Caltra and Glenamaddy

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

### SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL ROUND 2



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



We are currently at Phase 3 Preliminary Design for this project. A Preliminary Design package is being prepared for NTA Active Travel approval which is scheduled to be completed mid-September 2025. Topographical surveys have been completed at all 5 schools.

Stakeholder Engagement is currently ongoing

and continues throughout this project phase. It is intended to extend this Stakeholder Engagement to other interested groups and persons by means of an online, non-statutory consultation in the coming weeks.



### SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL ROUND 3

There are 11 schools included in SRTS Round 3. An Taisce SRTS team has visited all 11 schools to identify the issues pertaining to each location. The NTA Active Travel Services Office (ATSO) has completed Preliminary Design proposals for all R3 schools, 9 of which have been reviewed in detail by GCC with detailed, site-specific feedback provided to NTA ATSO. It is intended that the last 2 schools will be reviewed in Sept 2025.

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

We are currently at Phase 2 Options Selection for this project. Active Stakeholder Engagement is continuing with key parties along the proposed Active Travel route in Athenry, particularly with Irish Rail, GRETB, etc. Bus Stops requirements have now been added to the overall scope of the project and the design was approved by NTA Bus Team. Consultation material has been prepared for review by Irish Rail. It is intended to deliver a Briefing for A/O MD elected members in Sept 2025.

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

We are now nearing the close out for Phase 2 of this project, the Options Selection phase. A draft Feasibility Study is in progress along with the Options Selection Report and associated drawings. The Emerging preferred route has been identified and agreed in principle with NTA. It is intended that the final Preliminary Design package will be made available to the NTA for review and approval Sept 2025

---

## HEADFORD FOOTPATHS

The Active Travel team has been actively collaborating with Tuam MD Roads engineers to design, develop and resource the delivery of an Active Travel scheme on Church Rd, Headford. The scheme which has been proposed to NTA Active Travel team includes carriageway narrowing, widened footpaths, pedestrian crossings & junction tightening with areas of soft planting/ landscaping. The NTA has now provisionally approved this proposal and the project is now at the Preliminary Design stage

---

## PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT ST. JOSEPH'S ROAD PORTUMNA

This project is now at the Planning stage, following successful NTA approval for the Preliminary Design proposals. It is intended to run a Section 38 in Sept 2025. Additional TII input is required due to the location of the proposed pedestrian crossing and its proximity to a NR junction.



**Fig 1- Location of Proposed Scheme**

---

## LOUGHREA ACTIVE TRAVEL DESIGN SCHEME

The proposed scheme has been provisionally approved by NTA. A tender has been issued to procure a Design Consultancy team to work with the NTA and GCC to deliver this project through to ph 4 Planning stage. A tender review will be completed in Sept 2025 following which a design consultancy team will be appointed, and it intended to move quickly into the Preliminary Design phase during which multiple surveys and audits will be completed. A Briefing for Lough MD elected members will be completed in Sept 2025.

## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING – COMMUNITY TRANSPORT STUDIES

An online public consultation event was held to solicit feedback and comment on the proposed Kinvara Community Transport Study. GCC received a large number of submissions, which are now



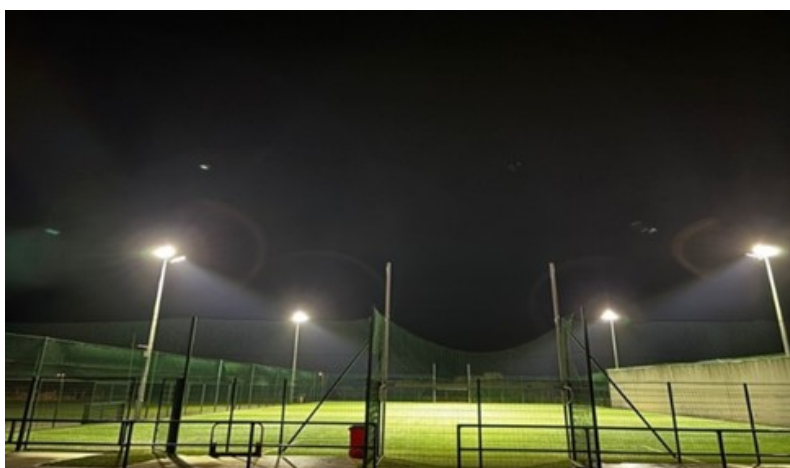
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT STUDY	
Policy Context	Chapter Two provides an overview of local plans and policies that are relevant to the settlement. Appendix A outlines the existing international, national, regional and County policies and guidelines that have informed the development of the CTS.
Existing Conditions - Opportunities and Challenges	Chapter Three outlines the study area including an analysis of existing travel patterns and facilities for walking, cycling, public transport, the roads network and the provision of parking and servicing. This is focused on the opportunities and challenges for four key themed areas of improvement: School Access; Tourism; Village Centre and Wider Connectivity. This analysis is then used to inform the subsequent steps of the CTS.
Transport Objectives and Future Travel	Chapter Four examines the objectives for the CTS which have been determined from consideration of policy transport baseline and demand information.
Community Transport Study	Chapter Five sets out the design principles and preferred multi-modal strategy, including outline details of recommended schemes and key focus areas, along with a summary of the expected benefits arising from the CTS.
Phasing and Implementation	Chapter Six outlines the phasing and implementation plan for the recommended measures in the CTS.

being reviewed, collated and a report will issue shortly. It is intended to develop a strategy and plan whereby some of the identified potential measures might be developed and delivered by the respective roads' authorities (TII and GCC/NTA).

Community Transport Studies for Headford and Maigh Cuillin have started and a Long List of Options for both locations has been identified. It is intended that a draft CTS for both locations will issue in Sept 2025.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Communities are currently implementing projects under the Community Climate Action Fund 2024. Thirteen of the thirty-two projects are substantially completed. Galway County Council is supporting the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of projects in the Country. The LED lighting recently installed by Carnmore Hurling Club is expected to result in a €3000 reduction in costs and 9.5 tonnes reduction in emissions per annum. Cortoon Lavally Community

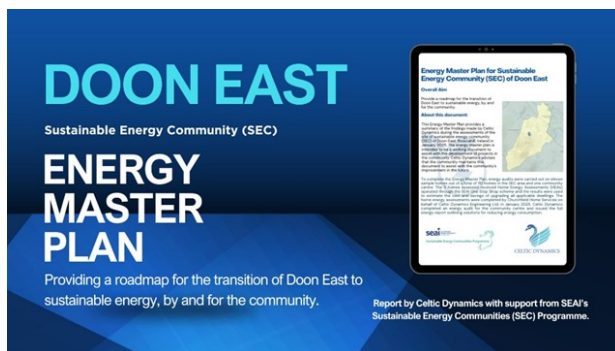


Development recently completed the installation of cabinets for their new Swap Shop.

CARNMORE HURLING CLUB  
- ASTRO LED LIGHTING

## SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMUNITY PROGRAMME (SEC)

The SEC Programme supports communities in the transition to a low carbon society. The Climate Action Unit works with SEAI mentors to support the completion of community level Energy Masterplans (EMP) through the provision of Bridging Finance and procurement support and recoup the funding from SEAI. There was a great turnout at Killannin Community Centre in July for the launch of the Doon East Energy Master Plan.



## SAND DUNES CAMPAIGN

Sand dunes play a critical role in coastal protection and Galway County Council has participated in the Protect Our Dunes Campaign since its inauguration in 2021. Participating agencies include Leave No Trace Ireland, CARO and the University of Galway. This summer, we're participating in a social media campaign to encourage people to protect our dunes through awareness raising.



## SUSTAINABLE FASHION SUMMER CAMP

Youth Work Galway will host a Sustainable Fashion Summer Camp across August in Tuam. This initiative is supported by Galway County Council and the Creative Ireland Programme. The free of charge camp provides an opportunity for teens to explore their style, learn about fast fashion, and get creative with upcycling.



## ENERGY MANAGEMENT

The Climate Unit continues to work towards reducing energy use and emissions.

Project	Update
Building Audits	Codex Energy Consultants Ltd were appointed to conduct non-domestic BER assessments on four of our buildings to identify projects that can avail of 50% funding under the SEAI Pathfinder Programme and assist us in reaching our energy targets. Reports were issued in July which outline a pathway to 500 MWh annual energy savings and annual reduction of 105 tCO2. The next step is the development of detailed designs for the projects.

## FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### OPERATIONS

A new Incident Command Unit (ICU) has been completed by Sidhean Teo in An Spidéal and was handed over to GFRS on Monday 18 August 2025. Training on the operation of the unit is due in the first 2 weeks of September. Construction of a new Hazmat Unit has started also in Sidhean Teo. A visit to view the recently completed Limerick unit is scheduled for the first week of September.

Two new Class A appliances have been delivered from Emergency One. Pump Operator and Driving Instructors have completed training on the new appliances, with training for

relevant firefighters scheduled to commence in mid-September. Both appliances are currently undergoing final checks prior to being placed into operational service.

Work-related tests for whole time firefighter positions in Galway City, as well as retained firefighter positions across the county, are scheduled for late September. Preparations are underway to facilitate the testing process, with 35 potential recruits expected to participate.

## CAPITAL PROJECTS

### LOUGHREA FIRE STATION

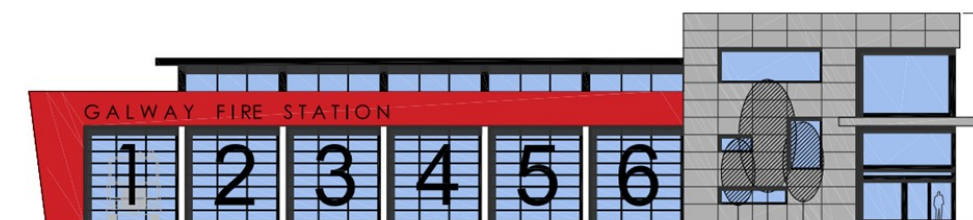
Approval to proceed to tender for a Main Contractor was submitted in early June to the NDFEM. A reply is anticipated the first week of September and tendering will be commenced immediately approval is received with a view to appointing a main contractor by the end of October 2025.



PROPOSED NEW FIRE STATION LOUGHREA

### HEADQUARTERS AND GALWAY CITY FIRE STATION

An initial independent planning and flood risk assessment is underway and is expected by early September 2025. The capital appraisal was submitted to the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2025, following a productive meeting between both Chief Executives and the NDFEM at Local Government Management Agency House, Dublin on the 17 July 2025. Permission to appoint a design team is expected by the end of September 2025.



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

## TRAINING

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

To date 6 personnel have undertaken the USAR 1 Course at the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service Learning and Development College, Cookstown. A further 3 students are scheduled to attend the course on the 01 September 2025. The national training kit has been delivered and will be managed by GFRS. USAR Personal Protective Equipment deliveries have commenced and should be completed by end of September 2025.

8 students are scheduled to undertake the USAR Module 2 course (2 weeks) in Merseyside FRS Learning and Development College, Liverpool over 2 separate courses as follows:

Course 1 – 6 - 17 October 2025

Course 2 - 10 – 21 November 2025



USAR 1 COURSE - COOKSTOWN,  
NORTHERN IRELAND

NATIONAL USAR TRAINING KIT  
ON MFU-01



---

## JULY TRAINING COMPLETED

ROV Training Course (4 students) early July 2025

Trench Rescue Course (6 students) Abbeylax 13-15 August 2025

National Unified Risk Operating Platform (NUROP) Senior Officer Seminar – 15 July 2025

## NUROP (NATIONAL UNIFIED RISK OPERATING PLATFORM) AND SEVERE WEATHER EVENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SWEMS)

NUROP / SWEMS development work is continuing in advance of the NDFEM External Validation Group (EVG) assessment in October 2025. These systems place GCC / GFRS ahead of all other services in terms of demonstrating achievement of the NDFEM strategic objectives, particularly in terms of mobile data and community fire safety.

## PREVENTION

The information in the following is based on the August 2025 figures. The Fire Authority received 16 Fire Safety Certificate applications and issued decisions on 4 applications. 8 Disability Access Certificate applications were received, and decisions made on 6 applications. 65 new licences were issued in August and 21 inspections were conducted.

## CIVIL DEFENCE

---

### ACTIVITIES

---

#### GALWAY INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL – STREET SPECTACLE & PARADES

Galway Civil Defence provided medical cover for one evening event and two night parades through the city. Four ambulances and crews, supported by foot patrols, ensured public safety throughout on both nights.

---

#### COMMUNITY EVENT MEDICAL SUPPORT

Medical support was delivered across the county at various community events, maintaining a visible and reassuring presence.

---

#### MASS CASUALTY EXERCISE – BALLINASLOE

Galway Civil Defence participated in a Mass Casualty Exercise organised by the National Ambulance Services College, Ballinasloe. The exercise aimed to expose newly qualified Student Paramedics to realistic mass casualty scenarios as part of their professional development.

PLANNING

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL PLANNING DATA

KEY Statistics: 1 <sup>st</sup> JANUARY – 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2025	
Applications Received/Valid	1447/1172
Granted	1066
Grant Rate	91%
Refused	98
Breakdown of Decisions Granted Outline (8)	
Permission (849)	
Retention (187)	
Permission Consequent (5)	
Extension of Duration (17)	
Percentage of applications received via Portal/Hardcopy	85%
Stage 1LRD	3
Stage 2 LRD	1
Major Meetings	14
SID Meetings	1

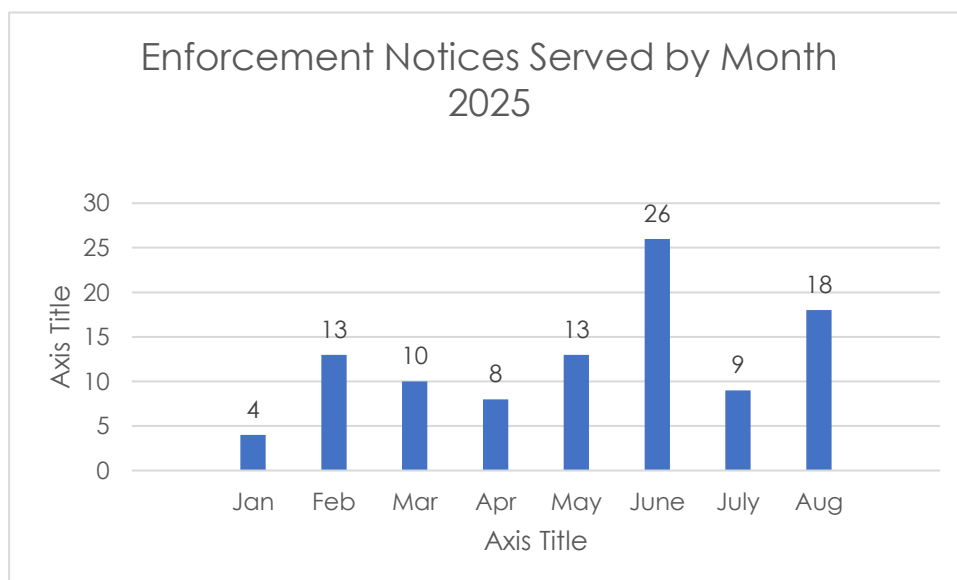
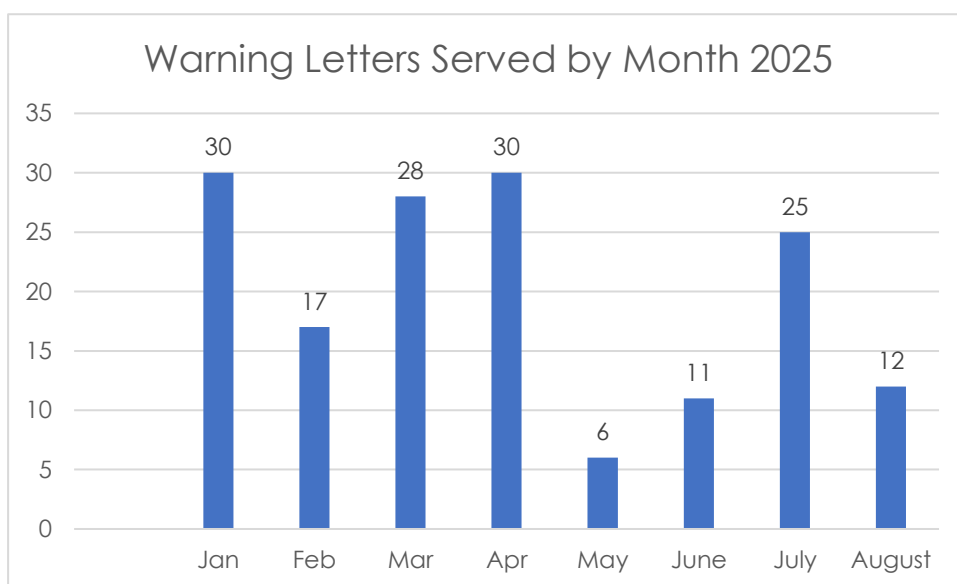
COMMENCEMENTS AND COMPLETIONS 1 <sup>st</sup> JANUARY – 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2025	
Submitted and Validated Commencement Notices	490
Submitted and Validated Certificates of Completion	73

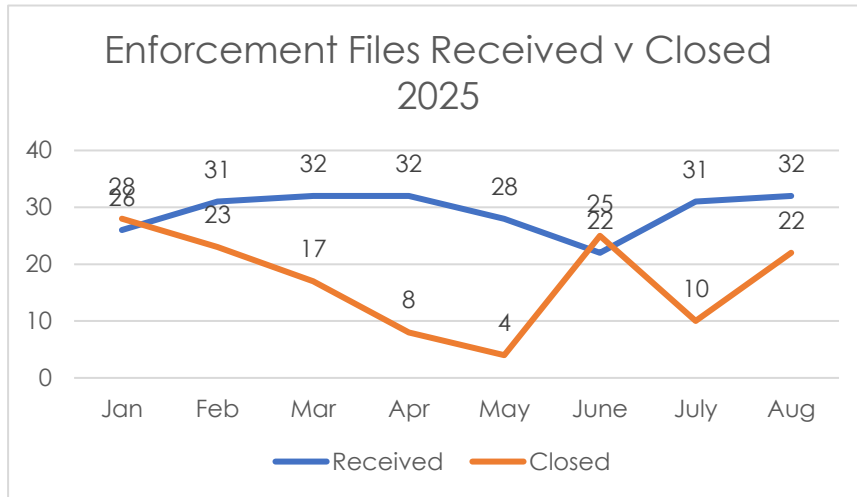
KEY STATISTICS 1 <sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2025 –31 <sup>st</sup> August 2025.	
Exempted Development Applications (under Section 5)	110
Exempted	56
Not Exempted	39
FI	4
Withdrawn	0
Decision Pending	8
Appealed	3

PRE PLANNING MEETINGS JANUARY TO AUGUST 2025

PPM per MD per Month	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
<b>Athenry/Oranmore</b>	3	7	5	5	7	3	5	<b>0</b>
<b>Ballinasloe</b>	2	2	5	6	2	2	6	<b>1</b>
<b>Connemara N &amp; S</b>	3	4	6	7	3	0	7	<b>2</b>
<b>Loughrea</b>	8	9	9	5	2	6	2	<b>6</b>
<b>Tuam</b>	1	6	3	3	7	2	2	<b>3</b>
<b>Total per month</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>12</b>

ENFORCEMENT






---

## KEY PLANNING UPDATES

---

### GORT LOCAL AREA PLAN 2025-2031

Finalised and Adopted Gort Local Area Plan on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2025. Plan due to come into effect on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

---

### PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2024

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

Development plan variation expected to be carried out under the existing Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

---

### COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN/DEVELOPMENT PLAN VARIATION

Ongoing monitoring and background work being carried out ahead of expected Variation.

Statutory variation may commence in late October. Quotations sought for review of Housing Need Demand Assessment. One response from Downey Brothers.

Framework of Environmental Consultants now in place in partnership with City Council. Mini competition to issue for Variation in coming weeks.

---

### MONITORING OF GALWAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028

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

---

### VACANCY SURVEY

Vacancy survey is now underway. MASP and Athenry have now been surveyed.

---

## URDF



Finalisation of design of local centre, ecopark and density typology study at Garraun to be completed by end of September.

SET enabling works now complete at Oranmore Train Station. Contracts signed (see photo) between Irish Rail and P&D Lydon for pedestrian underpass works. Call for Tender published for main works contract.

---

L-R: MR. JIM MEADE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, IARNRÓD ÉIREANN, MR. SEAN CANNEY, JUNIOR MINISTER I DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, CLLR. DAVID COLLINS, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY, MR. EOIN GILLARD, NATIONAL TRANSPORT AUTHORITY, AND MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



Four tender responses received with respect to Carpark Design. Tender evaluations early September.

---

## ORANMORE TRAIN STATION WORKS/CAR PARK RESTRICTIONS

The following are the dates of note around the Oranmore Train station works and the carpark restrictions associated with these works. The works are for the construction of the pedestrian underpass to service the second platform which all form part of the URDF project. It is expected that works for the construction of the second platform will commence in Q1/2 of 2026.

### From 22<sup>nd</sup> September:

- Northern side of car park capacity reduced. Impact is a loss of approximately 16no. car parking spaces including informal parking.
- Signage to be erected on fence adjacent to this area on 15<sup>th</sup> September indicating capacity to be reduced.

From Wednesday 19.00, 8<sup>th</sup> October:

- Car park capacity reduced further by approximately 100 spaces on the western side of car park. Approx. 100 spaces remain.
- Signage to be erected communicating this on 29<sup>th</sup> September.

From Thursday 19.00, 9<sup>th</sup> October to Tuesday 06.00, 14<sup>th</sup> October:

- Main car park fully closed for parking. Pedestrian, cyclist and pick-up/drop-off access maintained. Parking available on access road for approx. 50 cars.
- Signage to be erected communicating this on 29<sup>th</sup> September.

---

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Tender brief being prepared for City/County Joint Economic Strategy to include city and entire County. Joint meeting held between City and County on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2025. Call for Tender to be published in September 2025.

---

## BRIARHILL URBAN FRAMEWORK PLAN LANDS

Finalisation of Local Centre Design Documents and Typology Study in September 2025. Meeting arranged with TII, NTA and City Council with respect to Eastern Environs LTP and Area Based Transport Assessment.

---

## JOINT RETAIL STRATEGY

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

---

## DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

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

---

## CAHEROYN URBAN FRAMEWORK PLAN (ATHENRY)

Site meeting with appointed consultants took place on 15<sup>th</sup> August. Works underway to draft up Caheroyne UFP.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE

### LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE GALWAY

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

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

## TRAINING COURSES & PROGRAMMES

### SHORT TRAINING COURSES

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



### SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE:

9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> September	Email Marketing
16 <sup>th</sup> September	Brand Storytelling
18 <sup>th</sup> September	Beginners Guide to Social Media
22 <sup>nd</sup> September	Using Canva like a Pro
30 <sup>th</sup> September	How to Master Your VAT Return

### BUSINESS ADVISORY CLINIC

Our business advisory sessions enable clients to speak with one of our business advisors who will offer general advice to help on starting a new business or expanding on an existing business.



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

A business advisory is a free 30-minute consultation and runs weekly throughout the year.

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

### MENTORING

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



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

The Mentor Programme is open to both new and existing businesses located within the Galway region. Areas of mentoring include business strategy, financial planning, market research, marketing & promotion, distribution, exporting, production planning, social media. A mentoring session consists of 3 hours support from the mentor.

---

### START YOUR OWN BUSINESS PROGRAMME (SYOB)

LEO Galway organizes a SYOB programme monthly with up to 16 participants on each programme. The September SYOB evening programme commenced on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2025 and finishes on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

---

#### FOOD & CRAFT FAIR PREPARATION TRAINING

Food and Craft fair preparation training for stand holders is taking place on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September and the 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of October online and in person will take place on 10<sup>th</sup> October in the Connacht Hotel.

---

#### NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS



One of Galway's best small businesses will get a chance to exhibit their business to almost 300,000 people at the National Ploughing Championships in Scraggan, Tullamore as part of the Local Enterprise Village.

Score Factor, which is supported by Local Enterprise Office Galway, is a Mobile Wall Technology (MWT). The idea of MWT is based on a game that you play in a time limit

by hitting sensors and the system records the number of points you get. You can play this game through an APP which enables schools to play with another school, club to club or house to house. This product uses batteries but also has an inbuilt solar panel.

The Local Enterprise Village, an initiative of the Local Enterprise Offices, will house over 30 small businesses and be at the heart of this year's National Ploughing Championships from September 16th to 18th, 2025.



---

## GRANT CLINICS WITH LEO GALWAY & THE PORTERSHED

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



The September Grant Clinic was held on **September 10<sup>th</sup> from 1-4pm.**

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

### What to expect:

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

### Who should attend:

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

## PAST EVENTS

---

### SME'S & STARTUPS – NETWORKING AND INFORMATION EVENT

Eoin Connaire of LEO Galway recently attended a networking and information event on September 8<sup>th</sup> in the Galmont Hotel, Galway. BPW Galway in collaboration with Regional Skills West, Local Enterprise Office Galway and Galway Executive Skillnet bring together Enterprise Ireland, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Galway Chamber, Department of Social Protection, ATU, University of Galway, GRETB, Western Development Commission, Platform 94 and itag Skillnet to hear how best to share information about their supports to make a difference to your business.

Networking and information event for Startup/SME's to meet the government-funded agencies and learn what supports and services are available to assist grow your business and connect with key players in the community.



L-R: MS. DAYANA MALTESE, SABANERO ARTISAN CHEESE, MR. EOIN CONNAIRE, LEO GALWAY, MS. AOIFE KEADY BPW (BUSINESS PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S GROUP) AND MS. MARGARET MONAGHAN, MARTEYE

ATTENDEES OF THE SME'S & STARTUPS NETWORKING AND INFORMATION EVENT.



### NAVIGATING START-UP INVESTMENT IN TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY

Sandra Regan & Stephanie Colombani of LEO Galway recently attended the Westbic event at Bailey Allen Hall in the University of Galway on Tuesday 26th August. This was an insightful event focusing on how investors and founders can navigate capital, competition, and innovation in a world shaped by AI and instability.

Against the backdrop of accelerating AI, rising inflation, and global instability, this event offered a timely look at the strategies and insights shaping the future of investment and entrepreneurship. With expert speakers, engaging discussion, and plenty of networking opportunities over lunch, it was a must-attend for anyone interested in staying ahead in a rapidly changing world.

Throughout the day, focused panel discussions explored key areas of investment including Medtech Investments, Investment in Start-Up Companies, Female Founders Investment, and Investment in Scaling Companies.

Each panel featured experienced investors who shared their perspectives, trends to watch, and practical advice for founders and funders alike. This event was ideal for start-ups, scaling companies, SMEs, investors, and anyone with an interest in the future of tech and business innovation. The event was organised in partnership with Data2Sustain and Enterprise Ireland.



MS. SANDRA REGAN & MS. STEPHANIE COLOMBANI PROVIDING INFORMATION ON OUR LEO SUPPORTS

---

## LUNCH & LEARN BALLINASLOE ENTERPRISE HUB

Caroline McDonagh, Eoin Connaire and Mairead Herlihy of LEO Galway attended a Growth and Networking Lunch and learn on September 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Ballinasloe Enterprise Hub. This Lunch & Learn session highlighted the LEO services & supports available to those looking to start or grow their business in County Galway. Such topics included: Mentoring, Training, Grant aid, Green for Business, Lean for business, Digital for business etc. The audience got the chance to meet our LEO Galway team to discuss their business needs and got their business questions answered.



MR. EOIN CONNAIRE, LEO GALWAY, MS. MAIREAD HERLIHY, LEO GALWAY, MS. CAROLINE MCDONAGH, HEAD OF ENTERPRISE, MS. DENISE ROCKS, WEST REGIONAL SKILLS FORUM MANAGER AND MS. LYN DONNELLY, COMPANY MANAGER, BALLINASLOE AREA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LTD

---

## SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

### FACEBOOK:

7.4 LIKES

REACH YEAR-TO-DATE: 10.3K

### LINKEDIN:

1.4K FOLLOWERS

REACH YEAR-TO-DATE: 4.1K

### INSTAGRAM:

3.4K FOLLOWERS

REACH YEAR-TO-DATE: 3.4K

### X (TWITTER):

5887 FOLLOWERS

---

## WESTERN REGIONAL ENTERPRISE PLAN



L-R: BARRY DOWNES, MANAGING PARTNER SVV; KENNY DEERY, REGIONAL ENTERPRISE PLAN PROGRAMME MANAGER & EVENT MC; MÉABH CONAGHAN, REGIONAL MANAGER, ENTERPRISE IRELAND; KEVIN SHEERY, DIRECTOR, ENTERPRISE IRELAND; COLLEEN BAXTOR, MARKETING & EVENTS MANAGER, WESTBIC; JOHN BRENNAN, CEO, WESTBIC; MIKE CONROY, DIRECTOR, DATA2SUSTAIN AT THE EUROPEAN DIGITAL INNOVATION HUB.

---

## NATIONAL START-UP FUNDING CONFERENCE HELD IN GALWAY

One of the objectives that sits within the West Regional Enterprise Plan focuses on early-stage access to investment funding for start-up and scaling SME's. This national conference entitled 'Navigating Start-up investment in times of uncertainty' sought to address that objective. There was a particular focus on how investors and founders can navigate capital competition and innovation in a world shaped by AI and instability.

This national conference, held in the University of Galway on August 26<sup>th</sup>, was organised by WestBic in partnership with Enterprise Ireland and Data2Sustain, part of the European Digital Innovation Hub. Kenny Deery, Regional Enterprise Plan Programme Manager

facilitated and supported the event in the months in advance as well as being master of ceremonies on the day.

Four panels made up of individual investors, investment syndicates and representatives of venture capital funds discussed the present geo-political landscape, the impact of AI and the changing patterns of SME ideation and development. There were over 200 SMEs in attendance from across the country.

#### Key reflections

- Change is even bigger and coming faster than we think
- During 2024 in the US, 71% of capital and 33% of deal flow from VC's was in AI start-ups
- AI agent capability is doubling every 70 days
- Chat GPT is outpacing anything else – 700 million weekly users in August 2025
- AI capex is eating the global economy overshadowing infrastructure budgets 10x
- Speed is critical – timeframes have changed, you need to execute fast or don't
- For investors and start-ups, remember Ireland is small, be careful who you fall out with – people talk

The next event aligned to this objective is a two-day series of meetings in early October for a project that sits within the West Regional Enterprise Plan, entitled 'UnicornQuest'. It is an Interreg Europe Project helping regions attract and retain high growth start-ups by building strong entrepreneurial ecosystems.

## REGENERATION SCHEMES

### TOWN CENTRE FIRST (TCF) PROGRAMME

#### ATHENRY

The Athenry Town team have been working closely with the TRO and Consultants LUC in the initial stages of evidence gathering for the TCF plan. The process of distilling the public feedback from the public engagement is complete and a further meeting with the town team has been completed. A final public engagement evening where draft projects will be presented to the public will take place on Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 7pm at the Newpark Hotel.

#### BALLINASLOE

The Ballinasloe Town Team continue to work with the Paul Hogarth Company in the development of the draft Town Centre First Plan. The process of drafting the final Town Centre First Plan is nearing completion.

---

## AN CHEATHRÚ RUA

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

---

## PORTUMNA

---

### PORTUMNA COURTHOUSE

The Courthouse continues to grow as a vibrant and inclusive community space. Recent and upcoming activity includes:

A successful Open House was held on 20th August, welcoming a broad mix of community members to explore the venue and engage informally with the team. Separately, a public meeting and presentation that evening provided a more formal platform to share updates, gather feedback, and outline strategic priorities, reinforcing transparency and community involvement. [Tribune](#)

**Courthouse Collective Launch:** The Collective brings together a diverse network of local creatives, groups, and community partners. This initiative aims to foster collaboration, support shared use of the space, and drive innovative programming across arts, enterprise, and community development. Funding has been secured through Creative Ireland to support membership fees for 2025/2026. [Read More Here](#)

<https://consult.galway.ie/en/consultation/portumna-courthouse-collective>



On Sunday, July 27th, the Courthouse hosted its first community group-organised event, led by the local collective, The Portumna Pen Pushers and supported by Portumna Arts Group. Titled Maple Musings, the gathering was both well-attended and full of energy.

**Remote Working Hub:** A use case trial is being launched on 25<sup>th</sup> August with the goal of gathering critical feedback with regard to the facility and its

operations. This initiative remains central to our goal of supporting flexible working and attracting new user groups to the Courthouse.

**Café Launch:** We are actively working with the successful tenderer to mobilise the café space, with a planned launch in mid/late-September. This will add a valuable social and service element to the venue and wider town.

**Shorelines25:** Collaboration with the local arts group Shorelines is progressing well as they prepare for two weeks of cultural programming in the Courthouse. This partnership is helping to animate the space and strengthen its role as a civic creative hub.

### **Facility & Operational**

**Management:** Ongoing efforts continue to ensure the Courthouse is well-maintained, accessible, and responsive to user needs. We are also exploring additional programming and partnership opportunities to further activate the space.



---

### **PORTUMNA PUBLIC REALM**

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

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

---

### **PORTUMNA TOWN TRAIL**

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

---

## ABBEY STREET BUILDINGS

The properties acquired on Abbey Street have been surveyed and the architectural modelling process has commenced. Design options are currently being assessed.



---

## LOUGHREA

---

### RRDF PROJECT – LOUGHREA TOWN HALL

Finna Construction are progressing with demolition works ongoing. Work has commenced on the construction of the new build three storey rear extension to the original structure. Agreement has been reached with the landowner to purchase the adjacent derelict property on Church Street. Future development plans for the property are currently being considered.





---

### ORIS PROJECT – LONG POINT

An Bord Pleanála have issued a request for further information. The consultant team appointed by Galway County Council have prepared a response which is available to view at <https://consult.galway.ie/en/consultation/loughrea-long-point-amenity-enhancement-project-part-10-planning-application-0>

---

### ATHENRY

---

#### RRDF PROJECT – PUBLIC REALM ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

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

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

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

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

---

### RRDF PROJECT – COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE HUB

O’C & C Architects have been appointed to deliver the process through detailed design, tender and construction phases. The detailed design process is progressing. Sample images attached.





---

## OPW

Works to the threshold of Athenry Castle have been completed by the OPW.



---

## TUAM

---

### TUAM TOWN HALL

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





---

## TUAM STATION BUILDING: REPURPOSING, RENOVATION AND EXTENSION

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



The Part 8 planning application was submitted on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March. A Meeting of Tuam Municipal District convened on May 29<sup>th</sup> to consider the Chief Executives Report on the planning file. The application was approved unanimously. A funding application to deliver the capital project has been made to the

Northern and Western Regional Assembly under the European Regional Development Fund. The funding application at a 100% rate amounts to some €6.6 million euros. Members of the Regeneration Team met with Yvette and Catriona from the Northern and Western Regional Assembly recently for a project evaluation meeting at Tuam Area Office.

---

## TUAM STATION QUARTER MASTERPLAN (THRIVE FUNDING)

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



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

---

## CLIFDEN

A Part 10 planning application has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála for the Public Realm project for Clifden Town Centre, Harbour Park and Beach Road Quay. Plans and particulars can be viewed online at <https://consult.galway.ie/en/consultation/clifden-public-realm-enhancement-scheme> . A request for further information has been issued by An bord Pleanala to Galway County Council. The design team appointed by Galway County Council has issued a response, details of which can also be found on our consultation portal.

---

## GORT

---

### GORT PUBLIC REALM

The Gort Public Realm scheme Part 10 planning application has been submitted to An bord Pleanála. The application is available to view online at



<https://consult.galway.ie/en/consultation/gort-town-centre-public-realm-enhancement-project-part-10-planning-application> or alternatively viewed in hardcopy at the local area office on Crowe Street. The deadline for receipt of submissions or observations to An Bord Pleanála is Friday 29th of August 2025 at 5.30pm.

---

## SISTERS OF MERCY CONVENT

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

---

## ORANMORE

---

### RINVILLE PARK SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Cunnane Stratton Reynolds have been appointed to develop a sustainable development plan for Rinville Park. A second stakeholder workshop took place on August 7th at Oranmore Library on Main Street. The design team were on hand to discuss the project with residents and local community groups.

The consultation boards from the event are available on our consultation portal at <https://consult.galway.ie/en/consultation/rinville-park-sustainable-development-plan>



---

## HERITAGE OFFICE



Galway County Celebrates National Heritage Week with Over 150 Events and Digital Projects

---

MAIGH CULLIN HERITAGE WEEK EVENT.  
PHOTO CREDIT: CUMANN STAIRE  
RUAIDHRÍ UÍ FHLAITHEARTAIGH MHÁIGH  
CUILINN

Galway County proudly showcased its vibrant heritage and community spirit during National Heritage Week 2025, offering an exceptional and diverse programme that included 137 registered in-person events and 6 digital heritage projects. In addition to the registered events there were in the region of another 20 events held during Heritage Week that were not registered on the Heritage Week portal.

---

MILLTOWN HERITAGE WEEK EVENT. PHOTO CREDIT: MILLTOWN HERITAGE



From guided walks, exhibitions, and storytelling sessions to archaeological tours and craft demonstrations, the in-person events brought together communities, families, and visitors to celebrate the county’s rich natural, built, and cultural heritage. Highlights included Athenry Walled Town Day, the Holy Wells of South Connemara exhibition, the launch of the “Nine Irons” short film in Oughterard, and heritage walks in Loughrea and Ceantar na nOileán.



---

CREGGS HERITAGE WEEK EVENT. PHOTO CREDIT: CREGGS DEVELOPMENT

Complementing these were six innovative digital heritage projects, including “The Foundations of Abbey, Loughrea” by the Abbey Heritage Group and “Digital Related Projects as Foundations of Institutionalised Innocent Childhoods in the West” by Buckley 1. These projects offered new ways to explore and share Galway’s heritage through online platforms, videos, and interactive storytelling.

KILSKEAGH HERITAGE WEEK EVENT PHOTO CREDIT:  
KILSKEAGH CHURCH AND GRAVEYARD GROUP



The scale and diversity of this year's programme reflect the incredible dedication of local communities, heritage groups, and individuals across the county. Heritage Week is a powerful reminder of the value of our shared history and the importance of preserving it for future generations.



D'ARCY 300 PHOTO CREDIT: KILTULLAGH  
KILLIMORDALY HERITAGE SOCIETY

D'ARCY 300 PHOTO CREDIT: KILTULLAGH  
KILLIMORDALY HERITAGE SOCIETY



WOODLAWN HERITAGE WEEK EVENT. PHOTO CREDIT: WOODLAWN HERITAGE GROUP

The events were coordinated by The Heritage Council and supported at the County level by the Heritage Office of Galway County Council with activities taking place from 16th to 24th August 2025. The Heritage Office distributed Heritage Week merchandise to numerous groups across the county, programmed events in partnership with a number of heritage and community groups and provided support to several other groups to undertake, promote and deliver their events. The local media actively promoted and highlighted the Heritage Week events throughout the county. The following is a flavour of this coverage:



The attendance at the Holy Wells exhibition launch at Ionad Oidreacht Leitir Mealláin, as part of Heritage Week. PHOTO: SEAN LYDON.

---

## ATHENRY WALLED TOWNS DAY 2025: A FUN AND MEMORABLE STEP BACK IN TIME



GLIONDAR AT ATHENRY WALLED TOWNS DAY. PHOTO CREDIT: HANY MARZOUK

Athenry came alive last Sunday, 17th August, as local people and visitors enjoyed the annual Walled Towns Day. With beautiful sunshine and over 10,000 visitors, the Athenry Medieval Festival was a huge success, offering a full day of history, heritage, culture, and entertainment for all ages.

ATHENRY WALLED TOWN DAY. PHOTO CREDIT: HANY MARZOUK

Held in Athenry Community Park and the Athenry Arts & Heritage Centre, the festival celebrated the town's medieval roots and Anglo-Norman heritage. Since starting in 2006, it has become a much-loved tradition.



ATHENRY WALLED TOWN DAY. PHOTO CREDIT: HANY MARZOUK

The 1316 Medieval Athenry Fight Club thrilled spectators with dramatic sword fights. Children learned knightly skills from the Irish School of Historical Combat and Galway Gallowglasses. Cláíomh, Jack Pinson and Bran Dubh brought history to life with reenactments and interactive displays.





ATHENRY WALLED TOWN DAY. PHOTO CREDIT: HANY MARZOUK

Visitors were treated to music, dancing, and performances by jesters, drummers, and stilt walkers. Galway Early Music, Mike Stewart, Brendan Curtin, and Úna Ní Fhlannagáin wowed the crowds, while Drumadore kept younger audiences entertained with lively rhythms.

MEDIEVAL MUSIC AT ATHENRY WALLED TOWN DAY. PHOTO CREDIT: HANY MARZOUK

Athenry Community Park was enlivened by the towering presence of Gliondar stilt walkers, while Máire Daly and her team skilfully painted the faces of eager children, transforming them into medieval Lords, Ladies, and mythical creatures.



MEDIEVAL GAMES AT ATHENRY WALLED TOWN DAY. PHOTO CREDIT: HANY MARZOUK

---

ENJOYING THE CRAFTS AT ATHENRY  
WALLED TOWN DAY. PHOTO CREDIT:  
HANY MARZOUK

Local crafts were also on show, with felt making by Sandra Marschall, wool spinning by Sandra King and Seamus Kirwan, and basket weaving by Niall Murphy. Animal Magic displayed birds of prey, and the Loughrea Craft Club hosted medieval-themed crafts for kids. Little Gem Puppet shows added to the fun, while Moth & Butterfly Storytelling held audiences spellbound with their ancient tales.



Archaeologist Kat Thompson led hands-on digs, letting visitors uncover medieval treasures and a replica skeleton. Food historians Anna O'Donnell and Dinay Thorneycroft offered tasty medieval-inspired dishes.

At the Arts & Heritage Centre, people tried archery and joined free guided tours. Local guide Gerry Burke led two popular walking tours of the town's history.

Reflecting on the extraordinary response, Alan Burgess, Manager of the Athenry Arts & Heritage Centre, expressed his delight, stating, "The overwhelming support from the community truly propelled Athenry Walled Town Day to new heights. The immersive journey we crafted into the medieval past has undeniably cemented this event as a resounding success. We eagerly anticipate more remarkable experiences in the years to come."



---

ATHENRY WALLED TOWN DAY.  
PHOTO CREDIT: HANY MARZOUK

Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer at Galway County Council, praised the dedication of performers, community organisations, and volunteers, notably Athenry Arts & Heritage Centre, Athenry Tidy Towns, and Athenry Community

Council Trust Limited, for their remarkable commitment in bringing the medieval era to life. She also thanks the Heritage Council for part funding the event and her colleagues in the Planning Section and Area Office, Athenry who worked so hard to make the event a great success."

The event was supported by The Heritage Council, Galway County Council, Athenry Community Council Trust Limited, Athenry Area Office, Athenry Tidy Towns, and local businesses.

---

## LOUGHREA MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL WEEKEND CELEBRATES HERITAGE WITH MUSIC, HISTORY, AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT

The Loughrea Medieval Festival Weekend, held as part of National Heritage Week 2025, was a resounding success, drawing large crowds to a series of engaging and educational events across the town. Organised by the Loughrea Medieval Festival Committee in partnership with Galway County Council and proudly funded by Galway County Council and The Heritage Council, the weekend celebrated Loughrea’s rich cultural legacy through music, storytelling, archaeology and hands-on activities.

“The Loughrea Medieval Festival Weekend was a fantastic celebration of our town’s heritage,” said Cllr Michael ‘Moegie’ Maher, Chairperson of the Loughrea Medieval Festival Committee.



MS. BERNIE DOHERTY, GALWAY COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGIST, MS. KATIE DUANE, KILBOGHT GRAVEYARD COMMITTEE, CLLR MICHAEL “MOEGIE” MAHER. PHOTO CREDIT: HANY MARZOUK

“We are deeply grateful to all the performers, participants and volunteers who made it such a memorable occasion.

Special thanks to Loughrea Library and Loughrea Hotel & Spa for their generous support and hospitality.”

---

## LOUGHREA MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL- LOUGHREA LIBRARY EVENTS. PHOTO CREDIT: HANY MARZOUK

Highlights of the weekend included “Ask the Archaeologist” at Loughrea Library, where Galway Community Archaeologist Bernie Doherty captivated attendees with replica artefacts and interactive monument-making. This gave people a chance to have a greater understanding of the rich archaeological heritage of the area.



“It is a joy to see people of all ages engaging with archaeology,” said Bernie Doherty.

“Events like this remind us that or archaeology and heritage belong to everyone.”

Conserving our Foundations focussed on community projects in Killogilleen, Kilboght and Abbeygormican. A short film with local legend Katie Duane, Kilrickle highlighted the importance of conserving our sites and monuments for future generations.



LAUNCH OF FOGHLAIM ~ CEANGAIL ~ CEILIÚIR ÁR STAIR MHEÁNAISEACH / LEARN ~ CONNECT ~ CELEBRATE OUR MEDIEVAL PAST. PHOTO CREDIT: HANY MARZOUK

A new bilingual children’s colouring book, Foghlaim ~ Ceangail ~ Ceiliúir Ár Stair Mheánaoiseach / Learn ~

Connect ~ Celebrate Our Medieval Past, developed by the Galway County Heritage Office, Gaeilge Locha Riach and the Festival Committee and supported by Glanua was launched at Loughrea Library.

“We’re delighted to have supported the creation of this bilingual activity book as part of Loughrea Walled Towns Day,” said Jessica Ryan-Cosgrove, Graduate Engineer, Glanua Ireland Limited.

“It’s a fantastic initiative that brings history to life for children in a way that’s both educational and fun. The book reflects the spirit of community and creativity that Glanua is proud to be part of.”



MUSIC GENERATION. PHOTO CREDIT: MUSIC GENERATION GALWAY COUNTY

Music Generation Galway County hosted two well-attended Taster Sessions at the Loughrea Hotel & Spa, offering young people aged 8–18 the chance to explore instruments and group performance in a fun, inclusive setting.

WALKING TOUR OF LOUGHREA  
WITH RAY GATELY. PHOTO CREDIT:  
CLLR MICHAEL 'MOEGIE' MAHER

Walking Tours of Medieval Loughrea, led by local historian Ray Gately, guided participants through ancient landmarks and hidden gems, with stories that brought the town's history to life.



RAY GATELY WALKING TOUR.  
PHOTO CREDIT: CLLR MICHAEL  
'MOEGIE' MAHER

The evening concert “Music Through the Ages” at the Loughrea Hotel & Spa featured performances by Pdraig Connaughton, Madeline Fleming, and Gerry Fahy, taking the audience on a musical journey from medieval to modern times.

“It was inspiring to see the people of Loughrea come together to celebrate their heritage with such enthusiasm,” said Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Galway County Council.

“This weekend was the result of months of collaboration and dedication, and I want to sincerely thank the Loughrea Medieval Festival Committee, Bernie Doherty, the staff of Loughrea Library, Galway County Council area office, and the entire community and businesses of Loughrea for their incredible support and hard work.”

---

## HERITAGE BUS TOUR OF CEANTAR NA NOILEÁN DRAWS ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD FROM ACROSS GALWAY



HERITAGE WEEK BUS TRIP STOP OFF AT RADIO NA GAELTACHTA. PHOTO CREDIT: HERITAGE OFFICE

On Tuesday, 19 August 2025, over 50 heritage enthusiasts from across County Galway and beyond took part in a memorable Heritage Bus Tour of Ceantar na nOileán, organised by the Galway County Council Heritage Office as part of National Heritage Week 2025.

---

CEANTAR NA NOILEÁN. PHOTO CREDIT: HERITAGE OFFICE

Led by renowned archaeologist and heritage expert Michael Gibbons, the full-day tour offered participants a rare opportunity to explore the rich archaeological and cultural landscape of Ceantar na nOileán. From archaeological sites and ancient settlements to folklore-rich holy wells and dramatic coastal scenery, the tour provided a deep and engaging insight into the area's layered history.





---

#### IONAD OIDHREACHTA LEITIR MEALLAIN & GHARUMNA. PHOTO CREDIT: HERITAGE OFFICE

The group visited a range of significant heritage locations, with commentary from Michael Gibbons bringing the stories of the land vividly to life. His expert knowledge and engaging storytelling were widely praised by attendees, many of whom expressed appreciation for the opportunity to learn more about the region's heritage in such an immersive way.

---

#### OVER 60 ATTENDEES JOIN DR. CHRISTY CUNNIFE FOR GUIDED HERITAGE WALK OF MEDIEVAL LOUGHREA



---

#### GUIDED HERITAGE WALK OF MEDIEVAL LOUGHREA. PHOTO CREDIT: HANY MARZOUK

More than 60 heritage enthusiasts gathered on Thursday, 21 August 2025, for a captivating Guided Heritage Walk of Medieval Loughrea led by renowned archaeologist and historian Dr. Christy Cunniffe. The event began at St Brendan's Cathedral and explored the rich architectural and cultural history of the town.

Participants were treated to an engaging and informative tour that brought to life the medieval origins of Loughrea, its ecclesiastical landmarks, and its role in shaping the region’s heritage. Dr. Cuniffe’s expert commentary offered unique insights into the town’s development, its built environment, and the stories embedded in its streets and structures.



DR CHRISTY CUNIFFE PHOTO CREDIT:  
HANY MARZOUK

The walk was part of National Heritage Week 2025 and was funded by Galway County Council and The Heritage Council, reflecting a shared commitment to promoting public engagement with local history and heritage.

Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer with Galway County Council, commented: “Events like this help foster a deeper appreciation of our local heritage and connect people to the stories that define their communities. We’re delighted with the turnout and the enthusiasm shown by participants.”

## SHORT FILM UNVEILS RARE IRISH HEIRLOOM AND THE LEGACY OF BLACKSMITH JOHN HENRY JOYCE

A powerful new short film, “John Henry Joyce and the Ring of Nine Irons”, has recently been released in Oughterard Courthouse, offering a moving tribute to a unique piece of Irish



heritage and the remarkable man behind it. Narrated by Breda Joyce, great-granddaughter of John Henry Joyce, the film explores the story of a rare family heirloom—an iron bracelet forged from nine symbolic tools, believed to protect the wearer from harm.

JOYCE FAMILY AT FILM LAUNCH. PHOTO CREDIT:  
SEÁN LYDON

John Henry Joyce (1838–1915), a renowned blacksmith from Oughterard, Co. Galway, was gifted the ring of Nine Irons at birth. This bracelet, made from a hammer, tongs, rasp, knife, chisel, file, punch, ladle, and axe, is thought to be the only surviving example of this ancient Irish tradition. The film blends personal storytelling with historical insight, preserving the legacy of a man whose strength and craftsmanship became local legend.



BREDA JOYCE AT LAUNCH OF 9 IRONS FILM. PHOTO CREDIT: SEÁN LYDON

“This film is a celebration of our heritage and a tribute to the enduring spirit of my great-grandfather,” said Breda Joyce. “The Nine Irons are more than metal—they carry the stories,

beliefs, and resilience of generations.”

Antoinette Lydon of the Oughterard Heritage Group remarked, “This film brings to life the story of a man whose legacy is deeply woven into the fabric of our community. The Nine Irons are more than folklore—they are a symbol of resilience, tradition, and the enduring spirit of rural Galway.”

Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer with Galway County Council, added, “The launch of this film and exhibition is a celebration of Galway’s rich craft heritage and the power of storytelling to preserve and share our cultural identity. It’s a tribute to the blacksmiths whose work shaped both our landscape and our imagination.”

PAUL MURPHY, ANTOINETTE LYDON, BREDA JOYCE, MARIE MANNION AND VALERIE KELLY AT THE NINE IRONS FILM LAUNCH. PHOTO CREDIT: SEÁN LYDON



The film was commissioned by Oughterard Heritage in collaboration with the Heritage Office of Galway County Council and produced by Paul Murphy, Merchants Gate Films. It was funded by Galway County Council and Creative

Ireland, the event drew a wide audience of heritage enthusiasts, local residents, and craftspeople, all eager to reconnect with the region’s rich blacksmithing history

The film was launched during Heritage Week 2025 and is available to view on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sAyKEXhO28s>

For more information, visit Oughterard Heritage website:

<https://www.oughterardheritage.org/content/people/john-henry-joyce-and-the-story-of-the-nine-irons>

---

## HOLY WELLS OF SOUTH CONNEMARA EXHIBITION AND SHORT FILM PREMIERE DRAW ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD IN LEITIR MEALLÁIN

A large and engaged audience gathered this week at Ionad Oidreachta Leitir Mealláin for the launch of the Holy Wells of South Connemara Photographic Exhibition, a visually stunning and culturally rich showcase of sacred sites scattered across the Connemara coastline. The event also featured the premiere of a new short film on St Colm Cille’s Holy Wells and Stone



Boat, produced by GK Media, presented by Máirtín Davy Ó Coisdealbha who interviewed local historian Joseph Dillon.

---

HOLY WELLS OUTDOOR  
EXHIBITION AND SHORT FILM  
LAUNCH AT IONAD  
OIDREACHTA LEITIR  
MEALLÁIN. PHOTO CREDIT:  
SEÁN LYDON

---

HOLY WELLS OUTDOOR  
EXHIBITION AND SHORT  
FILM LAUNCH AT  
IONAD OIDREACHTA  
LEITIR MEALLÁIN.  
PHOTO CREDIT: SEÁN  
LYDON



This outdoor exhibition  
launched by renowned  
Archaeologist Michael  
Gibbons highlights the

unique character of South Connemara’s holy wells—many of which are tidal “pothole” wells

located low on the seashore and accessible only at low tide. Several of these wells are dedicated to St Colm Cille, and the exhibition captures their spiritual significance, natural beauty, and the enduring traditions associated with them.

These wells have long been associated with healing, devotion, and folklore, with traditions such as making rounds, leaving offerings, and blessing oneself with the water still practiced today. The exhibition documents these sites and their stories as part of The Audit of the Holy Wells in the County of Galway, a project by the Galway County Council Heritage Office, funded by The Heritage Council and Galway County Council.

Zena Hctor, Researcher with the Audit, thanked the local community for their invaluable help in the recording of the stories and traditions associated with holy wells in the region and especially for their guidance in locating wells that are in seaweed covered tidal locations and on offshore islands. She also thanked the staff of Comhar Cuigéal for their help in organising the launch and Pdraig Dunworth for putting the exhibition infrastructure in



place.

The accompanying short film featuring local historian Joseph Dillon offers a deeply personal and historical perspective on one of the most iconic wells, blending storytelling, folklore, and landscape in a compelling narrative that resonated strongly with attendees.

Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer with Galway County Council, remarked: “This exhibition and film are a celebration of our sacred landscapes and the communities that have preserved their stories for generations. They remind us of the deep connections between people, place, and tradition.”



This outdoor exhibition on the grounds of Ionad Oidreachta Leitir Mealláin remains open to the public and continues to draw interest from locals, visitors, and heritage enthusiasts alike.

---

## OVER 80 ATTENDEES GATHER TO TRACE THEIR GALWAY ROOTS AT HERITAGE EVENT

Galway County Council, Council Chamber at Áras an Chontae was abuzz with excitement on Wednesday last, as over 80 people attended the “Tracing Your Galway Roots” event, a free public gathering dedicated to uncovering family histories and celebrating Galway’s rich genealogical heritage.

Organised as part of the Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2024–2030 and funded by Galway County Council and The Heritage Council, the event brought together expert genealogists, local heritage groups, and history enthusiasts for an afternoon of discovery, learning, and connection.



ANNE TIERNEY, PRESIDENT, OLD TUAM SOCIETY. PHOTO CREDIT: SEÁN LYDON

Highlights of the event included a compelling talk by Dr Ciarán Wallace, Co-Director of the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland and historian at Trinity College Dublin. Dr Wallace introduced attendees to the Population Portal on the

Virtual Treasury website, offering practical guidance on how to locate Galway ancestors using digitised records from the Public Record Office of Ireland, tragically lost in 1922.

HAZEL MORRISON, MAIGH CUILINN HERITAGE PHOTO CREDIT: SEÁN LYDON

Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, presented on the Digital Mapping of Galway County Graveyards, showcasing how technology is being used to preserve and share local burial records and heritage sites. She also showcased Galway County



Council's Heritage StoryMaps initiative showing how it is transforming how people engage with local history, using cutting-edge geospatial technology to tell immersive, location-based stories about the county's rich heritage and biodiversity.



LIAM HANRAHAN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING MARIE MANNION, HERITAGE OFFICER, DR CIARÁN WALLACE, CO-DIRECTOR OF THE VIRTUAL RECORD TREASURY OF IRELAND AND HISTORIAN AT TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN. PHOTO CREDIT: SEÁN LYDON

Developed in collaboration with community groups and national partners, these interactive maps combine text, images, and multimedia to make Galway's cultural, natural, and geological heritage accessible to everyone—from students and researchers to tourists and local residents.

TRACING YOUR GALWAY ROOTS AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER. PHOTO CREDIT: PHOTO CREDIT: SEÁN LYDON



The event concluded with an interactive genealogy workshop, where participants received hands-on support from expert genealogists and community heritage groups. Attendees explored ancestral records, shared family stories, and exchanged research strategies, fostering a sense of community and shared history.

Supported by Genealogy and Heritage Groups in County Galway and Galway County Libraries, the event was a resounding success, reflecting the growing public interest in family history and the importance of preserving Galway's cultural heritage.

## BIODIVERSITY

### EXPLORING THE GEOLOGY, HYDROLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY OF GLENAMADDY TURLOUGH



The Biodiversity Officer hosted a walk and talk on Exploring the Geology, Hydrology and Biodiversity of Glenamaddy Turlough as part of the programme of National Heritage Week 2025. This event brought together experts in geology, hydrology, and biodiversity to share their insights on how Glenamaddy Turlough’s limestone foundations shape its seasonal flooding and support rare floral communities. Speakers at the event included Galway County Council Biodiversity Officer Rosina Joyce, Siobhán Power and Ted McCormack, both from the Geological Survey Ireland and NPWS staff Raedan Doyle and Hannah Mulcahy. In collaboration with Glenamaddy Tidy Towns, it fostered strong local engagement and drew 60 attendees—many visiting the turlough for the first time despite living nearby, with some travelling from Galway City and Claremorris, Co. Mayo. The guided walk combined expert scientific insights with local knowledge, as community members shared recollections of townland names, birdlife, and past flooding events—bringing depth and lived experience to the understanding of the turlough. Promoted locally by the Tidy Towns group, the event saw collaboration between the community, Galway County Council, Geological Survey Ireland, NPWS, and LAWPRO. Refreshments afterwards encouraged informal conversation and connection. We looked to the future, discussing climate change and its potential impacts on the turlough. Together, we explored our foundations—not only the geological, but the cultural and ecological layers that shape our understanding of place.

### EAST GALWAY SWIFT SURVEY

As part of the implementation of *Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2024–2030*, a public engagement event was held under the East Galway Swift Project, which is supported by Galway County Council and The Heritage Council. This National Heritage Week event focused on raising awareness about swift conservation and the role of local communities in protecting this iconic migratory species.



We were pleased to welcome Éabha Garry from BirdWatch Ireland, who presented findings from her summer survey work conducted across East Galway. Her talk provided valuable insights into swift nesting behaviour, population trends, and the challenges facing the species due to habitat loss and modern building practices. The presentation underscored the importance of targeted conservation actions, such as the installation of swift nest boxes and the protection of traditional nesting sites in older buildings.

Swifts (*Apus apus*) are a red-listed species in Ireland, meaning they are of high conservation concern. Their numbers have declined significantly in recent decades, primarily due to the loss of nesting sites. These birds are summer visitors, arriving in Ireland in May and departing by late August. They are dependent on urban and village architecture for nesting, making community involvement essential to their conservation. The East Galway Swift Project aims to address these challenges through education, habitat enhancement, and collaboration with local stakeholders.

The event was hosted in partnership with Loughrea Tidy Towns at Comworks and they supported the coordination of the evening. Their contribution was instrumental in ensuring the success of the event and fostering local engagement.

---

## MUSIC CONNECTS – COLLABORATIONS WITH NATURE



As part of the launch of the Music Connects programme at the Mick Lally Theatre, Biodiversity Officer, Rosina Joyce spoke about the collaboration of the programme's ConTempo Quartet and the Biodiversity Office in reaching new audiences together. This year has seen joint events around the county such as that for World Wetlands Day in Letterfrack and Biodiversity Week in

Loughrea, with more events plans in the coming months. Sometimes the magic lies in the unusual collaborations - such as the oak bud and artichoke gall wasp.

---

## FLY-TYING WORKSHOP – CELEBRATING OUR WATER HERITAGE

As part of National Heritage Week, Galway County Council’s Environment Section and Biodiversity Office, in collaboration with the Local Authority Waters Programme hosted a fly-tying workshop in Loughrea, led by experienced instructor Frank Reilly and his brother Robert Reilly. The event was designed to engage both novice and experienced anglers in the craft of fly tying, while also promoting key environmental messages around biodiversity, water quality, and responsible outdoor behaviour.



The workshop provided a hands-on opportunity for participants to learn about aquatic ecosystems through the lens of angling. In addition to skill development, the workshop served as a platform to highlight the importance of maintaining clean and healthy water bodies. Discussions integrated the principles of the Leave No Trace outdoor ethics,



encouraging biosecurity and that participants minimise their environmental impact while enjoying recreational activities. These principles are particularly relevant in angling, where responsible behaviour directly contributes to the preservation of freshwater habitats and the species they

support.

The event was well-attended, with limited places filled quickly, reflecting strong community interest in both angling and environmental stewardship.

ATHENRY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

**1. Restoration Improvement –2025 Contractor signed up – Starting works next few weeks – Internal works commencing next week**

- a. Old Church St, Athenry (2024) – Complete
- b. RI R347 Laraghmore 2025 – RI Contractor – Complete
- c. RI R348 Derrydonnell 2025 – RI Contractor – Complete
- d. RI L4105 Millplot (Station Road) 2025 – Planned
- e. RI L3106 Ballinvoher 2025 – RI Contractor – Complete
- f. RI L2129 Drumgriffin 2025 – RI Contractor – Complete
- g. RI L3107 Tysaxon (Monivea Rd) 2025 – RI Contractor – Complete
- h. RI L2119 Baunmore 2025 – RI Contractor – (some patches complete)
- i. RI L6214 Clogher/Cahergowan 2025 – RI Contractor - Complete
- j. RI L2134 Castlegar 2025 – City Contractor - Complete
- k. RI L6195 Liscananaun 2025 – - Complete
- l. RI L6117 Mullaghtruttery 2025 - Complete
- m. RI L31026 Moor 2025 – Complete
- n. RI L71102 Carnmore East 2025 – Complete
- o. RI L81031 Rinn 2025 - Complete
- p. RI L71523 Toorkeel 2025 – Complete
- q. RI L31078 Carrantarramud 2025 – Complete
- r. RI L7168 Knockroe/Rafort 2025 – Complete
- s. RI L7130 Farravaun 2025 – Complete
- t. RI L7114 Kiltroque 2025 – - Complete

**2. Restoration Maintenance/Improvement**

**Surface dressing** – preferred contractor Has been appointed – works commenced

- a. RM R354 Lackaghbeg 2025 - Complete
- b. RM L7139 Corrafaireen 2025 - Complete
- c. RM L3110 Farmhill 2025 - Complete
- d. RM L31104 Stonepark 2025 - Complete
- e. RM L71761 Gortnahultra 2025 - Complete
- f. RM L31118 Cappanasruhaun 2025 - Complete
- g. RM L31043 Rathmorrisey 2025 - Complete
- h. RM L7108 Castlelambert 2025 – Switched with works in Lackagh
- i. RM L2124 Ballybrone 2025 - Complete
- j. RM L7104 Cregboy 2025 - Complete
- k. RM L2117 Annagh West 2025 - Complete
- l. RM L6194 Cregduff 2025 - Complete
- m. RM L6202 Roanmore 2025 - Complete

- n. RM L6197 Waterdale 2025 - Complete
- o. RM L31021 Cahernashilleeney 2025 - Complete

**Recycling Contract – Contractor appointed**

- a. RI L3117 Cormacuagh 2025 - Complete
- b. RI L7115 Carheenlea 2025 – Changed to Inlay works

**3. Safety Improvement Works**

- a. Derrydonnell Beg Junction Road safety Audit complete. Further works include. Contractor planning following works
  - i) Tarmac works to alter turning circle towards Athenry - Complete
  - ii) Vehicle actuated signs - Complete
  - iii) Definition Posts repositioned - Complete
  - iv) Road lining and reflectors Anti skid - Planned
  - v) Signs Improvement - Complete
  - vi) Petrol Station Entrance works - Complete
- b. Carnmore Cross Junction – Planned works
  - i) Tarmac
  - ii) Signage
  - iii) Goal post entry signs

**4. Climate Change**

- a. CC2024 N67/R446/L4105 Carrowmoneash GC/24/35508 – works to connect storm water completed, reinstatement works complete
- b. CC2025 L-2119 Auclogheen Drainage GC/25/009 – Storm line connection
- c. CC2025 L-3105 Coolarne Retaining Wall GC/25/012 – Gabion Baskets delivered for works

**5. Community Involvement Scheme**

- New Line Junction Pedestrian Crossing – ESB Connection
- Ryehill Church – Road widening – Complete
- CIS.24.23 Clochmaol - Planned
- CIS.27.23 Old Church St Church St & Court Lane - Planned
- CIS.28.23 Cullairbaun – In Progress
- CIS.71.23 Lydican - Planned

**6. Other Items**

Belville Road realignment Issuing Planning consent forms for	No response from Landowners
Hydrological study Clarin River	OPW Reviewing latest amendments to application
Pedestrian Crossing Lidl Oranmore	Complete
New Line Junction Athenry Ped Crossing	ESB Connection still outstanding

---

## FIGURES AND PICTURES



---

NEW LINE – PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

---

DRAINAGE WORKS - ATTYMON



---

CORMACHUGH - RESURFACING

---

MAREE ROAD FENCING





STATION ROAD ATHENRY  
DRAINAGE

ARD AOIBHANN ATHENRY  
FOOTPATHS



CULLAIRBAUN, ATHENRY  
FOOTPATHS

## BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

By the end of August 2025 all restoration maintenance grant (surface dressing) projects were completed in Ballinasloe Municipal District and works continued on restoration improvement grant projects with 35 nr of jobs commenced or completed during the two-month period representing over 62 % of RI projects in Ballinasloe MD.

Restorative Improvement (RI + DG) Works	Total Nr of Jobs	Nr of Jobs Commenced/Completed	% Progress
Overlay Contract 1	30	22	73%
Direct Labour	3	3	100%
Overlay Contract 3	23	10	43%
	56	35	62.5%

During July and August 2025 Direct labour crews in Ballinasloe MD undertook the following works:

- Replacement of Collapsed Culverts at (a) Dooeygreggaun, Aughrim, (b) Ballyglass, Kilconnell, and (c) Annaghcallow. Laurencetown
- Drainage improvement works at Eglish, Aughrim
- Road strengthening works in Ballinasloe South with completion of RI grant projects at L-87253- Kilaltannagh, Clonfert and L-8724 Clonfert Demense.
- Climate Change Adaptation Resilience Project at Mounthazel, this greatly improves drainage in the area and facilitates the removal of surface water from the Mounthazel road.

Contractors completed footpath works (repairs to existing and installation of new footpaths) at the following locations:

- New Footpath in Laurencetown
- Footpath Repairs – Derrymullen, Ballinasloe Town
- Footpath Repairs – 16 Kilgarve Court, Ballinasloe Town

Consultants completed the detailed design of the OPW funded minor flood mitigation works project for the 4 houses in Clonfert.

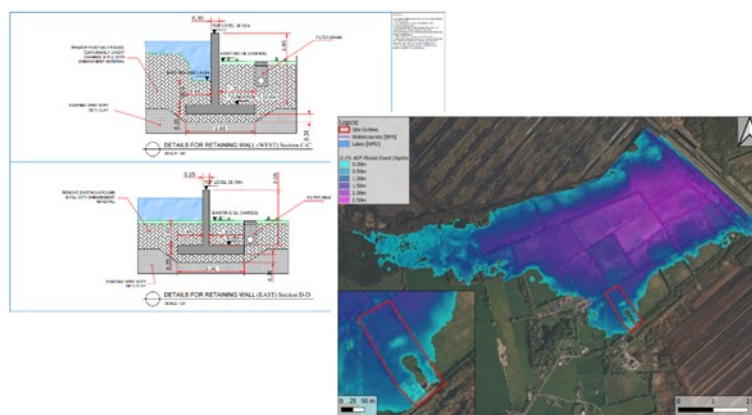
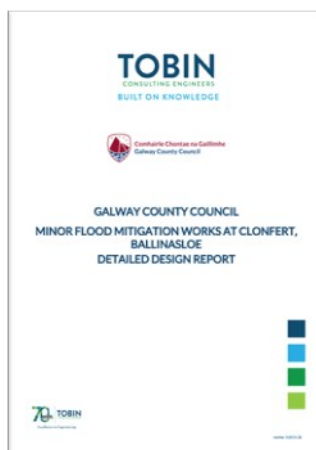


Figure 1-2 Modelled Flood Depths (0.1% AEP MRFS Pluvial Event)

THE FOLLOWING ARE EXAMPLES OF WORKS UNDERTAKEN IN JULY & AUGUST 2025



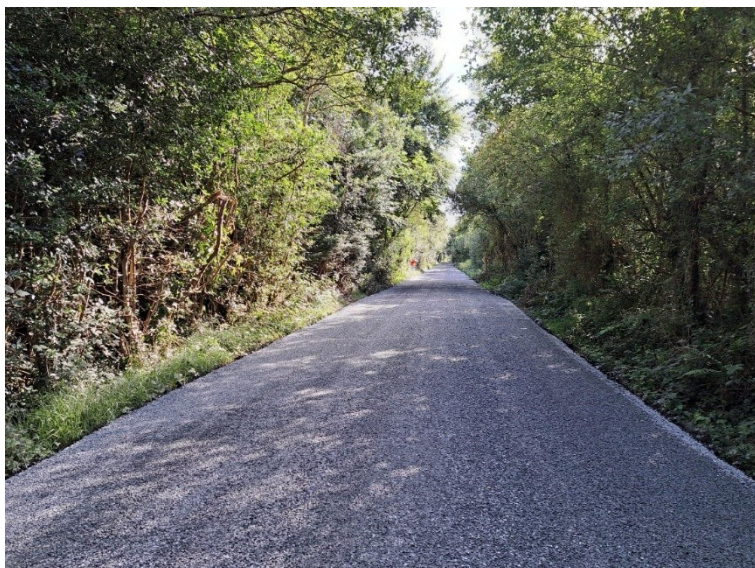
NEW FOOTPATH IN LAURENCETOWN



FOOTPATH REPAIRS – DERRYMULLEN,  
BALLINASLOE TOWN

FOOTPATH REPAIRS – 16 KILGARVE COURT,  
BALLINASLOE TOWN





ROAD IMPROVEMENT  
ROADWORKS AT L-8724  
CLONFERT DEMENSE  
COMPLETED BY DIRECT  
LABOUR

## CONAMARA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

### UPDATE ON ROADS PROGRAMME FOR CONAMARA – SEPTEMBER 2025

CONAMARA MD – RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT (RI)			STATUS
Road Class.	Road No.	Road Name	Status
R	341	Ballyconneely Roundstone	Complete
R	344	Inagh	Complete
R	336	Leenane	Complete
R	341	Bridge Street	Yet to Commence
R	340	Gleann Chatha	Complete
R	340-83	Doire Iorrais	Complete
R	336	Forai Maola	Complete
L	11063	Mannin low rd	Complete
L	5132	Errislannin High Rd	Complete
L	51253	Faul	Complete
L	5116	Claddaghduff	Complete
L	5113	Cloone	Complete
L	51033	Rosroe	Complete
L	51374	Glencoaghan	Complete
L	11072	Ballyconneely Old Graveyard	Complete
L	5300	Gleantreague	Complete
L	53262	Drumsnauv	Complete
L	1301	Finny	Complete
L	5327	Glann	Complete
L	1310	New Village	Complete

L	53283	Leam	Complete
L	1202	Doire Fhearta	Complete
L	52291	Leitir Caladh	Complete
L	52334	Trá Bháin	Complete
L	52346-2	Truscain	Complete
L	52332	Tobar Naomh Anna	Complete
L	5238	Camus Íochtar	Complete
L	5242-16	Garafin	Complete
L	52441	Ard Mhór O Thuaidh	Complete
L	12075	Domhras	Complete
L	1320-22	An Spidéal, Maigh Cuilinn	Complete
L	5395	Baile an tSagairt	Complete
L	53951	Baile an tSleibhe	Complete
L	1200-24	Ros an Mhil	Complete
L	5366-19	Rocks Rd	Complete
L	5362	Gortmore	Complete
L	5345-17	Doon High Road	Complete
L	5361-8	Park, Roscahill	Complete
L	5376	Claideach	Complete
L	5347-10	Knockaunranny	Complete
L	53946	Pairc Thoir	Complete
<b>CONAMARA MD – Restoration Maintenance GRANT (RM)</b>			<b>Status</b>
<b>Road Class.</b>	<b>Road No.</b>	<b>Road Name</b>	
R	341	Ballinahinch	Complete
R	379	Cleggan	Complete
R	336	Bothuna	Complete
R	336	Minna	Complete
R	336	Na Doirriú	Complete
R	336	Leitir Mucú	Complete
R	374	Tuairín	Complete
R	374	Leic	Complete
L	1105	Bog Road	Complete
L	5132	Low rd Errislannin	Complete
L	5117	Aughrus Beg	Complete
L	51372	Imleach Mór	Complete
L	51372	Imleach Mór	Complete
<b>CONAMARA MD – Restoration Maintenance GRANT (RM)</b>			<b>Status</b>
L	1104	Sky Rd Letterdean	Complete
L	1310	Gortdrishagh-Glann Rd	Complete
L	1103	Ballynew	Complete

L	5300	Bothán - Gleantreague	Complete
L	1304	Ardan Cong	Complete
L	5341	Maghera More	Complete
L	5101	Glennagevlagh	Complete
L	11031	Bannouges	Complete
L	11034	Ross Moyard	Complete
L	51101	Rossadillisk Salerno	Complete
L	11023	Rossadillisk	Complete
L	51311	Munga	Complete
L	11056	Inis Ni	Complete
L	5219	Trá an Doilín	Complete
L	1206-51	Maíros	Complete
<b>CONAMARA MD –DISCRETIONARY GRANT (DG)</b>			<b>Status</b>
<b>Road Class.</b>	<b>Road No.</b>	<b>Road Name</b>	
L	51255	Riverside Clifden	Complete
L	51372	Imleach Mór	Complete
L	11059	Inis Ní	Complete
L	52285	Leitir Caladh	Complete
L	1205-14	Doire Iorrais	Complete
L	5396-13	Baile Liam	Complete
L	5354	Garrynagry	Complete

The Conamara Municipal District Roads Programme has progressed very well. There are 76 roads in the programme for resurfacing. At the start of June 20 out of 76 were completed representing 26% completion. As of start of July 50 roads are completed out of 76 representing 65% completion. Now at the start of September 75 of the 76 are completed.

---

#### JOYCE COUNTRY AND WESTERN LAKES GEOPARK PROJECT

A UNESCO Global Geopark is an area with sites and landscapes of international geographical significance. Geoparks have a bottom-up approach and encourage local communities and authorities to come together for the sustainable development, protection and education within that area. This holistic concept has become increasingly popular around the world. Unesco Global Geopark status adds no further planning regulations to those already in place by EU, national or local government. Currently there are 3 UNESCO Global Geoparks in Ireland: Marble Arch Caves, in counties Fermanagh and Cavan, Burren and Cliffs of Moher in Co. Clare and Copper Coast in Co. Waterford. The Joyce Country & Western Lakes Geopark Region is an inspiring Geopark. The Conamara MD has committed to erecting signage highlighting this Geopark throughout northeast Conamara.



NEW GEOPARK SIGNAGE  
INSTALLED IN AN FHAIRCE

R344 INAGH VALLEY- RECENTLY  
SURFACE DRESSED AND LINED



RECENTLY REPAIRED  
HANDRAIL TO GURTEEN  
BEACH ROUNDSTONE

RECENTLY INSTALLED  
PICNIC BENCH IN  
CLEGGAN VILLAGE NEAR  
HARBOUR AREA



STATIC RISK  
ASSESSMENT  
WORKS RECENTLY  
UNDERTAKEN IN  
TONABROCKY

## LOUGHREA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### PRIMARY FOCUS OF ACTIVITY

Works on the Roads Programme are progressing well but there remains a significant amount of Restoration Improvement projects to complete. Surface dressing is now complete and the bound overlay projects are over 50% complete. A high-level overview is as follows:

- 49 Restoration Improvement Grant projects - 33 Complete (67%)
- 27 Restoration Maintenance Grant (RMG) projects – 27 Complete (100%)
- 8 Local Tertiary Roads – 2 Complete (25%)
- 5 No Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Schemes - 2 Complete (40%) and 3 On-going
- 3 No. Low-Cost Safety Improvement Works – 1 Complete and 2 On-going
- 2 No. Former National Schemes – Yet to commence
- LIS and CIS Schemes – 3 complete.

---

AN OVERVIEW OF OTHER WORKS ON-GOING IS AS FOLLOWS:



ILLEGAL DUMPING AT BOTTLE BANKS LOUGHREA

FLOWERS IN LOUGHREA



STRIMMING WORKS AT THE GROVE IN LOUGHREA



ROAD MARKING ON L4301 FOLLOWING OVERLAY



BASE COURSE BEING LAID ON THE L4208 - DRUMKEARY





LOW-COST SAFETY  
IMPROVEMENT  
SCHEME ON THE  
R446 ON  
APPROACH TO  
CRAUGHWELL  
VILLAGE



R350 BULLAUN  
ROAD – ERECTION  
OF POST AND WIRE  
FENCING

LAND ACCOMMODATION BRIDGE AT  
KILCHREEST





FOOTPATH REINSTATEMENT, BEECHGROVE,  
ORANMORE



---

## ROAD RAISING AT GRANNAGH

---

### LPT FUND ALLOCATION:

At the Meeting of the Loughrea Municipal District held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025, the Members approved an allocation of €2,500 of LPT (Local Property Tax) Discretionary Funding to “it’s time for a public swimming pool in Loughrea” to cover 10% match funding of the cost of a feasibility study for the development of a public swimming pool in Loughrea. This feasibility

study is the critical first step to assessing the viability, potential location, costs and benefits of such a project in Loughrea.

## TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### DISCRETIONARY CAPITAL FUND

The Chain of Office for the Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Tuam was presented to Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag at the September meeting of the Municipal District.

The Chain of Office will assist in providing identity and status as a symbol of civic leadership, duty and public trust. It will honour the status and identity of the Cathaoirleach in undertaking civic functions but also strengthen public awareness of the vital role that the Cathaoirleach and the Municipal District play in representing the District, communities, while upholding democratic values, and fostering civic pride.

### HEADFORD JUNCTION SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Significant progress has been made to improve safety for children accessing Headford National School, the local crèche, and Presentation College, Headford

Numerous concerns have been raised regarding pedestrian safety at this junction, particularly during peak school hours. In response, a series of targeted measures have been introduced to improve conditions for vulnerable road users.

The completed works under this scheme included:

- A new pedestrian crossing
- Widened footpaths
- Full road overlay with updated road markings
- An age-friendly parking space



These improvements aim to create a safer, more accessible environment for all road users, particularly schoolchildren and older residents.

A new Active Travel initiative is proposed for the route linking Headford National School to Presentation College. This project is expected to be brought forward for public display shortly, providing an opportunity for the community and stakeholders to review the plans and share their views.

---

#### COMPLETION OF RESURFACING WORKS – OLD COURTHOUSE CAR PARK, TUAM



Resurfacing works at the old Courthouse car park in Tuam have been successfully completed, and the facility has now reopened for school drop-off for all the local schools

This project was undertaken in response to local concerns regarding access and parking during school hours. The

completion of the works has significantly improved safety and convenience for parents and pupils.

---

#### COMPLETION OF RESURFACING WORKS – ACCESS AVENUE TO SYLANE NATIONAL SCHOOL



Resurfacing works on the avenue linking Sylane National School to the Clais an Aifrinn site and Sylane village have now been completed, just in time for the start of the new school term. This long-awaited upgrade has significantly improved access to the school and enhanced safety for pupils, parents, and staff during set-down and pick-up times.

Thanks are extended to the Board of Management, school

staff, parents, local councillors, the Tuam Municipal District team, and Galway County Council for their collaboration and patience in bringing this important project to completion.



---

#### HEDGE CUTTING PROGRAMME

The contractor has completed hedge cutting at all National Road junctions within the Tuam Municipal District.



Hedge cutting on Regional Roads is scheduled to commence this week.

Tuam Roads crews have also begun hedge cutting on Local Roads. However, due to current budget constraints, full coverage of the local road network is not feasible at this time.

Efforts are ongoing to prioritise locations based on safety and visibility concerns

---

### SAFETY WORKS AT TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT DEPOTS



Safety improvement works have been completed at the three Galway County Council depots within the Tuam Municipal District—Headford, Dunmore, and Tuam. These works included the installation of safety signage, traffic calming measures, and line marking to enhance operational safety across all sites.



---

### PLANNED FUTURE WORKS INCLUDE:

- Construction of a new store at the Dunmore depot
- Roof repair works at the Headford store
- Installation of security fencing at both the Tuam and Headford depots

In addition, funding has been secured for the development of a new store within the Palace Grounds to support the Community Employment Scheme (CES) crew, providing secure storage for all grass-cutting equipment and plant.

---

## DISCRETIONARY CAPITAL FUND

The Municipal District of Tuam Community Support Capital Fund is a scheme funded by the Local Property Tax for the purpose of supporting the delivery of community capital projects.

The fund provides match-funding for new facilities or improvements to existing facilities which address a specific deficit in social infrastructure, particularly facilities which support children, youth or older people.

Applications for Community Capital Projects for 2025 were invited with a closing date of the Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025 @ 4 pm.

At the September meeting of the Municipal District of Tuam the following projects were approved for funding:

Amount Requested	Applicant	Project Details
€19,065	Milltown N.S.	Resurfacing of public car park outside the school
€20,000	Tuam Scouts	Roof and heating repairs to community space used for the scouts
€1,115.71	Youthwork Ireland Tuam	Improvement works to the youth space and facilities upgrade

---

## BIODIVERSITY AND AMENITY ENHANCEMENTS – TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

---

### PALACE GROUNDS, TUAM



The official opening of the Dog Park, Sensory Garden, and basketball court at the Palace Grounds is scheduled to take place in the coming weeks. Councillors will be notified in advance. These facilities contribute to both recreational and biodiversity goals within the district.



---

### POLLINATOR PROJECT – 2025 AWARD APPLICATION

The 2025 Pollinator Project Award application has been submitted to An Taisce and forwarded to the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) for judging.

Following storm damage earlier this year, additional planting works are scheduled for September and October to restore and enhance biodiversity in affected areas.

---

### SENSORY GARDEN – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Sensory Garden project has benefited from strong community involvement, including:

A professional landscaper

CES participants

Members of the Women’s Shed and Men’s Shed

Local school students

This inclusive initiative combines environmental enhancement with active community participation, fostering both biodiversity and social cohesion.

---

### DUNMORE RIVER WALK AND TOWN



Enhancement works along the Dunmore River Walk and within the town area continue to support biodiversity and improve public access to natural amenities. These works



align with the Council’s broader objectives for sustainable development and community wellbeing in the Tuam Municipal District.

Mise, le meas,

**Chief Executive**  
**Galway County Council**

**19<sup>th</sup> September 2025**