



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

# TURASCÁIL BAINISTÍOCHTA MANAGEMENT REPORT



Deireadh Fómhair 2025

October 2025



CORPORATE SERVICES

CCMA PLANNING AND LAND USE COMMITTEE

This year's CCMA Planning and Land Use Plenary meeting was held in Westport, Co. Mayo.

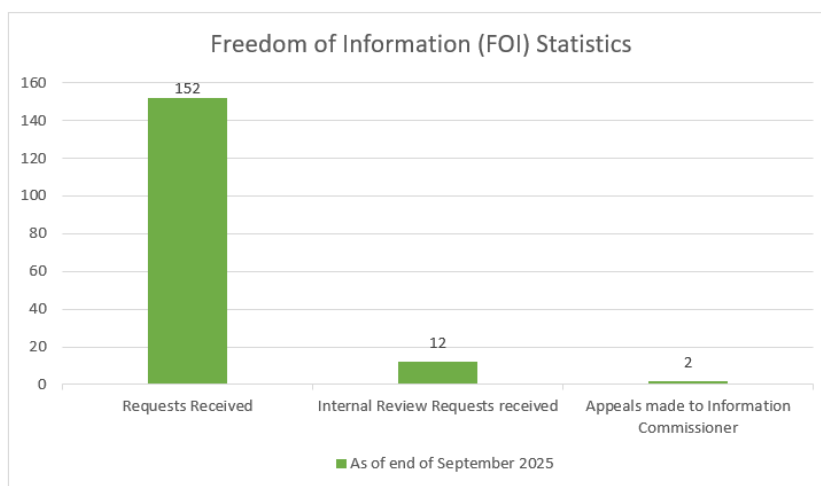


ATTENDEES AT THE CCMA PLANNING AND LAND USE PLENARY MEETING

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION &  
DATA PROTECTION

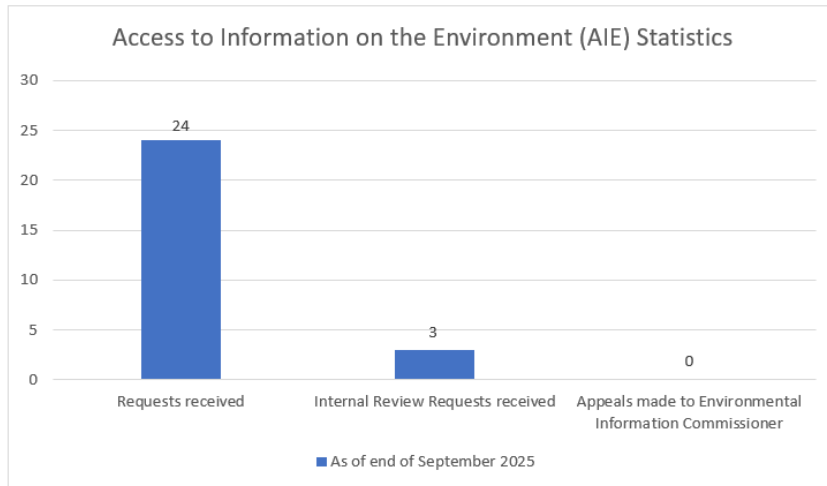
2025 YEAR TO DATE STATISTICS TO 30.09.2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



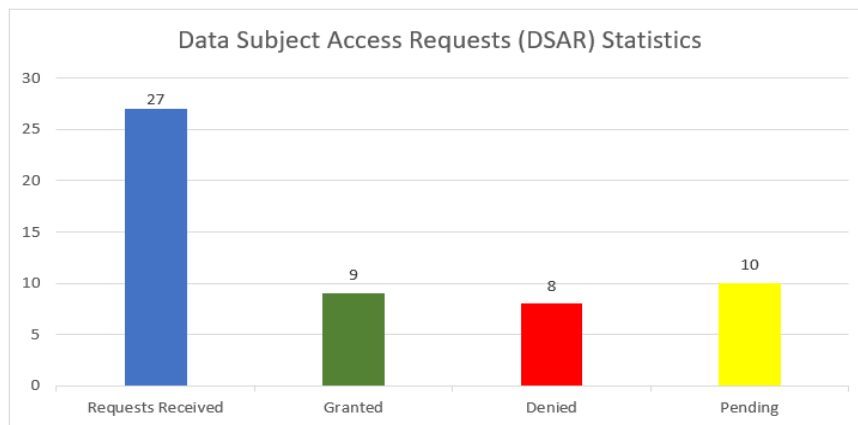
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## ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT



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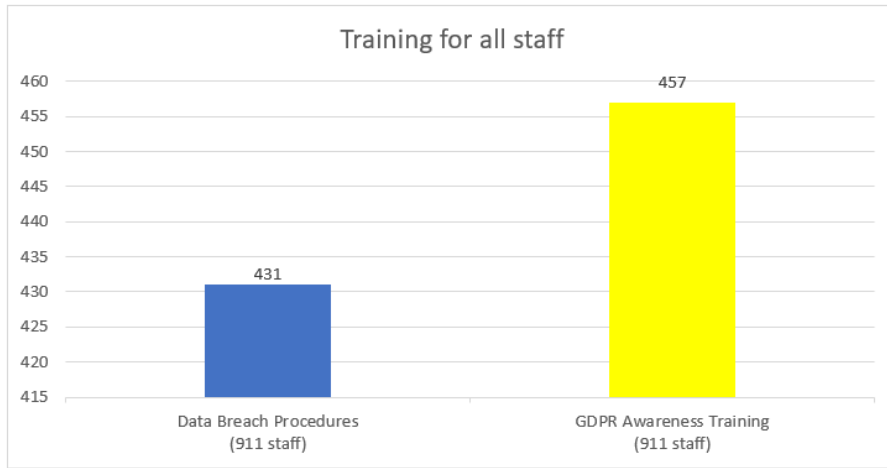
## DATA PROTECTION



- 27 Requests received:
  - 24 Subject Access Requests
  - 3 Third Party Subject Access Requests (An Garda Síochána etc)
  - 1 Data Subject Erasure Request
  - 1 Data Subject Rectification Request
- 9 granted, 8 denied, 10 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.



## RECREATION AND AMENITIES

### AUGHRIM VISITOR CENTRE



The Aughrim Visitor Centre concluded its Summer Series 2025 on Friday, September 26th, with the event “An Introduction to the Life and Times of Playwright M.J. Molloy”, presented by Eamonn O’Donoghue.

This one-hour session offered attendees an insightful exploration of Molloy’s contribution to Irish theatre and his enduring influence on rural Irish storytelling.

The event was well attended and received highly positive feedback, marking a strong finish to this year’s programme.

Following this final event, the Visitor Centre officially closed for the season on Sunday, September 28th.

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who visited, participated, and supported our events throughout the summer. Your engagement helped bring history and culture to life and made this season truly special.



Planning for the 2026 programme is already underway, with a focus on building on this year’s success to deliver another engaging and diverse series of events next season.

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EVENT “AN INTRODUCTION TO THE LIFE AND TIMES OF PLAYWRIGHT M.J. MOLLOY”,  
PRESENTED BY EAMONN O’DONOGHUE.



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PRESENTER EAMONN O’DONOGHUE

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CLLR. EVELYN PARSONS & EAMONN O’DONOGHUE



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## PLAYGROUNDS

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### TUAM PLAYGROUND

We are delighted to announce the recent completion of the wheelchair-accessible roundabout and bench installed at Palace Grounds, Tuam. This is a meaningful step toward inclusivity. It’s heartening that *all* children, can enjoy play and social interaction in a safe and welcoming environment.



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### COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND INSPECTOR TRAINING

Galway County Council, in collaboration with Play Services Ireland, scheduled two inspector training sessions for representatives from community playgrounds across the county on **Friday, October 3rd** and **Saturday, October 4th**. Unfortunately, due to severe weather warnings from Met Éireann, the Friday evening session was cancelled. A follow-up training session is now planned for **Saturday, November 8th**.

Despite the weather challenges, the Saturday session went ahead successfully, with **22 community playground inspectors trained**. A special mention goes to one dedicated representative from Connemara who left home at **2am** to attend the training — a true unsung hero of community spirit!



## IRISH OFFICE

### SCOIL AN PHIARSAIGH 2025

The annual Scoil an Phiarsaigh took place on 24th and 25th September 2025 at Ionad Cuimhneacháin an Phiarsaigh in Ros Muc. The event brought together close to 300 participants including educators, students, cultural leaders, and community members to celebrate Padraic Pearse’s legacy and his enduring vision for the Irish language and education.

The Irish Office and Customer Services team within Corporate Services, collaborated with our outstanding Library Services team to bring this year’s new event format for this annual event to fruition. Both the Corporate Services team and the Library team are delighted that the new format has paid such dividend for all the stakeholders involved.

Conducted entirely through Irish, this two-day programme offered a rich blend of discussion, performance, and creative engagement. Day one focused on “The Promise and Premise of Pearse,” with keynote reflections from Micheál Ó Máille on Pearse’s educational philosophy in today’s primary schools. Cultural highlights included traditional music by Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Óga Charna and Johnny Óg Connolly, storytelling by Mairín Mhic Lochlainn, with a circus workshop & a creative play workshop for younger attendees led by Stephen McGinley and Julie Anne de Brún, much to their delight. The day concluded with a guided tour of Pearse’s Cottage, underscoring Ros Muc’s historical and cultural significance.

Day two explored Pearse’s radical thinking on Irish literature, art, and identity. Author Louis de Paor and poet Áine Ní Ghlinn led thought-provoking sessions on Pearse’s continued relevance in modern Ireland. Transition-year students delivered passionate talks on the theme “A country without a language is a country without a soul,” while Liana Glynn offered a student perspective on learning Irish outside the Gaeltacht. An expert panel discussed the viability of a bilingual Ireland, and fifth-class pupils from Gaelscoil Riada presented a creative film project, *Mise Éire / I Am Ireland*, exploring heritage and identity through a student-led lens.

Scoil an Phiarsaigh remains a vital platform for cultural expression, youth engagement, and dialogue. It successfully blends heritage with creativity, reaffirming the Irish language as a living resource and a cornerstone of community and educational life.



STORY TELLING WITH MAIRÍN MHIC LOCHLAINN

COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRI CARNA



STUDENTS FROM SCOIL MUIRE CLIFDEN

GAELSCOIL RIADA, BAILE ÁTHA RÍ



STORYTELLING AND SINGING BY JULIE ANN DE BRÚN

MUSIC FROM COLÁISTE CHROÍ MUIRE



PANEL DISCUSSION WITH LOUIS DE PAOR, ÁINE NÍ GHLINN

CONNAUGHT TRIBUNE WRITE UP



"BEST SPEAKER" WINNERS OF DEBATE BEING PRESENTED PRIZE BY CLLR GERRY KING

GALWAY ADVERTISER COVERAGE OF EVENT

October 2 2025 www.advertiser.ie

Irish language takes centre stage at annual Scoil an Phiarsaigh in Ros Muc

**W**hether Dublin, Rosaura's dream of a bilingual Ireland remains realistic today was among the headline themes at this year's Scoil an Phiarsaigh in Ros Muc, in the Gaeltacht, where educators, students and cultural figures gathered to examine the future of the Irish language.

Last week's industry event, organised by Galway County Council, explored Ireland's connection to Ros Muc, its commitment to the Irish language and culture, and the critical issues on education, heritage and identity.

Chairperson of Galway County Council, Cllr David Collins, officially opened the school in Ros Muc, in the Gaeltacht, conducted entirely through Irish, the programme featured an engaging talk by Scoil Naomh Breandán, Michael O'Malley on the need to protect Rosaura's legacy.

The opening day, which was attended by 100 people, also featured traditional music from Comhaltas Ceolraí na Gaeltachta and the musical 'Rosaura' by Máire Ní Léinn. Localities and counties only are being held from Rosaura in the Gaeltacht.

It is followed by a guided tour of Rosaura's Cottage. On the second day in Rosaura, 100 people gathered to hear author Louis de Paor explore Rosaura's cultural heritage on Irish literature and our identity and award-winning journalist and poet Áine Ní Ghlinn discuss her connection to Rosaura through her writing. The following year students staged their very own play 'Rosaura' in the school's courtyard.

Louis Collins offered a student's perspective on learning Irish outside the Gaeltacht with an expert panel discussion on the value of a bilingual Ireland on Irish education.

The two-day event also featured the screening of a film collage by fifth class pupils from Garscoill, Rosaura, inspired by Rosaura. Rosaura is a project for education, the student-led creative project, 'Rosaura'

...the problem in Rosaura is to restore that identity, heritage and history for the future.

Cllr David Collins, Chairperson, said Rosaura is a place of the Irish language at the heart of his vision for an independent Ireland.

"Rosaura first came to Ros Muc in 1965 and quickly became a place of the Irish language and its people," he said. "The village, where he built a small cottage, inspired his ideas on education and heritage and became central to his work before the 1980s. Today, Rosaura Cottage is a national monument and a focal point for his legacy."

Cllr Gerry King, Chairperson of the Gaeltacht Municipal District, added: "I want to congratulate the organisers and all participants at Scoil an Phiarsaigh for fostering such an engaging discussion on the role of the Irish language in modern Irish society and culture. Events like this ensure that our language remains a living, vibrant part of our community."

"By bringing together educators, students, and cultural leaders in Ros Muc, Scoil an Phiarsaigh celebrates the Irish language's future, but also the Irish language's past," said Cllr David Collins.

"Rosaura's legacy is not just a legacy to be preserved but a legacy to be renewed, the education, culture and community life in Galway and beyond."

Chairman, Rosaura, deputy director of services for Galway County Council, said: "Scoil an Phiarsaigh is about our young people generating interest in the wonderful story and promoting the use of our first official language among all young people."

Irish language takes centre stage at the annual Scoil an Phiarsaigh in Ros Muc



## CIVIC RECEPTION

The Cathaoirleach on behalf of the Elected Members and people of Galway honoured the under 15 Turloughmore Camogie All Ireland Féile Champions 2025.



MEMBERS OF THE UNDER 15 TURLOUGHMORE CAMOGIE ALL IRELAND FÉILE CHAMPIONS WITH THE CATHAOIRLEACH, CLLR DAVID COLLINS, MR. MICHAEL OWENS, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, AND ELECTED MEMBERS OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

The Cathaoirleach on behalf of the Elected Members and people of Galway honoured the under 15 Baile Chláir Girls Football All Ireland Féile Champions 2025.



MEMBERS OF UNDER 15 BAILE CHLÁIR GIRLS FOOTBALL TEAM AND MANAGEMENT WITH THE CATHAOIRLEACH, CLLR DAVID COLLINS, MR. MICHAEL OWENS, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, AND ELECTED MEMBERS OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

The Cathaoirleach on behalf of the Elected Members and people of Galway honoured the under 23 Galway Camogie All Ireland Champions. Galway Camogie are the first ever winners of this All-Ireland Title!



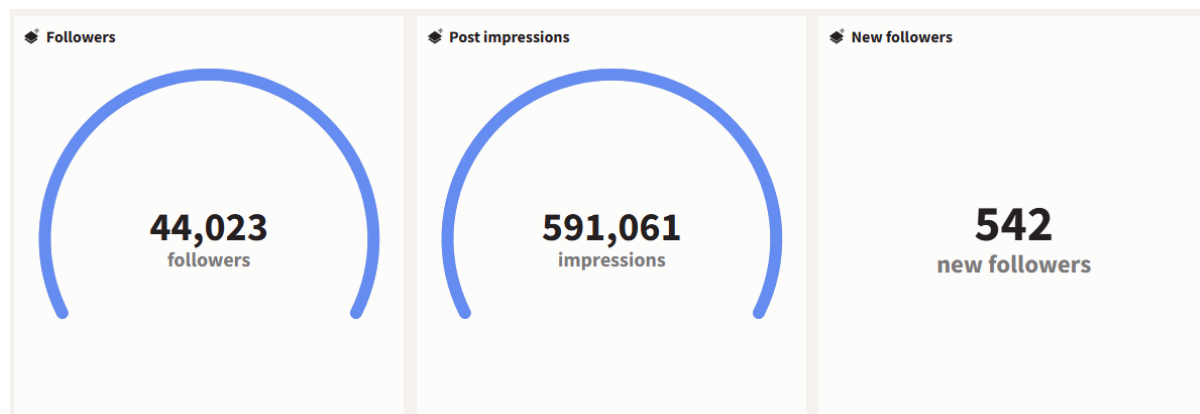
MEMBERS OF THE GALWAY UNDER 23 ALL IRELAND WINNING CAMOGIE TEAM WITH THE CATHAOIRLEACH, CLLR DAVID COLLINS, MR. MICHAEL OWENS, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, AND ELECTED MEMBERS OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

## 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.





Irish social media stats 38%

## SEPTEMBER STATS



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

## SEPTEMBER 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>	185	481,461
 <a href="http://www.x.com/galwaycoco">www.x.com/galwaycoco</a>	89	21,303
 <a href="http://www.instagram.com/galwaycountycouncil">www.instagram.com/galwaycountycouncil</a>	200	83,676
 <a href="http://www.linkedin.com/galwaycoco">www.linkedin.com/galwaycoco</a>	14	4,621
<b>Total Number of Posts</b>	<b>488</b>	

## FACEBOOK TOP 3 POSTS

**Top posts**



Galway County Council  
Sep 24, 10:08

(Post with no description)



Galway County Council  
Sep 25, 12:01

Scoil an Phiarsaigh 2025. Amhrán le Emma Ní Churraoin ó Choláiste Chroí Mhuire, An Spidéál, Co. na Gaillimhe



Galway County Council  
Sep 09, 14:32

Bulky Goods Collection 2025 Loughrea & Gort

## X TOP 3 POSTS

**Top tweets**



@GalwayCoCo  
Sep 01, 08:21

<https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FGalwaycounty%2Fposts%2Fpfbid0vfnSbau6XsQm8q3YUihmj4ookdZ3tcxJdDaZVTTe2Ww1HMZMSBAOSvMVPoFobel&show>



@GalwayCoCo  
Sep 15, 08:40

<https://twitter.com/GalwayCoCo/status/1967508746856218978/photo/1>



@GalwayCoCo  
Sep 19, 08:30

<https://twitter.com/GalwayCoCo/status/1968955775725797462/photo/1>

## INSTAGRAM TOP 3 POSTS

**galwaycountycouncil**  
Sep 30, 13:36

Galway Public Libraries is delighted to be part of "Start Now", a new initiative with the Maternity Department at University Hospital Galway (UHG) that promotes early literacy and builds strong parent and child connections from day one. Every expectant mother attending UHG will now receive their baby's first book and a resource pack introducing our family-focused library services. After birth, families also get a baby booklet, their child's first step to joining their local library and discovering the joy of reading. The baby booklet

**galwaycountycouncil**  
Sep 24, 18:18

Oiscailt Oifigiúil Scoil an Phiarsaigh Ag Ceiliúradh an Phobail, na Cultúir & an Oideachais Bhí an-áthas orainn ár n-imeacht bliantúil do Scoil an Phiarsaigh a óstáil — lá atá lán le lúcháir, bród, agus spiorad pobail bríomhar. Ó óráidí spreagúla go léirithe beo, léirigh an ócáid seo croí agus anam fhís mhic Phiaraís agus a thiomantas don gcur chun cinn a fheabhsú. Sleamhnaigh tríd na grianghraif chun na cuimhneacháin speisialta ó cheiliúradh an lae a fheiceáil — aghaidheanna sona, daltaí bródúla agus nochtadh caibidil nua do Scoil

**galwaycountycouncil**  
Sep 18, 10:27

Women's Health Programme Following the success of our spring rollout, we're re-running the Women's Health & Wellness Programme — now available in even more locations across County Galway and the offshore islands. This free 5-week programme supports women through every stage of perimenopause, menopause, and post menopause, offering expert advice, practical tips, and a warm space to connect. Thursdays | 6.45pm–8.30pm Dates: 25 Sept, 2 Oct, 9 Oct, 16 Oct 23 Oct Expert Guest speakers! Tea &

## LINKEDIN TOP 3 POSTS

**Galway County Council**  
Sep 30, 13:36

Galway Public Libraries is delighted to be part of "Start Now", a new initiative with the Maternity Department at University Hospital Galway (UHG) that promotes early literacy and builds strong parent and child connections

**Galway County Council**  
Sep 30, 14:51

Galway County Council is delighted to announce, our regeneration project at Tobar Mhuire, Ahascragh has been shortlisted by the Irish Council for Social Housing for Project of the Year 2025. Please vote for it here:

**Galway County Council**  
Sep 25, 16:13

FREE ONLINE Local Climate Action Course: Galway County Climate Action Unit in partnership with GRETB have organised a FREE ONLINE Local Climate Action Course for community and voluntary groups. This free online 4-week

## COMMUNITY, RURAL & TOURISM DEVELOPMENT & INTEGRATION

### LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

A LCDC meeting will take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> November to discuss the SICAP case studies and to hear a presentation from the Local Enterprise Office.

### LCDC NETWORKING EVENT ON 15 OCTOBER 2025

The Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRCDG) hosted the fourth annual LCDC Networking conference which took place on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> October, in the Landmark Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim, N41 N9W4.

The informative event included high level business updates from;


- The Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht,
- The Department of Children, Disability and Equality, and;

- The Director of the National Office for Community Safety

The conference also included a presentation on one of the Local Area Child Poverty Action Plan Pilots and a segment on the review of the LECP 2-year Implementation Plans. This included a speaker from the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) & the All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO), NUI, Maynooth.

## HEALTHY IRELAND

### WOMEN'S HEALTH PROGRAMME

 We are now in Week 3 of the Empowering Women's Health programme, and the response has been very positive. To date, 190 women have registered, with registration now closed for two venues—Clifden and Sraith Salach (Recess)—due to high demand.

The programme has already delivered valuable and practical health information, including acupressure techniques to alleviate symptoms associated with perimenopause and menopause; expert insights from a Consultant OBGYN on managing hormonal changes; and holistic advice on sleep, diet, movement, and nutrition from an Ayurvedic practitioner and herbalist.



**Empowering Women's Health**  
A 5-week Women's Health and Wellness Programme

**Perimenopause - Menopause Postmenopause**

Streamed live to venues across County Galway

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

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

**Venues**

- Comhar Caomhán, Inis Oírr
- Inishbofin Community Centre
- Comharchumann Arann, Inis Mór
- Comhlacht Forbartha, Inis Meán
- Loughrea Resource Centre
- SCCUL Sanctuary, Clarinbridge;
- Forum Offices, Clifden;
- Community Center, Recess (FULLY BOOKED)
- Chlann Resource Centre, Oughterard
- Solas FRC, Headford
- Ard Ri House Hotel, Tuam
- Moycullen Community Centre
- Comhair Cúlgeal Teo, Lettermulleen
- Ballyglunin, Co. Galway
- Creagh Training Centre, Ballinasloe

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

**Women's Health Programme**  
Schedule 6:45 pm – 8:30 pm

An evening designed to inform and empower women through knowledge-sharing, reflection, and meaningful conversations.

**Evening Schedule**

Time	Activity	Details
6:45 – 6:55 pm	Welcome & Introduction	Brief Introduction, overview of the evening, and setting the tone for the programme
6:55pm – 7:15pm	1st Speaker Presentation	Presentation by the 1 <sup>st</sup> guest speaker on women's health (15–20 mins)
7:15– 7:25pm	Q&A Session – 1 <sup>st</sup> Speaker	Opportunity for participants to ask questions and share insights (10 mins). *Questions submitted via team chat & facilitator on microphone.
7:25– 7:35pm	Tea/Coffee Break	Light refreshments and Opportunity for social connection & discussion (10–15 mins)
7:40 – 8:00 pm	2nd Speaker Presentation	Presentation by the 2nd guest speaker on Women's Health (15–20 mins)
8:00 – 8:10 pm	Q&A Session – 2nd Speaker	Open floor for questions, reflections, and clarifications (10 mins)
8:10 – 8:25 pm	Reflection & Sharing	Group discussion, personal reflections, and collective sharing (15 mins)
8:25 – 8:30 pm	Closing Remarks & Wrap-up	Final thoughts, acknowledgments, and gratitude to participants and speakers.

This week, participants will benefit from sessions led by a Pelvic Floor Specialist focusing on pelvic health, and an HSE Health Promotion Officer with a physiotherapy background who will speak on cardiovascular and bone health. Women are attending in person across 15 venues throughout County Galway and the offshore islands, with talks also streamed online to ensure accessibility. Each session includes a Q&A session and concludes with an audience discussion, encouraging active engagement, questions, and reflection to support an interactive experience.

## TAKING STOCK FARMER'S HEALTH PROGRAMME

The Women in Agriculture event, led by Healthy County Galway in collaboration with the Irish Farmers' Association (IFA), saw strong attendance and engagement from participants in Mountbellew and other parts of the county.

Held at Mountbellew Agricultural College on 1st October 2025, the event offered a comprehensive programme focused on supporting women's health in agriculture and rural communities. Attendees availed of on-site health checks provided by Croí, as well as podiatry gait and foot diagnostic analysis by Foot Health Galway. The day featured a full schedule of informative talks, including sessions on cardiovascular health, breast cancer awareness, mental health and bereavement support, occupational health, and farm safety. Speakers included experts from Croí, the Irish Cancer Society, Embrace FARM, the Health and Safety Authority, and Teagasc. A panel discussion moderated by Sarah McInerney from The Farmers Journal brought together voices from across the sector to explore health and wellbeing among farm women.

**Supporting Women's Health in Agriculture and Rural Communities**  
1st October 2025, Mountbellew Agricultural College

**Schedule**

**10:30 AM – Welcome & Opening Remarks**  
Speaker: Eithne Curley. Brief introduction and overview of the event.

**10:40 AM – Women in Agriculture & Health: Challenges and Insights**  
Speaker: Dr. Maura Farnell (FLARA). Exploring unique challenges faced by women in agriculture & health.

**10:50 AM – Cardiovascular Health for Women**  
Speaker: Representative from Croí. Women's health checks with a focus on cardiovascular wellbeing.

**11:00 AM – Women's Leadership in Agriculture (Northern Ireland)**  
Speaker: Veronica Morris. Insights into leadership roles for women in the agri-sector.

**11:30 AM – Breast Cancer & Women's Health**  
Speaker: Nurse from Irish Cancer Society. Comprehensive discussion on breast cancer.

**11:20 AM – Farm Safety Challenges**  
Speaker: Claran Roche. Addressing key safety concerns and risks on farms.

**11:30 AM – Mental Health & Bereavement Support**  
Speaker: Embrace FARM Representative. Support services for mental health & bereavement.

**11:40 AM – Occupational Health in the Workplace**  
Speaker: Michelle Nolan (Health and Safety Authority). Factors affecting women's health in the workplace.

**11:50 AM – Promoting Health & Wellbeing Among Farm Women**  
Speaker: John McNamara (Teagasc). Evidence-based research to support farm women's health.

**12:00 PM – Break (15 minutes)**

**12:35 PM – Panel Discussion: Women's Health & Leadership in Agriculture**  
Moderator: Sarah McIntosh (Irish Farmers Journal)  
Panelists: Dr. Maura Farnell (University of Galway), Mella Briscoe (Dairy Farmer), John McNamara (Teagasc), Veronica Morris, Eithne Curley

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (15 MINS) 12:45pm**

**Logos:** Croí, HSA, Mountbellew Agricultural College, Teagasc, Healthy County Galway, IFA, HF



Information tables were available throughout the day from Teagasc, Healthy County Galway, IFA, Galway Rural Development (GRD) Leader Programme, the Irish Cancer Society, and Blueberry Hearing, ensuring attendees had access to a wide range of resources and supports. This event was a valuable addition to the *Taking Stock* programme, helping to raise awareness of the importance of health for women in agriculture and reflecting the demand for such initiatives.



## DEMENTIA CAFES AND SOCIAL CLUB IN CONNEMARA

Planned activities continue at our Memory Cafés in Roundstone and Letterfrack, Connemara.

Keelin Kennedy recently led engaging arts and crafts sessions with attendees, while a physical trainer provided some physical exercise classes that participants could actively engage in.

Kathleen Aspell, café facilitator, is also planning to create a personalised memory book for each participant, with Keelin's creative support, funded through Creative Ireland and Healthy Ireland funding.

To further support engagement, activity packs subsidised by the Healthy Ireland programme have been distributed to both cafés, offering additional opportunities for meaningful interaction.

The help of all the volunteers who offer their free time to support these cafes is greatly appreciated. In addition, there are also refreshments and snacks made available following the crafts and activities for those attending and our volunteers, to support social connection and further discussion.



### CONNEMARA AND CLARINBRIDGE COMMUNITIES IN THE SPOTLIGHT FOR PRIDE OF PLACE AWARDS

The Marconi Men’s Shed in Connemara and the community of Clarinbridge welcomed judges in mid-September from the 23rd annual IPB Pride of Place competition, an all-island awards programme highlighting excellence in community development.

The judges visited the Marconi Men’s Shed in Clifden, a unique and pioneering initiative serving male family carers in the wider Connemara region. It is the first men’s shed in Ireland founded exclusively by male carers and has grown into a thriving community hub.

Supported by FORUM Connemara CLG, the group has transformed four outbuildings into a well-equipped facility, combining workshop and storage areas. The shed currently has over 50 members aged between 43 and 85, who meet regularly for a range of activities.

Projects include a woodturning workshop, a gardening initiative in the on-site polytunnels, and a strong focus on health and wellbeing. Members have taken part in Tai Chi, mindfulness courses, healthy eating programmes, physical activity sessions, and smoking cessation workshops. Many participants have reported significant improvements to their mental and physical health, demonstrating the project’s powerful impact on quality of life.



PRIDE OF PLACE JUDGES PICTURED WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MARCONI MEN'S SHED AND GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL DURING THE ADJUDICATION VISIT

In Clarinbridge, judges were introduced to a broad range of initiatives led by the Clarinbridge Tidy Towns group, which has played a key role in community development since its foundation in 1979. The village, known for its scenic beauty, oysters, and hospitality, continues to thrive as a forward-looking and inclusive community.

The adjudicators toured key local landmarks, including The Green, Parish Hall, Kilcornan Estate, and the Cowpark/Kilcornan Walking Trails, all of which reflect the community’s long-standing commitment to heritage, environmental protection, and social engagement.

Clarinbridge Tidy Towns collaborates with a range of local groups, including the Clarinbridge Men’s Shed and SCCUL Sanctuary, to promote wellbeing and community cohesion. Annual

events like Clarinbridge Market Day and Halloween on the Green further strengthen the area's community spirit and highlight the village's commitment to culture and inclusivity. Both groups are hoping to be among the winners at this year's Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony, which will take place at the Strand Hotel in Limerick on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

PRIDE OF PLACE JUDGES  
PICTURED WITH  
COMMUNITY  
REPRESENTATIVES FROM  
CLARINBRIDGE TIDY  
TOWNS AND GALWAY  
COUNTY COUNCIL  
DURING THE  
ADJUDICATION VISIT



## AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

The Galway County Older Persons Council (OPC) received a presentation on the draft Age Friendly strategy for the city and county which gave members an opportunity to outline their observations/opinions. A number of contributions were made by members such as Housing grants being part of the strategy as not many people are aware of what grants there are to apply for. Moreover, there was a view expressed that these grants are not solely available online as not all older people have access to online grants or are able to apply for them online. It was confirmed that there is an action in the Draft Strategy in relation to inclusivity and digital training.

One member stated that it would be good to see the Directory for Older People made available in Post Offices as that is where a lot of elderly people go to collect their pensions. Other members concurred and went further indicating that the Directory for Older People be made more widely available in places such as doctors' surgeries and day centres.

Members also received a presentation from the Age Friendly Manager for the region Dara McGuigan. Mr. McGuigan stated that Age Friendly Ireland doesn't have any legal framework but that the functions of the Local Government are underpinned, and that Age Friendly Ireland works in partnership with the Local Government.

Members were advised that enquiries would be made regarding a training workshop on age friendly matters.

At their meeting in September new members were introduced. This meeting provided an opportunity for members to suggest what they would like the OPC to focus on during their

term on the committee. These suggestions have been noted and recorded in devising a future work programme.

At the national Age Friendly awards in October which is being hosted jointly by Galway City and Galway County Council the county OPC will be represented by three of its members.

In recent weeks OPC members have been notified of the following events;

- HSE Workshop on a Health & Wellbeing Profile of Older Adults
- Age Friendly Sports Day

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## POSITIVE AGEING WEEK 2025

Positive Ageing week took place at the end of September. Positive Ageing Week is a chance to shine a light on the positivity of older age. The aim of the initiative is to highlight all the great things older people bring to our lives and communities.

Positive Ageing Week is celebrated locally in Galway through the 'Local Heroes Exhibition'. This exhibition highlights the inspiring stories of exceptional older individuals from Galway City and County who have graciously shared their personal experiences of ageing, showcasing their resilience and contributions to our community.

The Cathaoirleach of Galway County, David Collins and the Deputy Mayor of Galway City, Councillor Alan Cheevers, awarded each nominee with a professional photo along with their biography on stage. The exhibition was launched on the Tues 30 of September with an event in the Town Hall theatre, where 27 older people from Galway City and County were recognised and celebrated for their wonderful contribution to family, friends and wider society.



27 LOCAL HEROES ON STAGE AT THE TOWN HALL THEATRE

CATHAOIRLEACH DAVID COLLINS AND DEPUTY MAYOR ALAN CHEEVERS WITH THE WORKING GROUP ATTENDING LOCAL HEROES' EXHIBITION AT TOWN HALL THEATRE



CATHAOIRLEACH DAVID COLLINS WITH LOCAL HEROES' PARTICIPANTS AND GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL STAFF AT TOWN HALL THEATRE

MR. MICHAEL COY, LOCAL HEROES' RECIPIENT



## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

The PPN held its annual plenary meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup> in the Raheen Woods Hotel Athenry.

The Galway County Public Participation Network (PPN) held its Plenary Meeting at Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry bringing together member groups from across the county to network, share updates, and engage in meaningful dialogue on community development.

From 4:00pm, over 100 attendees visited 25 exhibitor tables, hosted primarily by Galway



County Council and a range of local and national service providers. These tables offered information on funding programmes, community supports, and public services. The networking session created a vibrant space for members to connect, share ideas, and explore

collaboration opportunities. A short survey was given to all in attendance for future PPN priorities.

The meeting officially opened by Ms. Claire Connolly PPN coordinator on behalf of PPN secretariat and PPN team at 5:00pm with a welcome to all invited guests, all the speakers and presenters, Galway County Council staff and a special welcome to all the members of community groups present. Mr. Patrick McHugh was introduced as master of ceremonies for the evening.

Ms. Maria Heneghan gave a presentation with an overview of what the PPN is, its structures and its purpose. Ms Mary McGann was presented with flowers by the Secretariat for her many years of superb work with communities. Mr. Michael Owens addressed all present about the importance of voluntary community involvement and its positive effects. Mr. Donal Quinn, solicitor, delivered a keynote on Wills and Estate Planning, offering practical advice and answering questions from attendees. His presentation was well-received. Ms Eimear Dolan delivered a presentation on completing grant applications and an overview of CSS grants, Clar & Town & Village. Ms Tina Ryan gave a presentation on new funding streams for climate change projects. Following light refreshments and finger food, a Q&A followed. Questions raised were on the difficulty of using IT systems to complete grant applications.

Other questions were around specific issues with Wills and inheritance which were answered by Mr. Donal Quinn. Ms Connolly provided detailed update on Budget, advising about budget for upcoming training for winter, which will be finalized in the coming weeks. No query arose on budget.

The meeting concluded @8.30pm. Members were advised that the next online County Galway PPN Plenary will be in November.

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## BOOK IT! AS PART OF CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL

Congratulations to our colleagues in Library Services who programmed 38 events in libraries across the county from 01 – 24 October with funding support from the Arts Office. Events took place in our libraries in An Cheathrú Rua, An Spidéal, Athenry, Ballinasloe, Ballygar, Clifden, Dunmore, Eyrecourt, Gort, Headford, Killimor, Leenane, Letterfrack, Loughrea, Moylough, Oranmore, Portumna and Tuam.

[Click here for the full programme](#)

See the Library Service section for more information.



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CHILDREN'S BOOK  
FESTIVAL

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## CULTURE NIGHT GALWAY COUNTY

A huge thank you from Galway County Arts Office to everyone who made Culture Night possible - our event organisers, artists, groups, partners, funders, communities, sponsors and champions who bring it all to life.

Behind the scenes, a lot of work goes in to making the night happen. Special thanks to our Culture Night Coordinator Ruth Gordon, and to the Galway County Arts Office team - Sharon O'Grady, Amie Lawless, Valerie Kelly, Ramona Burke and Morven Brooks.

We're also so grateful to our amazing freelancers: Designer Eamonn B. Shanahan, Photographers Aengus McMahon, Emma O'Toole, Marc Jennings and Tommy Murphy, and PR & Social Media Manager Alex Stewart.

And of course, to our wonderful audiences across Galway County - you filled the county with energy and joy! Around 7,000 people attended our events this year.



Our Culture Night events featured in the Connacht Tribune, Connemara Community Radio, Galway Advertiser, Galway Bay FM, Galway Now, RTÉ, The Irish Times, The Independent, This is Connemara, This is Galway, Tuam Herald and many more.

12<sup>TH</sup> & 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER  
- CULTURE NIGHT IN  
THE CONNACHT  
TRIBUNE



24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER - CULTURE NIGHT IN THE  
TUAM HERALD

13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER THE TICKET, THE IRISH  
TIMES - WHERE LIGHT LINGERS, KYLEMORE  
ABBEY





VIDEO COVERAGE OF EVENTS IN CLIFDEN

[Click here to watch events in Clifden](#)

CULTURE NIGHT LAUNCH AT LIMELIGHT CREATIVE ARTS. CATHAOIRLEACH DAVID COLLINS, ARTS OFFICER SHARON O'GRADY WITH ARTISTS EMILY-ROSE CUMMINS, AOIBHE COOLEY AND CIARA RAFTERY. PHOTO: AENGUS MCMAHON



JOHN CONNEELY INC UNPLUGGED AT SIAR, KINVARA. PHOTO: AENGUS MCMAHON

PLAY ALONG SILENT CINEMA, CLIFDEN FILM SOCIETY



BRIAN PATRICK NALLY, COOLE PARK. PHOTO: AENGUS MCMAHON

FIONA MCDONAGH GELLI PLATE MONOPRINTING WORKSHOP, GORT. PHOTO: AENGUS MCMAHON



MARINE INSTITUTE, RINVILLE



YOUTH BALLET WEST, BAILE CHLÁIR

SLOW FOOD GALWAY, POTA



GORT ARTS, GORT

ROS NA RÚN, AN SPIDÉAL





JENNIFER CUNNINGHAM, TUAM

## WHERE LIGHT LINGERS AT KYLEMORE ABBEY

Thank you to everyone who made Where Light Lingers happen this Culture Night.

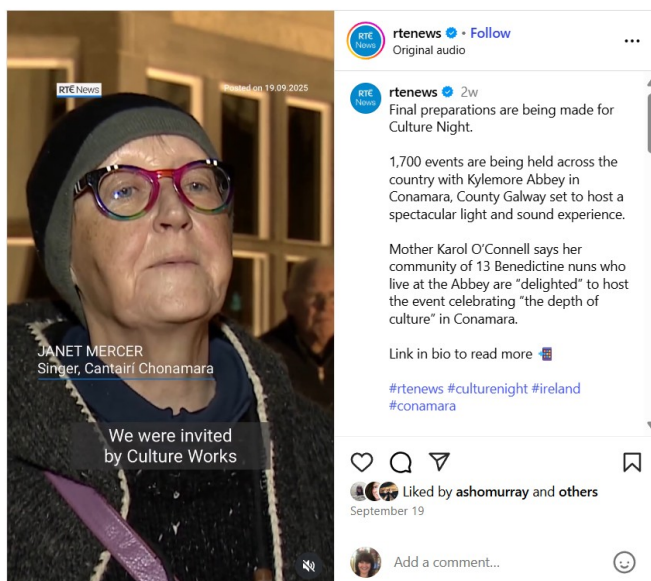
Thank you to the incredible artists who transformed the grounds of Kylemore Abbey with wonderful performances and interventions - a huge thank you to Alannah Robins, Aoife Dunne, Jane Cassidy, Gillian O'Shea, Linda Schirmer and Cantairí Chonamara. A massive thank you to all the audiences who flocked to share Culture Night with us at Kylemore Abbey and braved the night.

To our volunteer stewards, we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you also to Youthreach Letterfrack.

And of course, huge gratitude to our partners, collaborators, and the Kylemore Abbey team for opening the gates to this wonderful place, including Liz McConnell, Jessica Ridge, Seamus Ó Catháin, Marguerite Foyle, Fiona Casey, Patricia Joyce, Aisling Boyle, Cathal & Celine, Rory Coyne, John Nee, Malachy Gorham, Seamus Conroy, Rob Hosty and Mother Karol O'Connell & The Benedictine Community. Creative Producers: Denise McDonagh and Matti Allam, Culture Works. Production Manager: Frank Commins.

Funded by Arts Council, Department of Culture, Communications and Sport and Galway

County Council. In partnership with Kylemore Abbey



This was a one-night-only event, but the memories will linger.

[Click here to watch Where Light Lingers at Kylemore Abbey](#)

RTE NEWS COVERAGE OF CULTURE NIGHT LATE EVENT KYLEMORE

WHERE LIGHT LINGERS  
AUDIENCES EXPLORING  
INSTALLATIONS AT KYLEMORE  
ABBEY. PHOTO: MARC  
JENNINGS



## NORTH EAST GALWAY FIT-UP FESTIVAL

The festival took place from 23 Sept – 11 Oct presenting 3 theatre shows, over 3 weeks in Skehana, Newbridge, Creggs, Fohenagh and Abbeyknockmoy. Audiences enjoyed Mary's Hopes and Dreams by Hubcap Theatre, Footnote by Irene Kelleher and Bumbled by Colin Hamell.



This year the festival celebrates 5 years of bringing fit-up theatre to audiences in North-East Galway. Three Rings who run the festival received funding from the Arts Council's Festival Investment Scheme with direct support from the Galway County Council Arts Office.

## SOMETHING IN THE WATER FESTIVAL HEADFORD

Something in the Water took place in Headford 01 – 05 October. For a 3rd year this community arts festival programmed 45 exciting events focusing on dance, film, theatre, music, visual art, talks, community and family.

Something in the Water received funding from the Arts Council's Festival Investment Scheme with support from the Arts Office. The festival had many free family events and with tickets priced very low they could ensure that the festival was accessible to as many as possible. [Click here for the full programme of Something in the Water events](#)





SHARON O'GRADY ARTS OFFICER, ARTIST KATHLEEN MCMAHON AND CLLR MARY HOADE AT THE OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION AS PART OF SOMETHING IN THE WATER FESTIVAL

CLLR MARY HOADE, SARAH MARTYN ARTIST AND SHARON O'GRADY ARTS OFFICER AT VOICES OF THE LAND SOLO EXHIBITION BY SARAH MARTYN, ST. FURSA'S PARISH HALL



## COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCHEME – ARTS ACT GRANTS

Community groups, artists and arts organisations across the county have been busy delivering arts and culture projects through our Community Support Scheme. Here's a taste of what was funded between March and October.

- Bualadh Bos Theatre, March, performances of Sive by John B Keane
- Music for Galway, 12 March, Britten Oboe Quartet performance at Campbell's Tavern Headford
- Feis na nÓg, March, Irish-language and culture festival for children in Oranmore/Maree
- Branar, March, performances of Clann Lír in Galway County schools
- Gliondar, March, Scratch the Surface youth arts project performed at Athenry St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Loughrea Activity Association, March, Dancing Through a series of céilí dance classes
- Eyrecourt & District Community Development Company, April, drumming lessons for children to revive the local marching band
- Milltown Drama Society, 18 April, Da a memory play at The Mall Theatre Tuam
- Portumna Players, April, performances of Canaries by Bernard Farrell
- Cois Cladaigh Choir, 27 April, free concert at Baile Chláir Castle with ConTempo
- Comhlacht Forbartha Inis Meáin, April, outdoor exhibition of 'Pictúir Dáite d'Árann Ársa' at Áras Éanna, Inis Oírr
- Solas FRC (Ballygar Outreach Office), May, art workshops
- Kinvara Plein Air, May, plein air workshops during the festival

- Ballindereen Community Centre, June - July, Ceoltóirí an Doirín traditional music classes over 10 weeks
- OCAP Oughterard, June – August, summer arts programme supporting 4 visual art exhibitions
- Headford Lace Project, July, artist talk, community engagement workshop and masterclass with Mary Elizabeth Barron
- Athenry Playground Community Playground, July, Julie-Rose McCormick Puppet Theatre performed at the Big Day Out fundraiser
- Western Traveller Intercultural and Development Centre, July, summer art camp ‘Art on Wheels’
- Yeats Thoor Ballylee, July – August, artist residency awarded to Aya Bundurakis who also delivered talks and workshops
- Sparkcatchers!, August, Slay the Grey project empowered teenage artists in Tuam to create artworks around the town
- Galway Dance, September – December, Síolta a two-week dance residency for Galway County artists
- Portumna Arts Group, September, creative writing workshops with 3 schools
- Gort Vibes Cinema Club, 13 September, short film screenings celebrating women in film
- Interface, 17 – 27 September, annual members exhibition in association with Clifden Arts Festival
- Garrafrauns Community Center, 06 September, art class
- Skylight 47, Spring/Summer, publication of issue 20



MATTHEW BERRILL AND MUSIC FOR GALWAY INTRODUCES BRITTEN OBOE QUARTET

## PUBLIC ART

‘STONE WALLS AND THE GRASS IS GREEN’ PERCENT FOR ART COMMISSION IN BAILE CHLÁIR.

The Stage 2 selection panel took place on Friday 03 October. The Public Art Working Group requested that the four shortlisted artist present an engaging Permanent Visual Artwork(s) close to the Nine-arch road bridge in the centre of Baile Chláir that will both complement and



enhance this historical bridge and provide interest and engage those who live, work and visit the town. Four Artists were selected for the Stage 2 selection and presented specific proposals that directly responded to the site in Baile Chláir and the budget of €41,000.

One artist was selected, and it has proceeded to contract stage.

## CREATIVE IRELAND

### CREATIVE IRELAND PROJECTS AT CULTURE NIGHT

This year's Culture Night saw an incredible array of events take place across Galway County. Two Creative Ireland projects were among those who took part. Sparkcatchers! launched their ezine as part of their 'Middle of Somewhere' project, more about this below. There was also a full house in Ballinasloe library for the Mending HeArts taster workshop where



participants worked with artist Lucy Kershaw to create mixed media paper crafts. Mending HeArts is a Creative Health & Wellbeing project delivered in collaboration with Galway City Council, Croí, and Saolta Arts. It consists of creative workshops with cardiovascular patients in both hospital and community settings. This event was a taster workshop so that people could try it for themselves and see what it was all about in a relaxed, welcoming setting.

PARTICIPANTS IN MENDING HEARTS WORKSHOP AT BALLINSLOE LIBRARY

### SPARKCATCHERS! 'MIDDLE OF SOMEWHERE'

Over the course of the past 5 months, Tuam based arts group SPARKCATCHERS! have been



working with teens across Galway County to help them express their creativity and explore ideas and topics that are important to them. These workshops were designed to target areas where there is a low level of engagement with creativity and the arts, particularly amongst young people. The areas chosen were, Corr na Móna, Glenamaddy, and Portumna. The young people used their creativity to explore their lived experiences of what it is to be a teenager in rural Ireland in 2025. They interrogated how teenagers can use shared space in rural communities to connect, create, and celebrate through music jams, storytelling, and zine design. The Corr na Móna group launched their zine at an event in

Clonbur as part of Culture Night, and the Glenamaddy teens brought their zine to the crowds at the Glenamaddy District Ploughing and Agricultural Show. This project was incredibly valuable in showing young people the power of their voice and the importance of keeping their creative spark aflame.

SPARKCATCHERS! Jojo Hynes and Midie Corcoran have fostered an environment of creativity, friendship, and community through this innovative and ambitious project.



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## CREATIVE IRELAND OPEN CALL PROJECTS

As we approach the drawdown deadline for Creative Ireland, a number of Open Call projects are coming to an end. Below are two projects which have recently been completed.



***'Living, Creating and Learning Workshops at Galway's Living Bog'*** was a project run by the Galway Telework Co-Op in Mountbellew who had the following to say about their project,

“We started out with a willow making workshop which was very well received, and participants were very enthusiastic and had a hands-on experience learning how to all about willow and ending with constructing a willow structure which they will carry on teaching others in their communities. Next, a 9 foot by 6-foot crochet tapestry was planned and over 8 weeks participants worked on a bog themed project that was displayed at our centre and admired by many visitors. New skilled were learned and the social interaction was of immense benefit to all who took part. Ability West participants were overjoyed with the talent they displayed painting the wall mural with Artist Leonie Sutton.”

The project reached over 40 participants over the course of the summer and was well received across the board.

***“The Lock Inn Drama”*** was a project delivered by the Irish Wheelchair Association’s Galway School Leavers group in Tuam. This was the IWA’s first time applying to the Creative Ireland Open Call. We received the following feedback from the group,

“We ran a Drama project with the Irish Wheelchair Association School Leavers groups across Galway. This consisted of Loughrea/Tuam and Briarhill groups meeting with drama teacher once a week for 8 weeks. There as a session each week and extra practicing in between. We then as a group had a sharing in the local community in the Mall Theatre in Tuam and

invited peers from other services in the area along with family and friends. The show was a massive success with great feedback from the audience. The School Leavers had not done anything like this before but thoroughly enjoyed it and were elated from the feedback from the audience. The whole process was amazing and despite challenges and changes along the way is something that we would do again.”

The audience figures for the performance were over 110, giving the group a great confidence boost to apply again next year and expand on the skills and experience from this year.



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### LADY GREGORY IN AMERICA

On Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> of September the Yeats Thoor Ballylee Society staged a performance of *'Lady Gregory in America'*, a short opera by Colm Toibín with score by Alberto Caruso. It tells the funny, alarming, and historic tale of Lady Gregory leading the Abbey Theatre Players' tour of the United States in 1911 when they performed JM Synge's *The Playboy of the Western World*.



At the play's opening in Dublin four years earlier, there had been audience uproar; riots and police on hand to quell moral hysterics and protect the actors. At their performance in Philadelphia, the entire cast was arrested for immorality. The Yeats Thoor Ballylee Society brought together local musicians and professional Opera Singers to tell the story of these real-life events in a location which is intrinsically connected to the real-life events. The performance was a sold-out event with audience members reporting a wonderful night of entertainment in The Lady Gregory Hotel as part of the Autumn Gathering weekend.

### CLUB DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS



Galway Sports Partnership and S3 Solutions are delighted to offer a FREE four-part Online Workshop series to support local clubs in strengthening governance, improving strategic planning, and accessing funding opportunities.

These workshops will take place on 22nd October 5<sup>th</sup> and 19th November and 3rd December.

### INCLUSIVE ON THE MOVE

Galway Sports Partnership started a 6-week Inclusive 'On the Move' programme funded by the HSE in Ballinfoile Castlegar Neighbourhood Centre on 10<sup>th</sup> October. This program is an adaptation of 'Men on the Move'. During the program adults with varying levels of disabilities will take part in chair exercises, resistance band exercises and body-weight exercises depending on their levels of fitness and abilities.

**INCLUSIVE  
'ON THE MOVE'**

FOR ADULTS WITH  
DISABILITIES

BALLINFOILE CASTLEGAR  
NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

6 WEEK PROGRAM FRIDAYS

10<sup>TH</sup>, 17<sup>TH</sup> & 24<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER,  
7<sup>TH</sup>, 14<sup>TH</sup> & 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER

12:30-1:30PM

REGISTRATION ESSENTIAL

€10 PER PERSON

HSE Health Service Executive | Comhghéiríocht Spóirt Na Gaillimhe Galway Sports Partnership

### DYSPRAXIA SPORTS DAY

Galway Sports Partnership in partnership with Dyspraxia Ireland will host a sports day for children with Dyspraxia on 29<sup>th</sup> October. The day will be run in Maree Oranmore Community Centre on their indoor astroturf pitch and will be supported by Galway Sports Partnership tutors and our work placement student. A variety of fun and exciting activities will be available for the participants on the day and promises to be an exciting day!

### AUTISM IN SPORT

On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October Galway Sports Partnership ran an Online Autism in Sport Workshop aimed at coaches, teachers, Special Needs Assistants and students. There were 20 attendees who took part in the 2.5hr workshop and they all received certificates of completion from Active Disability Ireland.

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## SPECIAL OLYMPICS MOTOR SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAMME

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October the Brothers of Charity Services in Loughrea began their 6-week Motor Activities Training Program (MATP) with the Special Olympics. Galway Sports Partnership received funding through the HSE to purchase the equipment needed for this course for the group as this was a barrier to the programme being delivered in the past. This program focuses on developing fine motor skills, mobility, dexterity and balance for adults with profound intellectual disabilities and complex support needs.

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## POSITIVE AGEING WEEK

In celebration of Positive Ageing Week Galway Sports Partnership through Healthy Galway County funding had planned for 4x Activator taster sessions to take place outdoors across Galway City and County – however due to Storm Amy two of the walks were postponed and will take place at a later date. We did successfully hold Activator taster walks at Tuam Palace Grounds and Coole Park in Gort.

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## OLDER ADULTS' INFORMATION DAY

On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September Galway Sports Partnership partnered with Galway Rural Development, Healthy Galway County and utilised HSE funding to run an Older Adults Information Day. The event took place in the Emerald Ballroom Ballinasloe with over 100 older-adult attendees from the local area and as far as Gort and Clarinbridge. Frank Fahey from FitWalk Ireland hosted a talk on the importance of keeping active as we age along with simple steps on how to increase your movements throughout the day. Frank also hosted an introduction to Activator Poles. There were 10 providers with information stands including Care Direct, Meals on Wheels, local Community Garda, Fire Brigade members, local older adult exercise group 'Move', Ballinasloe Library and Ballinasloe Active Retirement Group. This event was run in celebration of European Week of Sport and Positive Ageing Week.



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## PRIDE OF PLACE CLARINBRIDGE

Galway Sports Partnership were delighted to support Galway County Council and Clarinbridge as part of the Pride of Place judges visit on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept. Galway Sports Partnership supported the older adults' group Cairde with their demonstration of Activator



poles as part of the judges visit. The town had many activities and achievements which they showcased to the judges. The Cairde group shared their experience since setting up in 2021 and their growth as a group to date highlighting the support received from Galway Sports Partnership and Healthy Galway County through a variety of Active Leadership training such as Good2Go which allows the group to run their own physical activity programmes along with equipment loans and grant support.

## ACTIVATOR PROGRAMME UPDATE

From August to November there was a number of Activator Walking programs taking place across Galway County. These programs were funded by Healthy Galway County and the HSE.

- In August the Gort Activator program began for a 6-week block on Gort AstroTurf Walkway beside the community centre. This group has recently finished with Activators but will continue to meet up indoors over the winter months to take part in other activities.
- In Tuam Palace Grounds in partnership with the Mental Health Association in Tuam are running a 5-week activator program around Tuam Palace Grounds where there is FitStick Trail signage.
- In Portumna on the 10<sup>th</sup> October a 6-week indoor Activator program will take place in the Courthouse Hall. This will be the first time there will be an Activator Pole program in Portumna and it is great to extend this ever-popular program to new areas!
- Oughterard Fitstick Trail Launch began a 6-week programme to utilise the new fitstick trail installed in Corribdale Park.



TUAM HERALD  
2-PAGE  
SPREAD ON  
ACTIVATOR  
PROGRAM IN  
TUAM

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## ACTIVE ISLANDS COORDINATOR

October is a busy month for the active Islands Project with Siel Bleu Older Adult 10-week Class starting on Inis Meáin and Inis Oírr (will start on Inis Mór and Inishbofin in January), Couch to 5ks starting on all four Islands and the roll out of Glow Games as part of supporting after school activities on the islands.




**Ag tosú seachtain an 22ú Meán Fómhair**

**Ranganna Aclaíochta Pobail Inis Meáin agus Inis Oírr**

- Ionad Pobail Inis Meáin
- Comhar Caomhán Teo, Inis Oírr
- Oiriúnach do gach aois agus leibhéal cumais
- Oscailte do Chách

**Siel BLEU IRELAND**  
Le haghaidh tuilleadh eolais: [coordinator@activeislands.ie](mailto:coordinator@activeislands.ie)  
01 209 6889 | [info@sielbleu.ie](mailto:info@sielbleu.ie) | [www.sielbleu.ie](http://www.sielbleu.ie)  
CHI 15469 | CFA 207654



**Rithimis le chéile Tolg go 5k**

Inis Bé Finne Inis Mór Inis Meáin Inis Oírr

Ag tosú seachtain an 6ú Deireadh Fómhair

Cláraigh agus faigh tuilleadh eolais ar Eventbrite

[coordinator@activeislands.ie](mailto:coordinator@activeislands.ie)


**Lets Get Running Couch to 5k**

Inishbofin Inis Meáin Inis Oírr Inis Mór

Starting week of 6<sup>th</sup> October

Register and more info on Eventbrite

[coordinator@activeislands.ie](mailto:coordinator@activeislands.ie)



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## WOMEN IN SPORT

Galway Sports Partnerships Women in Sport Lead Karen Concannon is working on a number of programmes to support Women in Sport over the Autumn period.

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## HER MOVES – TEEN EMPOWER MIX 2025

Currently in its second phase of delivery across Galway City and County, with active programmes running in Galway Community College and through the Tuam Schools Completion Programme from September to November. Funded through the Dormant Accounts Fund, this initiative specifically targets girls from ethnic minorities, international protection backgrounds, Traveller and Roma communities, and those from disadvantaged areas. Aimed at engaging teenage girls aged 12–15 and 15–18, the programme offers a diverse mix of fun, inclusive, and empowering activities. Up to 30 girls are currently participating in outdoor experiences such as rafting, horse riding, and nature-based activities, alongside indoor sessions including dance, self-defence, gymnastics, yoga,

mindfulness, and circus skills. The programme creates a safe and encouraging space for girls to explore movement, build confidence, and develop healthy habits. One participant shared that the programme helped her enjoy staying active in a way that felt positive and fun, rather than just focused on exercise. HER Moves continues to make a meaningful impact by

supporting young women in embracing physical activity and personal growth.



STUDENTS FROM ARCHBISHOP MCHALE COLLEGE EXPLORING THE OUTDOORS WITH VENTURE OUT AS PART OF WEEK 2 OF THE HER MOVES PROGRAMME

## WOMEN IN SPORT AT DIAMOND HILL COMMUNITY CENTRE, LETTERFRACK

There are two programmes taking place for Women in Sport in Diamond Hill Community Centre Letterfrack from October to December



The Ladies Wellbeing Programme is an uplifting initiative that fosters community connection through inclusive physical activity, promoting friendship, fun, and mental wellbeing. The programme features seated exercise suitable for all abilities, mindfulness practices to enhance mental health, and activities that encourage lifelong

engagement in movement. All participants in the programme are members of the local community, and for many, this is their first time engaging with the Community Centre. This meaningful step has been made possible through the outreach and dedicated efforts of organisers Kathleen Aspell and Carmel Mortimer. Special thanks go to Centre Manager Charmaine Flaherty, a champion of community wellbeing who has been instrumental in bringing the programme to life, and to tutors Caítriona Níc Ghíollaphádraig and Ilowna Wielosik, whose enthusiasm and expertise are central to the programme's success and delivery.

The Teen Girls Gym Programme at Diamond Hill Community Centre is a 10-week initiative designed to empower girls aged 13 and up through supervised gym sessions. The programme takes place every Friday after school hours starting in October and runs to December. Topics covered will be fundamental movement patterns, principles of resistance training, improving mobility, technique and form in a fun, safe, and supportive environment. Session costs are subsidized to offer an accessible opportunity for young girls to train safely, move confidently, and develop lifelong fitness habits.



## INDOOR WOMEN'S TRY TENNIS TASTER & 6-WEEK PROGRAMME

The Indoor Try Tennis for Women programme at Ballinfoile Castlegar Neighbourhood Centre is an initiative aimed at making tennis more accessible and affordable for women who are beginners or returning to the sport. Running from Wednesday, 8th October through to the end of November, the programme includes an introductory taster session followed by a six-week series, delivered in partnership with Tennis Ireland and led by qualified Parks Tennis coach Mike Geraghty. Designed to create a fun, supportive, and active environment, the sessions provide all necessary equipment and coaching, encouraging women to build confidence and develop basic tennis skills. The programme also aims to inspire continued participation, whether through joining a local club or taking further lessons.



## ONLINE WORKSHOPS: TRAINING AND THE FEMALE MENSTRUAL CYCLE

As part of European Week of Sport, Galway Sports Partnership hosted an informative online presentation titled "Training and the Female Menstrual Cycle", which attracted 74 registered participants. Delivered by experts Kiera Ward, PhD, and Ruth Kavanagh ANutr. MSc., the session explored how hormonal changes across the menstrual cycle can impact training, performance, and recovery. Participants gained valuable insights into cycle tracking, nutrition, rest, and individualised approaches to exercise, with practical tips for managing symptoms and maintaining performance. The presentation also addressed the limited research in this area and encouraged women to listen to their bodies and seek medical advice when needed. All registrants received follow-up access to the session recordings and resources, ensuring continued learning and support beyond the live event.

## EMPOWERING WOMEN'S HEALTH

Galway Sports Partnership is proud to support Healthy Galway County's Empowering Women's Health Programme. This five-week initiative supports women through every stage of perimenopause, menopause, and post-menopause, offering expert advice, practical tips, and a warm, welcoming space to connect. The programme is live

streamed to community venues across County Galway and the Islands, including Inis Oírr, Inishbofin, Inis Mór, Inis Meáin, Loughrea, Clarinbridge, Headford, Oughterard, Clifden, Sraith Salach (Recess), Tuam, Maigh Cuilinn, Leitir Mealláin, and Ballyglunin. In Week four, Galway Sports Partnership Development Officer, Karen Concannon will present on the topic “The Importance of Physical Activity and Community Sports for Women’s Health in Midlife.”

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## PEAKABOO PADEL



Galway Sports Partnership was delighted to team up with Project Padel to offer new mums and their babies a safe space to come and try Padel as part of a 6-week programme. Peekaboo Padel created a fun, supportive space for new mums to move, connect, and enjoy padel — all while their little ones relax in our cosy “Baby Zone”! This programme began on 7<sup>th</sup> October with high demand for places and it is hoped to continue on this program in the early 2026!

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## MEN ON THE MOVE

Thomas Peoples, our Community Sports Development Officer, has a number of Men on the Move Programmes launching this Autumn covering Bohermore, Gort, Carncross, Gort, Letterfrack, Leitir Mór and Westside.

Men on the Move supports men to begin their journey to (re)connect with themselves via a safe and non-judgemental environment. It creates an environment in which they can connect with their surroundings and other men with whom they can relate. It consists of structured group exercise, experiential workshops, resources, a celebration event and much more.

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## SCHOOL SUPPORTS

Galway Sports Partnership supports pre-schools, primary and secondary schools with a number of equipment loan schemes such as our Primary School Skipping Rope Challenge, Sportshall Athletics and Balance Bike Programmes. We also help support our colleagues in National Governing Bodies of Sport with their schools’ programmes and as the new school term is underway our Community Sports Development Officer is busy engaging with schools and National Governing Bodies of Sport in rolling out these supports and programmes.

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## WALK LEADER TRAINING

To help support community groups and encourage new walking groups Galway Sports Partnership is delighted to be providing Walk Leader Training which will give walking groups the support them to provide community walks in their area. The training and support have

been developed by Sport Ireland's, Get Ireland Walking. Attendees can avail of resources such as mapped walks, details on insurance required, 12 week walking plans, sample programmes and risk assessments.

For more information on this training please contact [tpeoples@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:tpeoples@galwaycoco.ie)

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## YOUSPORT PARTNER BUILDING ACTIVITY

Galway Sports Partnership was represented by Gary Flannery, European Social Fund + Social Innovation in Sport Officer, at the YouSport Partner Building Activity held in Dublin, Ireland from 29<sup>th</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025.

This Erasmus+ funded event brought together organisations from across Europe to explore sport as a tool for social inclusion, with a strong focus on youth empowerment, participation, and building sustainable partnerships for future Erasmus+ Sport and Youth projects.

Gary's attendance ensured Galway Sports Partnership was actively engaged in:

- Connecting with European organisations committed to inclusive sport
- Sharing best practices and successful project models
- Developing ideas for Erasmus+ Sports Staff mobility and Youth initiatives
- Exploring funding opportunities within the Erasmus+ framework

His participation reflects Galway Sports Partnership's commitment to fostering inclusive, community-driven sport initiatives and strengthening international collaboration.

## INTEGRATION



The Integration Team continued to offer information clinics to Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection, International Protection Applicants and Persons with Status across the County. We engaged with community stakeholders through the Community Integration Forum, as well as through the Children and Young People's Services Committees.

For Culture Night, we arranged a community singing event at Mount Carmel Monastery in Loughrea, which is also an accommodation centre for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection. Jazz Vocalist Róisín Mulliez led the event, facilitated by Mount Carmel Concerts.





## TOURISM

### EU INTERREG SLOWDOWN PROJECT

Galway County Council was proud to lead the 4th Interregional Thematic Workshop and Study Visit of the EU Interreg SLOWDOWN project, which took place in Galway on 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 visited Galway to collaborate on the development of slow tourism in the county, sharing expertise and building new partnerships.

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

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

Networking opportunities, cultural exchanges further strengthened relationships with our European partners. The workshop concluded 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 welcomed our European colleagues and demonstrated the county's strengths in slow tourism, local heritage, and community engagement.



REPRESENTATIVES OF IRISH AND EUROPEAN PARTNERS FROM THE INTERREG EUROPE SLOWDOWN PROJECT

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL TOURISM OFFICER JOHN NEARY PICTURED WITH SLOWDOWN PROJECT DELEGATES AT THE AHASCRAUGH DISTILLERY, IRELAND'S FIRST ECO-DISTILLERY.



REPRESENTATIVES OF IRISH AND EUROPEAN PARTNERS FROM THE INTERREG EUROPE SLOWDOWN PROJECT



THE SLOWDOWN PROJECT VISIT ITINERARY INCLUDED A TRIP TO THE ABBEYGLLEN CASTLE HOTEL IN CLIFDEN.



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## GALWAY CHAMBER BUSINESS AWARDS 2025

Galway Chamber has officially launched the **Galway Chamber Business Awards 2025**, for the twelfth consecutive year. The awards celebrate the very best of Galway business, recognising innovation, ambition, sustainability, creativity, and community impact across the city and county.

Galway County Council is proud to sponsor this year's new category – **Tourism & Hospitality Excellence Awards**.

The 2025 Awards will take place on **Friday, 21st November**, at the **Galmont Hotel**, one of the highlights of Galway's business calendar.

Entries are now open, and businesses across all sectors are invited to submit nominations before the **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2025**.

For full details on categories and how to enter, visit [www.galwaychamber.com](http://www.galwaychamber.com).



REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GALWAY CHAMBER PRESIDENT, AND EVENT SPONSORS GATHERED TO CELEBRATE THE LAUNCH OF THE GALWAY CHAMBER BUSINESS AWARDS 2025

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## ITIC TOURISM CONFERENCE

The Irish Tourism Industry Confederation – ITIC Conference 2025 took place at the Lyrath Estate, Co. Kilkenny. This flagship tourism conference, themed “Resilience in an uncertain world” explored how tourism can continue to prosper in challenging times.

Over 500 attendees from across the tourism sector gathered to discuss how we can build resilience and sustainability within the industry. The event highlighted the strength of Ireland's tourism sector and the importance of keeping people, places and experiences at the heart of Irish tourism.

Galway County Council was pleased to participate in this event. Attendance provided insights and networking opportunities which will inform and enhance the work of the



Councils Tourism Department in supporting the continued growth and development of tourism across County Galway.

LORETTA RAFTERY, JTF ACTIVATOR AND PAULA NÍ LOIDEÁIN FROM CÓSTA GAELACH CHONAMARA PICTURED AT THE ITIC TOURISM CONFERENCE WITH OTHER JTF ACTIVATORS AND GUEST SPEAKER FRANCIS BRENNAN.

## HUMAN RESOURCES, CITY & COUNTY LIBRARIES & ENVIRONMENT

### ENVIRONMENT

#### BURIAL GROUNDS

##### BURIAL GROUND MAINTENANCE GRANTS

A total of 143 grants totalling €132,900 have been approved for Burial Ground Committees under the 2025 Scheme for Burial Ground Maintenance Works. This funding scheme acknowledges and supports the voluntary efforts of local communities to maintain and enhance their local burial grounds. Grants are between €200 - €1,400 per Burial Ground and cover vouched costs related to grass-cutting & hedge-cutting, tools & equipment for maintenance, planting, fuel and other materials.

#### DOG CONTROL

##### DOG LICENSING

793 dog licences were purchased during the month of September with 569 licences purchased at the local post office. Licencing is tracking slightly ahead of the same stage in 2024 with 6,871 licences purchased year to date.

##### ENFORCEMENT

1 fixed penalty notice for an offence under the Control of Dogs Act 1986 as amended was issued during the month of September. 40 fixed penalty notices have been issued year to date by the dog warden service. Of these, 17 have been paid in full with a further 9 being paid via agreed payment plans and 2 files sent for legal proceeding for non-payment of the

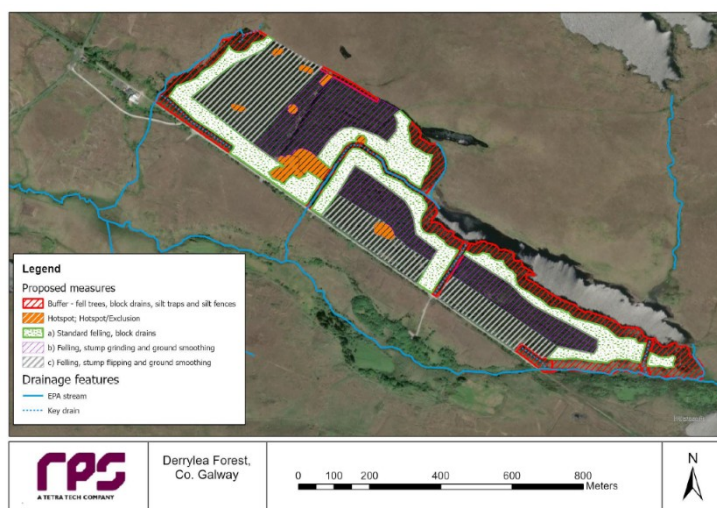
fixed penalty notices. The remainder of the fixed penalty notices are being processed through the system.

## LIVESTOCK-WORRYING INCIDENTS

Unfortunately, the dog warden service was notified of four incidences of livestock worrying during the month of September in the Renville, Renvyle, Glenamaddy and Brownsgrove (Tuam) areas of the county. Three sheep were lost in the incident reported in Brownsgrove with 1 injured, and a further sheep injured in the incident in Renvyle. Despite the dog warden service carrying out extensive awareness campaigns in these areas following the reports received, they did not locate the dogs involved in three of these incidences reported. The service subsequently highlighted the issue of livestock worrying on our social media platforms reminding dog owners of their responsibilities and especially the vulnerability of sheep to dog attacks.

## WATER QUALITY AND ENFORCEMENT

### CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT



A site visit took place at Derrylea Bog near Clifden on the 3rd September to discuss a planned bog restoration project on a Coillte forestry plantation. In attendance were staff from RPS, Coillte, NPWS and various staff from Galway County Council. An area of forestry is to be felled with subsequent works to block drains, etc. to restore bog to its natural state. Restored bogs act as a large carbon sink which are critical in

the fight against climate change.

A Western Local Authorities Liaison meeting took place on 8th September which included discussion of the following:

- Forestry operation licence applications
- Domestic wastewater treatment systems grants for areas for action in the 3rd cycle water action plan
- Development of Local authority Water Action Plans

A Corrib themed Western Regional Operational Committee meeting took place in the Anglers Rest Hotel, Headford on 18th September. The following presentations were given:

- Corrib Catchment WFD monitoring & status – Hugh Feeley, EPA
- Characterisation of the Corrib Catchment – Ailbhe Douglas, Technical Lead, LAWPRO

- Habitats Directive Article 17 Reporting – Eoin Connolly, NPWS
- Drainage Maintenance and Environmental Management – Corrib Drainage Scheme – Maria O’Shaughnessy, OPW
- National Agricultural Inspection Programme – Corrib Catchment Results – Colm Kennedy, Galway County Council
- ASSAP work in the Corrib Catchment – Sinead Devaney
- ACRES West Connacht – Mary McAndrew
- Corrib Catchment Partnership – Jennifer Cunningham, Project Manager Corrib Beo – Kevin O’Crowley, Carra Mask Corrib water protection society
- Farming for Water EIP -Community Animator – Progress to date – Peter Higgins

Pre-planning meetings took place in relation to 2 large projects in Oranmore and Glenloughan. Staff from the environment section attended both meetings. The Oranmore project is for a new post primary school and special school campus and the Glenloguhan project is for an Anaerobic Digestion Facility to process agricultural organic manures and slurry to produce biogas.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT

### WASTE COLLECTION PERMITS & WASTE FACILITY PERMITS

Work is ongoing on the Validation of the Annual Returns made by permitted Waste Collectors and Facilities/Certificates of Registration. This is a significant body of waste enforcement work which is almost complete. The Annual Audits of the Galway County Council permitted Waste Facility and Certificate of Registration sites are almost complete for 2025.

### MULTI-AGENCY CHECKPOINT

High visibility multi agency checkpoints were carried out at 2 locations in Tuam on the 16th September as part of a regional day of action. One checkpoint was carried out on the M6 Motorway heading south and a second checkpoint was set up on the N83 outside Tuam. Agencies involved included An Garda Síochána, Customs, Road Safety Authority, Dept of Social Protection, WERLA, Galway City and County Councils. The checkpoints ran from 6.30 - 11 a.m. with a focus on checking waste collection permits in particular targeting



unauthorised waste collectors. We were also on the lookout for solid fuel hauliers in order to enforce the solid fuel regulations. Several hauliers were not carrying the relevant permits and as a result a number of fixed payment notices were issued.

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## BULKY GOODS COLLECTIONS

Following the success of the bulky goods collections at our Civic Amenity Sites in August we carried out 2 additional individual collection days at Gort and Loughrea Marts. As with previous years, these collection days were busy with approximately 50 bookings each day and more people turning up without bookings.



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## LITTER ENFORCEMENT

During September, 9 fines were issued under the Litter Pollution Act by our Community Warden Service. In total, 66 fines have been issued by the service as of the end of September with 29 fines paid in full, 10 files referred to the law agent to initiate legal proceedings, and a further 17 being actively processed through the system.

Two cases in regard to offences under the Litter Pollution Act were heard in Ballinasloe District Court during the month of September. In both cases, the defendants paid a sum toward the costs owed to the Council in respect of these offences with the cases subsequently adjourned until 6th November next to facilitate the payment of the balances owing.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

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### WEEE IRELAND BATTERY RECYCLING COMPETITION 2025/2026



All schools in the county have been invited to take part in the WEEE Ireland Battery Recycling Competition 2025/26.

In 2024/25 Coláiste Mhuire Ballygar won the Small Secondary School winner and Bearna NS won the Medium Primary School section. Each school received a €2,000 sports voucher in recognition of their efforts.

## BEACH AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Awareness signs have been installed at 3 Blue Flag beaches reminding people to keep our beaches Litter Free.



## LIBRARY SERVICES

### NEW INITIATIVES

#### GALWAY PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND THE MATERNITY DEPARTMENT AT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL GALWAY LAUNCH 'START NOW' NURTURING EARLY LITERACY FROM DAY ONE

Galway Library Services in collaboration with the Maternity Department at University Hospital Galway (UHG) is delighted to announce the launch of "Start Now" a new, parent-focused initiative aimed at promoting early literacy and strengthening the bond between parent and child from the very beginning.



As part of this innovative programme, every expectant mother attending UHG for their booking visit will receive their baby's first book, along with a resource pack introducing them to a wide range of family-focused library services. At birth, each family will also receive a baby booklet, their child's first key to joining their local library and exploring the lifelong joy of reading.



Elizabeth Keane, Galway County and City Librarian said, "The Start Now programme reflects our deep commitment to supporting families from the very beginning of their parenting journey. By fostering early literacy and connection, we're helping build a foundation for lifelong learning and wellbeing."

Chief Executive of Galway County Council Mr. Liam Conneally said that ‘This is a proud moment to be part of a national movement that recognises the importance of early literacy and community connection. The inclusion of library services in this space is not only timely — it’s transformative. I look forward to seeing this initiative grow and evolve, and thanks to all those involved for their dedication and vision.

‘Start Now’ encourages parents to read aloud to their unborn and young children, supporting early language development, brain growth, and emotional bonding. The initiative also highlights the many resources available through Galway Public Libraries.

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## GALWAY PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY LAUNCH IRELAND’S FIRST PUBLIC TAX EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

Galway Public Libraries, in partnership with the University of Galway Tax Clinic, is proud to launch the first public tax education programme of its kind in Ireland, aimed at empowering vulnerable individuals through free, confidential tax education and support. Titled “Enabling Tax Literacy and Empowerment: Understanding Your Rights and Responsibilities,” this



groundbreaking initiative is designed to support lone parents and survivors of domestic violence in navigating Ireland’s increasingly digital tax system. Through personalised, one-to-one consultations with professional tax advisors, participants will gain essential knowledge on tax credits, post-unemployment refunds, and post-separation tax matters. Clinics will be hosted in selected libraries, with the potential for online delivery to ensure broader accessibility. Recruitment is being carried out through library outreach, Family Resource Centres, FLAC, and INTREO, ensuring the service reaches those who need it most.

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## GALWAY LIBRARIES HOST ESTONIAN DELEGATION FOR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT EXCHANGE



Galway Libraries were delighted to welcome a delegation of Estonian library professionals and youth workers as part of a two-day knowledge exchange focused on youth-led engagement and the evolving role of libraries within communities.

The visit featured presentations highlighting Galway Libraries’ work with

schools and youth services, adult programming, and culture and creativity initiatives. Delegates visited Westside, Ballybane, Oranmore, and Gort Libraries, gaining insight into the diverse services offered across the network.

A special highlight was a session with Laureate na nÓg Trish Forde, who spoke passionately about the transformative power of stories in young people’s lives. She shared reflections from her tenure as Laureate, encouraging attendees to reimagine how children’s reading is supported and celebrated.

LAUREATE NA NÓG TRISH FORDE  
READING ‘AS GAELIGE’ TO SHOWCASE  
THE IRISH LANGUAGE AND THE POWER  
OF STORY



Jen Hensen, Local Youth Creative Partner Coordinator, joined the discussion to showcase Creative Ireland’s work in amplifying youth voices and supporting youth-led programming. Isabel Daly from Youth Work Ireland also contributed, sharing insights into the Westside Arts Festival and the vital role youth work plays in the area.



ESTONIAN DELEGATION VISITING WESTSIDE  
LIBRARY

This visit was part of Galway Libraries’ successful ERASMUS Programme application, in partnership with Estonian colleagues who are leading innovators in implementing the

EU digital strategy for public service engagement.

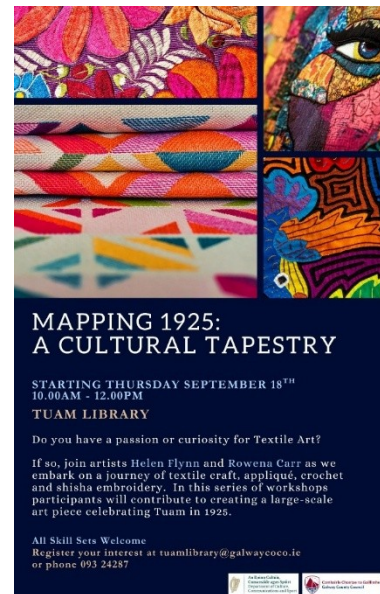
A reciprocal visit to Estonia by Galway Libraries is planned for 2026, continuing this valuable international collaboration.

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## DECADE OF CENTENARIES

**Mapping 1925: A Cultural Tapestry** is Galway Public Libraries 2025 Decade of Centenaries project that reflects on a relatively tranquil Ireland after the turbulence of the Civil War and the War of Independence as it navigates its journey from fledgling state to a modern country through the lens of our writers, designers, artists and creatives.

This community-led project, facilitated by Helen Flynn and Rowena Carr is running over nine weeks in both Tuam and Westside Libraries. An open call was issued to individuals and community groups to take part in creating two 6' x 6' wall hanging, which will be displayed in both libraries showcasing the rich history and culture of Tuam and Westside since 1925.



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## BOOKIT CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL

The **Children's Book Festival** is a cornerstone event that celebrates the joy of reading and storytelling for young minds. By bringing together authors, illustrators, and performers, the



festival transforms books into vibrant, interactive experiences that inspire imagination and creativity. It offers children a unique opportunity to engage directly with the people behind the stories they love, deepening their connection to literature. The festival also supports literacy development, encourages library use, and fosters a lifelong love of books. For families, schools, and communities, it's a powerful reminder of how stories can educate, entertain, and unite. The festival is jointly funded by our colleagues in the Arts Office of Galway County Council and Galway City Council.



This year's Children's Book Festival which has just commenced, promises to be an unforgettable celebration of imagination, creativity, and the joy of reading for young minds across the city and county.

Great fun was had by children from Gort NS and Lough Cutra NS, when they came to visit Gort Library for

#ChildrensBookFestival, author

Sinéad O'Hart introduced the unlikeliest of friendships, Lola and her fairy friend Larch, everyone enjoyed listening to some of their adventures and the event ended with children creating their own fairy fact file!

The festival continues for the rest of the month.



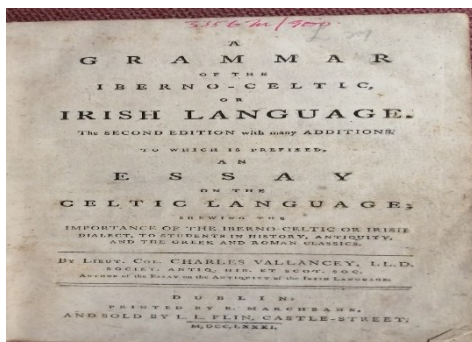
## LOCAL STUDIES

Recent activity in Local Studies included a wide range of queries and visits, reflecting strong public interest in genealogy and local history. Phone and email enquiries covered topics such as the Tuam Workhouse, local histories of Cooloo and Brierfield, court and gaol records, historical maps, and family research—including the Concannon and Hernon families. Appointments were held for accessing microfilms, historical journals, cancelled rate books, and Ordnance Survey maps, while drop-in visitors—some from outside Galway—explored family connections, including one tracing a relative who died in police custody in 1921. The Beathaisnéis series and Schools' Folklore Commission records also featured prominently in research.

### CHARLES VALLANCEY'S IRISH GRAMMAR (1781)

Galway Public Libraries' Local Studies holds a rare 1781 edition of Charles Vallancey's *Irish Grammar*—one of the earliest Irish language grammars published in English. Vallancey, a British army officer of French descent, settled in Ireland before 1760 and became deeply involved in antiquarian studies. He learned Irish, contributed significantly to its study, and helped elevate its cultural importance. A former owner of the *Book of Lecan*, which he

donated to the Royal Irish Academy, Vallancey left a lasting legacy through his writings and dedication to Irish heritage. He died in 1812.



A GRAMMAR OF THE IBERNO-CELTIC OR IRISH LANGUAGE BY LIEUT. COL. CHARLES VALLANCEY, L.L.D.

### EASTSIDE ARTS FESTIVAL LAUNCH

Ballybane Library proudly hosted the launch of the newly established Eastside Arts Festival on Tuesday, 23rd September. The event drew over 110 community members, alongside city councillors and council staff, for an evening celebrating local creativity. With vibrant performances of song and dance, the launch showcased the rich multicultural spirit of the area. This festival marks an important milestone for the Eastside community, providing a platform for artistic expression, cultural celebration, and community connection. This is the second year of the festival with the library playing a key role in the development and delivery of the festival.



### COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES AT BALLYBANE LIBRARY



Ballybane Library continues to offer a diverse range of creative and educational programmes. Weekly sessions with Music Generation introduce young children and their parents to rhymes, songs, and stories. With support from Creative Ireland, illustrator Linda Fahrlin led Saturday workshops where children created their own books. A creative writing group meets every Thursday to prepare for an Open Mic night with poet Gerry Hanberry, part of the Eastside Arts Festival. A crochet group gathers every Tuesday morning, contributing to a community project also featured in the festival. In partnership with Galway Adult Basic Education Service, weekly IT and internet security sessions are held. The library also hosted a classical music event featuring Contempo, in association with Music Connects. These activities highlight the library's central role in fostering creativity, learning, and community spirit, especially through the newly launched Eastside Arts Festival.



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## CULTURE NIGHT

With sincere thanks to Galway City Council Arts Office, Ballybane Library hosted its most enjoyable Culture Night to date on Friday, 19th September. The evening featured two fully



booked weaving sessions, where participants had the opportunity to work on four looms. Audience engagement played a key role in the success of the event, creating a lively and inclusive atmosphere that celebrated creativity and community involvement.

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## BALLINASLOE LIBRARY

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### CORRIB KIDS CODING



Corrib Kids Coding completed 4 weeks of hands-on coding classes for children at Ballinasloe Library starting on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September, and finishing on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October.

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### CULTURE NIGHT

For Culture Night this year, Ballinasloe Library had a mixed media art class titled “Mending HeArts Art Workshop” facilitated by **Saolta Arts**. Participants got involved in painting,



collage, printmaking, and mixed media and co-created a collaborative artwork together.

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ANNAMARIE O'NEILL - POETRY  
WINNER FOR SUMMER STARS –  
BALLINASLOE MD

Ballinasloe Library marked the end of the Summer Stars Reading Programme with a joyful medal presentation and party, attended by Cathaoirleach Cllr. David Collins and Cllr. Alan Harney. Among the highlights was a nature-inspired poem by Annamarie O'Neill (aged 8), which won her a gift voucher for Charlie Byrne's Bookstore. She later shared her excitement with library staff, telling them she used the voucher to purchase a selection of books. The event celebrated young readers' achievements and their growing love of books.



## EUROPE DIRECT AT BALLINASLOE LIBRARY

### GLENAMADDY SHOW – SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 28TH

Manager of Ballinasloe Library, Joe Jennings, represented Galway County Libraries and Europe Direct Ballinasloe at the recent Glenamaddy Show, where a crowd of just over 10,000 attended. The sun stayed out all day, and Joe had a great time chatting with all the visitors!

Europe Direct @ Ballinasloe Library



## GALWAY CITY LIBRARY

### CELEBRATING CREATIVITY, CULTURE, AND COMMUNITY AT GALWAY CITY LIBRARY

Galway City Library continues to thrive as a welcoming space for creativity, connection, and cultural enrichment. A variety of recent events have brought people together to share stories, learn new skills, and celebrate local talent.



The Creative Crafters group has been a popular gathering for those interested in hands-on creativity, offering a warm and social environment for crafting and conversation. Similarly, the Scrabble for Seniors sessions have provided a fun and stimulating way for older adults to connect over words and friendly competition.

On 29 August, the library hosted Reflecting on Reflections, a compelling talk featuring Mary Clancy, former lecturer at NUI Galway, and Thérèse McIntyre, Chairperson of the Oral History Network Ireland. Their discussion explored the lives of Irish women a century ago, shedding light on the cultural, social, and political forces that shaped their experiences.

On 2 September, artist Mike Hegarty launched his new exhibition, To the Waters and the West. The evening was filled with conversation and appreciation for his evocative work, which captures the spirit and beauty of the western seascape.

For Culture Night on 19 September, the library hosted a special bilingual musical performance in Gaeilge and English by Emer O’Flaherty and Gráinne Cotter. The performance was a celebration of language, music, and shared cultural heritage, warmly received by all who attended.

These events reflect the library’s ongoing commitment to fostering a vibrant, inclusive space



where people of all ages can come together to learn, create, and celebrate community.

## POSITIVE AGEING WEEK



As part of Positive Ageing Week, Galway City Library is proud to host a special exhibition celebrating the remarkable contributions of our Local Heroes. This inspiring showcase features individuals from across Galway city and county who have been nominated for the Positive Ageing Week Local Heroes Awards, recognising their outstanding dedication to community life.

These individuals—our neighbours, friends, and family members—have made a lasting impact through their kindness, leadership, and tireless efforts to support others. From volunteering and caregiving to community building and cultural contributions, their stories are a testament to the strength and spirit of Galway’s older generation.



The exhibition, on display for two weeks at Galway City Library, offers visitors a chance to learn more about these exceptional people and the difference they make in our communities. Following its run in the city, the exhibition will travel to libraries throughout the county, ensuring that their stories continue to inspire others.

The Local Heroes were honoured at a heartwarming awards ceremony held on Tuesday, 30 September at the Town Hall Theatre in Galway City. The event was a collaborative effort, organised by a network of dedicated local agencies including Comhar na nOileán, COPE Galway, Forum Connemara, Galway City Council, Galway County Council, Galway Public Libraries, Galway Rural Development, and the HSE.

By celebrating these Local Heroes, we not only honour their achievements but also shine a light on the value of positive ageing and the vital role older people play in shaping vibrant, caring communities.

Website: <https://www.copegalway.ie/advocacy-and-awareness/positive-ageing-week/>

Connacht Tribune - <https://connachttribune.ie/feature-27-awards-given-to-local-heroes-for-positive-ageing-week-in-galway/>

Tuam Herald <https://www.tuamherald.ie/2025/10/01/tuam-faces-are-among-galways-local-heroes/>

Virgin Media News - <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1LLJPZ7Lfc/>

## ORANMORE LIBRARY

The Summer Stars Presentation took place on Saturday, September 6th, with over 130 attendees celebrating the achievements of young readers. Cathaoirleach David Collins and Senior Executive Librarian Siobhán Arkins presented medals and certificates to the children who completed the reading challenge. Adding to the excitement, senior camogie players



Róisín Black and Rachel Hanniffy attended with the O'Duffy Cup, inspiring the young audience. The event also featured a special moment as Caoimhe, winner of the Summer Stars Poetry Competition for the Athenry/Oranmore Municipal District, was awarded a €100 voucher for Charlie Byrne's Bookshop in recognition of her winning poem.

Congratulations to Caoimhe, the winner of the Summer Stars Poetry Competition for the Athenry/Oranmore MD. Caoimhe was presented with a 100-euro voucher for Charlie Byrne's Book shop.



## CULTURE NIGHT



Oranmore Library hosted a lively and well-attended "Evening of Music and Song" in collaboration with Oranmore Comhaltas as part of Culture Night celebrations. Over 25 performers entertained a crowd of more than 550 people throughout the evening, creating a vibrant atmosphere both in the library

and across the village. A highlight of the night was a surprise performance by Hildegard Naughton TD, who sang The Galway Shawl accompanied by Comhaltas musicians. The evening also included a special presentation, where Pat Murray, founding Chairperson and

current Branch President, awarded the Gradam Seirbhíse Medal and Certificate to Mary Murray, current Branch Chairperson, in recognition of her outstanding service and dedication to Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann and the promotion of Irish culture.



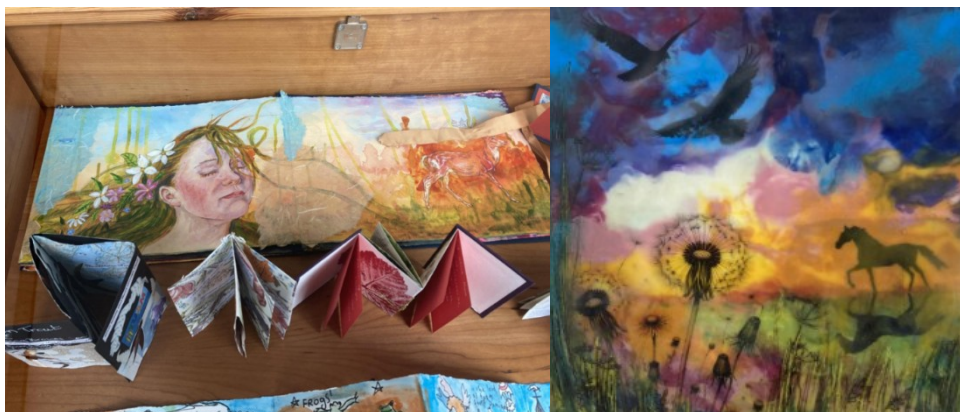
## TUAM LIBRARY

Tuam Library continues to foster strong community engagement through a wide range of regular and monthly programmes. Weekly activities such as Rhyme Time, LEGO free play, and the Community Connects drop-in tea and chat session offer welcoming spaces for families and individuals alike, while staff also provide a valued book delivery service to housebound patrons. Monthly events include two adult book clubs and a young adult group, all exploring diverse literary titles, alongside a breastfeeding support group led by a local HSE nurse. The popular *Soundbites* lunchtime session brings together local musicians, poets, and storytellers, adding a vibrant cultural dimension to the library's offerings. Staff also contribute weekly articles to the *Tuam Herald's* "Library Corner," promoting services and sharing topics of interest with the wider community.

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## SPECIAL EVENTS

The launch of the exhibition by artist Jennifer Cunningham and Tidy Towns Tuam took place on Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. It was opened by retired City Council Arts Officer James Harrold and attended by approximately 60 people – friends, family and admirers. Jennifer's work is amazing and her ability to teach others shines through in this exhibition. Above are two examples of the work exhibited



ART BY  
JENNIFER  
CUNNINGHAM

Tuam Community Training Centre, a Community Based Organisation, installed a small exhibition to promote the great work they do in Tuam every year. They are funded by the

Probation Service and encourage their members to train in a skill that suits them, offering QQI Approved Training and Education courses



CRAFTS FROM TUAM COMMUNITY TRAINING CENTRE

## SUMMER STARS CEREMONY

The Summer Stars Ceremony took place on Saturday, September 13th, with two joyful morning sessions celebrating young readers. The event began with a special moment as Luke Cummins, winner of the Tuam Municipal District Poetry Competition (English language), recited his winning poem and received his prize from Cathaoirleach David Collins. Both Cathaoirleach Collins and Senior Executive Librarian Jo Vahey attended each session,



presenting medals and certificates to the children who completed the reading challenge. It was a lively and memorable morning, with over 110 children recognised for their achievements in reading.

## SUMMER STARS PRIZEGIVING CEREMONY





LUKE CUMMINS, WINNER OF THE SUMMER STARS POETRY COMPETITION FOR TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Tuam Library continued its strong outreach efforts with visits from Transition Year and 5th Year students from Archbishop McHale Secondary School, who toured the library, signed up for membership, and explored resources for their Leaving Certificate history projects. Staff also engaged with the wider community through talks: Moira spoke to a COPD support group at the Family Resource Centre about library services, while Leigh visited the Tuam Active Retirement Association (TARA) at the All-Stars Hall, where she introduced the library's offerings to a large and enthusiastic audience.

## CULTURE NIGHT

Artist Jennifer Cunningham gave a talk on her exhibition, how the idea came about and her involvement in the town's rich culture. She followed this with a multi-generational book zine workshop attended by 12 members of the public. A very enjoyable evening was had by all.



A poetry reading was held on Saturday, September 27th, featuring five poets who shared selections from the newly published anthology *Washing Windows V*, published by Arlen House. The event was enriched by the presence of publisher **Alan Hayes**, who concluded the readings with an engaging and informative talk, offering insights into the anthology and the publishing process. It was a warm and reflective gathering that celebrated contemporary poetry and local literary voices.



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## SCHOOLS' LIBRARY SERVICE

Established in 1964, the Schools Library Service has reached an exciting milestone this September — it's now fully computerised! Our dedicated schools van continues to visit over 200 primary schools each year, and now every class has its own library card. Children hop aboard, browse the shelves, and select their book — and thanks to our new system, each book can be checked out with a satisfying *zap!*

These library cards now give access to a suite of online resources, including eBooks, eAudiobooks, and Lote4Kids — a collection of audio-enhanced picture books available in multiple languages and formats. These digital additions are designed to support and enrich teaching practices, making reading more accessible, inclusive, and fun.



Here's to the next chapter in our story — one that blends tradition with technology and keeps the love of reading alive and thriving in our schools.

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STAFF MEMBER GABY WALSH USING NEW LIBRARY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

STAFF MEMBER SHARLEEN MCANDREW  
USING THE NEWLY INTRODUCED LIBRARY  
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM ON THE SCHOOLS'



## LEABHARLANN NA CEATHRÚN RUA

### AN CEART CHUN LÉITHEOIREACHT

#### SEARMANAS BRONNTA

Hup na Réaltaí Samhraidh! Bhí grúpa mór istigh againn i Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua don Searmanas Bronnta ar an 20 Meán Fómhair, chun an léitheoireacht a bhí déanta ag na gasúir thar laethanta saoire an tsamhraidh a cheiliúradh. Ghlac 59 gasúr páirt sna Réaltaí Samhraidh i Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua, agus bhí 32 rannpháirtithe don searmanas. Táimid an-bhródúil astu!

Freisin, ba mhaith linn buíochas a ghabháil le Ruth Browne agus leis an Chomhairleoir Máirtín Lee a tháinig chun cúnamh a thabhairt an ócáid speisialta seo a reáchtáil.

#### 'FIGHTING WORDS'

Thosaigh clár seisiún le 'Fighting Words' in éineacht le scoláirí ón Idirbhliain i Scoil Chuimsitheach Chiaráin i mí Meán Fómhair chomh maith. Tá na seisiúin á reáchtáil ag Bríd-Treasa Wyndham agus Máire Ní Chualáin, agus iad ag súil leis na scoláirí a spreagadh chun píosaí cruthaitheach a scríobh as Gaeilge. Tá na seisiúin faoi lán seoil anois, agus tá muid ag siúl go mór dul chun cinn na scoláirí a fheiceáil mar a dtéann na seisiúin ar aghaidh.

#### CUAIRTEANNA

Tá an samhradh thart agus mar sin tá na scoileanna ar ais agus iad ag tabhairt cuairt ar an leabharlann. Táimid coinnithe gnóthach – bhí 256 scoláire istigh againn ó Scoil Mhic Dara, 63 ó Thigh Nan Dooley agus 33 ón gClub Suaimhneas i Scoil Chuimsitheach Chiaráin. Tá cuairteanna rialta a ghlacadh ag scoláirí na hIdirbhliana ar an leabharlann chomh maith mar pháirt do 'Fighting Words'. Tá scoláirí Tigh Nan Dooley agus Suaimhneas fós ag baint an-úsáid as an mbord céadfach.

Ghlac grúpaí ó mBráithre na Carthanachta agus ó Rehab cuairt orainn freisin (59 in iomlán) chun na ríomhairí agus an bord céadfach a úsáid.

## ÉIRE ILDÁNACH

### TAIBHSÍ AGUS PÚCAÍ: SCÉALAÍOCHT LE MÁIRÍN MHIC LOCHLAINN

Bhí an t-ádh orainn an mhí seo Máirín Mhic Lochlainn a bheith againn sa leabharlann chun dhá oíche speisialta seanchas a chur ar siúl don phobal. 'S é 'Taibhsí agus Púcaí' téama na seisiúin. D'inis Máirín scéalta bunaithe ar an téama seo, agus bhí seans ag daoine a bhí i láthair a gcuid scéalta féin a roinnt, agus amhráin chomh maith. Tháinig 23 rannpháirtithe idir an dá ócáid agus fuair muid aiseolas maith ón té a bhí ann. Beidh seisiún amháin eile againn i mí Dheireadh Fómhair, ina mbeidh Danny Wallace ag obair leis an phobal agus leis an ealaín.



Ba mhaith linn buíochas a ghabháil le Éire Ildánach, a thug maoiniú dúinn na hócáidí seo a chur ar siúl.

TARA, NUALA AGUS AN CHOMHAIRLEOIR MÁIRTÍN LEE LENÁR RÉALTAÍ SAMHRAIDH. / TARA, NUALA AND CLLR. MÁIRTÍN LEE WITH OUR SUMMER STARS.

MÁIRÍN MHIC LOCHLAINN AG INSINT SCÉALTA AG ÓCÁID TAIBHSÍ AGUS PÚCAÍ. / MÁIRÍN MHIC LOCHLAINN TELLING STORIES AT THE TAIBHSÍ AGUS PÚCAÍ EVENT.



## BALLYGAR AND MOYLOUGH LIBRARIES

The Summer Reading Stars presentation took place in Ballygar Library on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October with 22 children receiving their medals and lots of proud parents/grandparents attending. Senior Executive Librarian, Jo Vahey, was in attendance and we also had a guest appearance by Olivia Divilly, a Ladies Football All Star player who lives locally. The event was a great success, and the children were thrilled to meet with the guest speakers.

In Moylough, the local national school classes (from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>) attend the library weekly. In Ballygar, the local primary school visits regularly with 2 classes calling to the library on their last visit. Mount Talbot National school are also regular visitors and have posted their visit on Social media.

## MOBILE LIBRARY

The Galway Mobile Library returned to the road over the summer, thanks to support from the Schools Library Service driver. During this time, the Summer Stars Reading Challenge was actively promoted, with children from various route stops signing up and later receiving medals and certificates in September to celebrate their reading achievements.

With the return of the Schools Library Service in September and while awaiting the recruitment of a new driver, a revised monthly autumn schedule was introduced. This updated timetable includes longer stop times in villages, ensuring continued access to library services for rural communities—a change that has been warmly welcomed by local borrowers.



## MOBILE LIBRARY OUTREACH EVENTS:

The Mobile Library outreach team attended the Monivea Show on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, braving wild and wet weather to connect with the public and promote Galway Public Libraries, Europe Direct, and the Mobile Library service. Despite the conditions, the team engaged warmly with attendees, distributing library bags to young families and awarding picture books as prizes in the Bonny Baby competition. Valuable connections were made with the Monivea Mother and Toddler Group, who expressed interest in registering children and arranging a future storytime session. The team also established a positive link with the Monivea



Heritage Association, who generously donated two copies of their newly published book, *1891 Census of Monivea Locality*, to the library.



## LOUGHREA LIBRARY

Loughrea hosted a range of engaging activities including all-day LEGO free play, toddler and preschool storytime with Play-Doh fun, and a celebratory Summer Stars presentation where children received medals and certificates from



Cathaoirleach David Collins and County Librarian

Elizabeth Keane. Several school visits from St. Ita's National School brought senior classes into the library to explore its services. The National Public Libraries Open Day featured a lively mix of LEGO, board games, quizzes, and colouring activities for families. The Adult Book Club met to discuss *Bird's Nest Soup* by Hannah Grealley. The monthly craft group continued to meet regularly, offering a creative outlet for community members. As part of Age Friendly Initiatives, library staff participated in a Positive Ageing Week event at the Loughrea Hotel & Spa, promoting services such as the Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme.

Culture Night at the library was a vibrant celebration of creativity and community, featuring an evening of live music, poetry, and drama. The event brought together talented local groups including LARC (Loughrea Arts & Recreation Group), Baffle Poetry, and the Seamus O’Kelly Players, who delivered an engaging and diverse programme that delighted audiences. The performances showcased the richness of local artistic talent and highlighted the library’s role as a dynamic cultural space at the heart of the community.



## WESTSIDE LIBRARY

Westside Library continues to thrive as a vibrant community hub, hosting a variety of regular and special events. Weekly groups such as the knitting circle, English conversation class, and support groups for breastfeeding and Alzheimer’s, alongside the Newcastle Active Retirement Group and HSE workshops, reflect the library’s inclusive outreach. Family-focused activities like Rhyme Time, Storytime, LEGO play, and the Irish-language Grúpa Tuismitheoirí agus Leanaí remain popular, while the Summer Stars Certificate Ceremony celebrated young readers with a visit from the Mayor. School visits resumed with the new term, and the allocation of Nessy licences supported children with dyslexia through personalised, game-based learning.



Cultural highlights included a Mid-Autumn Festival celebration with the Confucius Institute, a well-attended Culture Night event titled Heartstrings featuring poetry and music by Emily Cullen and Gerry Hanberry, and an inspiring art exhibition by Ability West service users.

Music Generation’s Baby Rhyme Time returned with expanded sessions for different age groups, and the Reflections 1925 project continued to explore women’s voices in a changing Ireland. In total, 50 events were held during the period, with nearly 1,000 attendees, and the Sensory Room remained a valued resource with frequent bookings.



The Confucius Institute Galway brought a vibrant celebration of Chinese culture to Westside Library with its Mid-Autumn Festival event. Attendees of all ages enjoyed a lively and engaging afternoon, where they had the chance to taste traditional mooncakes, a delicacy associated with the festival and take part in hands-on cultural activities. Participants

learned how to make paper lanterns, tried their hand at Chinese calligraphy, and explored the stories and symbolism behind the festival. The event created a warm, festive atmosphere and offered a meaningful opportunity for cultural exchange, drawing a large and enthusiastic crowd from the local community.

## HOUSING

### MINISTERIAL VISIT TO COUNTY GALWAY

#### VISIT OVERVIEW

On Friday, 10th October 2025, James Browne, TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, visited County Galway to participate in a series of official events highlighting a number of Galway County Council's key housing and infrastructure projects. The visit included the official sod-turning ceremony at Lakeview, Baile Chláir (Claregalway), official

**Irish Independent** News Opinion Business Sport Life Style Ent

#### Minister break ground on Galway's €23m social housing development



(left to right) James Browne TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage; Liam Conneally, Chief Executive of Galway County Council; Minister of State Seán Canney TD; Damien Mitchell, Director of Services with Galway County Council; and Cllr David Collins, Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council. Credit Andrew Downes / XPOSURE.

openings of two social housing developments, and a site visit to the redevelopment project at Tuam Station House and improvement works at Oranmore Train Station.

Media Coverage of the Minister's visit, full story can be found at the following link: [Minister break ground on Galway's €23m social housing development | Irish Independent](#)

#### PAIRC NA CILLE, TUAM

In Tuam, the Minister officially opened a 29-unit social housing development at Pairc na Cille developed on the Weir Road. Completed in late 2024, it was funded by €8.1m from the Department of Housing SHIP initiative. The scheme includes a range of one to four-bedroom homes and a sheltered care unit that will be managed by Ability West to provide 24-hour care for people in their own homes. All homes are A2 BER rated and situated close to schools, shops, healthcare services, and public transport.



L-R: MR. JAMES BROWNE, T.D., MINISTER FOR HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HERITAGE, MS. KAREN O'DONNELL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER, HOUSING DEPARTMENT, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL.

PHOTO: ANDREW DOWNES.

MR. JAMES BROWNE, T.D., MINISTER FOR HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HERITAGE SPEAKING AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF PAIRC NA CILLE TUAM.

PHOTO: ANDREW DOWNES



L-R: SENATOR ANNE RABBITE, MR. DAITH FLOOD, A/SENIOR ENGINEER, HOUSING DEPARTMENT, MR. COLIN HIGGINS, C&N HIGGINS CONSTRUCTION LTD, MR. MARK FORBES, JENNINGS O'DONOVAN CONSULTANTS, JAMES BROWNE, T.D.. MINISTER FOR HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HERITAGE, MR. ALBERT DOLAN, T.D., SENATOR SHANE CURLEY, AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF PAIRC NA CILLE  
PHOTO: ANDREW DOWNES



MR. JAMES BROWNE, T.D., MINISTER FOR HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HERITAGE, PICTURED AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF A 29 UNIT SOCIAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT PAIRC NA CILLE IN TUAM, ALONGSIDE RESIDENTS, OFFICIALS FROM GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL'S HOUSING DEPARTMENT, ELECTED AND OIREACTHAS MEMBERS.

PHOTO: ANDREW DOWNES

### LAKEVIEW, BAILE CHLÁIR (CLAREGALWAY)

At Lakeview, Baile Chláir (Claregalway), Minister Browne turned the sod on a €23.6 million mixed-tenure housing development. This 88-unit scheme, Galway County Council's first shared equity housing initiative under the 'Housing for All' policy, includes social and affordable units, a crèche, landscaped open spaces, and a community playground. Construction commenced this week and is scheduled for completion by September 2026.



L-R: MR. NOEL GREALISH, TD, MR. DAMIEN MITCHELL DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, DAVID COLLINS, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY, MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, MS. HILDEGARDE NAUGHTON, MINISTER FOR STATE, AND SENATOR OLLIE CROWE PICTURED AFTER TURNING THE SOD ON A MIXED TENURE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN BAILE CHLÁIR (CLAREGALWAY). PHOTO: ANDREW DOWNES



L-R: MR. JOHN WATERS, AFFORDABLE HOUSING, MR. JAMES BROWNE, T.D., MINISTER FOR HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HERITAGE, MS. RACHEL MURTAGH, HOUSING DEPARTMENT, MR. HILDEGARDE NAUGHTON, MINISTER FOR STATE, CLLR. DAVID COLLINS, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY, MR. ALAN BROGAN, A/SENIOR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, HOUSING DEPARTMENT, MR. DAMIEN MITCHELL, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, PICTURED AT THE TURNING THE SOD ON A MIXED TENURE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN BAILE CHLÁIR (CLAREGALWAY)  
PHOTO: ANDREW DOWNES



MR. JAMES BROWNE, T.D., MINISTER FOR HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HERITAGE, PICTURED WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM VINCENT HANNON ARCHITECTS, COOLSIVNA CONSTRUCTION GROUP, TOM MCNAMARA QUANTITY SURVEYORS, CLLR. DAVID COLLINS, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY AND GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICIALS AT THE TURNING THE SOD ON A MIXED TENURE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN BAILE CHLÁIR (CLAREGALWAY)  
PHOTO: ANDREW DOWNES

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## CAISLEAN RAITHIN, ARDRAHAN

The Minister officially opened a €3.3 million, 10-unit social housing scheme at Caisleán



Raithin, Ardrahan. The development includes single and two-storey homes designed by OBFA Architects and built by Jada Construction. The Minister handed over keys to new tenants during the visit.

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MS. UNA JORDAN AND MS. KRISTY VERENGA RECEIVING KEYS TO THEIR NEW HOMES FROM MR. JAMES BROWNE, T.D., MINISTER FOR HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HERITAGE  
PHOTO: ANDREW DOWNES

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MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, MR. JAMES BROWNE, TD, MINISTER FOR HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HERITAGE, MR. DAMIEN MITCHELL, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, PICTURED AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF CAISLEAN RAITHIN, ARDRAHAN  
PHOTO: ANDREW DOWNES



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MR. JAMES BROWNE, T.D., MINISTER FOR HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HERITAGE, OFFICIALLY OPENING A 10-UNIT SOCIAL HOUSING SCHEME AT CAISLEAN RAITHIN, ARDRAHAN  
PHOTO: ANDREW DOWNES

## VACANT HOMES

The Vacant Homes Officer (VHO) and the Assistant Staff Officer (ASO) for Housing Grants attended the Galway County PPN Plenary Meeting in the Raheen Woods, Hotel in Athenry on Tuesday 16th of September. The VHO and ASO provided information on the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, the Local Authority Home Loan, the Local Authority Renovation Loan, the Disabled Persons Grant, the Housing Aid for Older Persons, and the Mobility Aid Grants. The event was well attended.



L-R: MS. MICHELLE CONNELLAN, VACANT HOMES OFFICER AND MR. JOHN MOORE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

## CROÍ CÓNAITHE

There continues to be a high level of interest in the vacant property refurbishment grants (Croí Cónaithe scheme). Galway County Council has received 632 applications since the start of the scheme with 410 approved to a value in excess of 23 million euros, a further 79 applications are in progress with the balance having been withdrawn or rejected due to ineligibility for the scheme. 73 vacant property refurbishment grants, with a total value of €3,970,752.90, have been paid to applicants to date.

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING SURVEY

An advertisement for the Affordable Housing Survey. It features a QR code and the website URL www.galway.ie/AHSurvey. The text asks if the viewer is interested in purchasing their own home in County Galway and encourages them to help the council understand the demand for affordable housing. It also includes contact information for the council and a 'SURVEY' button. There are images of modern housing units and a 'RECENT AFFORDABLE SCHEME: GARRAI NA GAOI THE, CLARE GALWAY'.

In September Galway County Council invited 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. 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 will inform the ongoing work of developing affordable housing across the County, in accordance with 'Housing for All Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026'. There have been over 800 responses to date. The survey can be viewed and completed on the Galway County Council website at [www.galway.ie/AHSurvey](http://www.galway.ie/AHSurvey) and can be completed in both English or Gaeilge.

As a follow up to this survey on Affordable Housing, Galway County Council is now contacting all respondents that expressed a preference in purchasing an affordable home in the Loughrea MD area. This follow up survey aims to assess the level of interest in purchasing a home at a proposed affordable housing development at Cosmona, Loughrea. The survey is also being issued to respondents that registered for updates through the Council's Affordable Housing web page. The survey can be viewed and completed on <https://forms.office.com/e/ViQ1wacghB> and can be completed in both English or Gaeilge.

## THE SUMMARY OF SOCIAL HOUSING ASSESSMENTS 2025

The Summary of Social Housing Assessments (SSHA) is a statutory annual report compiled by local authorities across Ireland to determine the number of households qualified for social housing support whose housing needs are not currently being met.

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### PURPOSE OF THE SSHA

- It provides a **point-in-time snapshot** of housing need across the country.
- Helps inform **national housing policy** and planning for the delivery of appropriate housing supports.
- Ensures that only households with a **continuing need** for social housing are included.

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### WHAT IS MEASURED?

- The **“net need”**: total number of households qualified for social housing support but not currently housed through schemes like:
  - Local authority housing
  - Approved Housing Body (AHB) accommodation
  - Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)
  - Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)
  - Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme (SHCEP)
  - Transfer lists

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### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Households must meet **income thresholds**.
- Must not already be receiving social housing support.
- Must confirm continued need if contacted by the local authority.

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### PROCESS

- To date Galway County Council has contacted 1,206 applicants to confirm they still require support, 83 applications have been closed for various reasons such changes to circumstance.
- Applicants must return completed forms with updated income and household details by 04.11.2025.

- Failure to respond may result in removal from the housing list.

## CAPITAL BUILD PROGRAMME

An Sruthan, Westport Road, Clifden: the Housing Department completed the first of the 3 phase Turnkey and Part V acquisition of 9 units at An Sruthan, Westport Road, Clifden. Phase 2 of this acquisition consists of 12 units, and it expect this phase will be completed in January 2026.



## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT, FIRE & EMERGENCY & CLIMATE CHANGE

### 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

Estates Taken in Charge (Remedials to take place on 1 estate)	4*
Estates pending Ratification of Minutes	
Estates for consideration at next MD meeting	0
Bond Release (Estates not Taken in Charge)	2
<b>Total Taken in Charge/Bond Release</b>	<b>6</b>

In addition to the above, the following is position @ 01/10/2025

Estates – advertised for Taking in Charge	1
Estates – Works Complete – Pending Uisce Éireann agreement or Signed Final Report	3
Estates – TIC Led Estates – Works in Hand One development consists of 10 Estates	30
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.

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

The countywide roadworks RI programme (road strengthening and overlay) is now approximately 90% complete, with the RM (surface dressing) being 100% complete since the end of August.

The grant funds of RI: €22.65m & RM: €5.33m is provided annually by the Department of Transport, and the work procured and delivered by each individual Municipal District. Each MD has provided individual progress updates, including photos of completed works.

## CIS – COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEME 2026-2027

The Department of Transport advised last month of a new Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) for 2026 and 2027. All 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. Galway County Council has advertised to the public 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 applications was Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025. In addition, all remaining CIS applications from the 2024-2025 scheme were written to advising of the new scheme and requesting clarification if they wished to be considered under the new scheme. Applications are currently being assessed by MDs in advance of application to the DoT.

## STORM AMY

Storm Amy arrived in County Galway on Thursday night 2<sup>nd</sup> October bring significant rainfall initially.

A total of 64mm of rain over 24 hours was recoded at Maam Cross.

Flooding was experienced throughout the county but areas in the west of the County were impacted most, e.g. Maigh Cuilinn (photo below), Kylemore, Pine Island, and Ballinafad. MD crews were dispatched to deal with the flooding issues arranging warning signage, road closures and surface water pumping, where possible.

The flooding event was followed on Friday afternoon 3<sup>rd</sup> October by an orange warning wind warning. This event resulted in a number of trees blocking public roads and loose debris.

These issues were dealt with by roads crews as soon as it was safe to do so. The wind event also resulted in power outages across the county.

MDs and HQ teams are continuing to monitor river levels and are currently undertaking reviews of all flooding locations to devise possible improvements or solutions.



FLOODING IN MAIGH CUILINN 02/10/2025

## ATHENRY NORTHERN RELIEF ROAD – SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENT GRANT

Work is progressing well on the Department of Transport funded Athenry Northern Relief Road. This phase includes the connection between the Presentation College and the Raheen Road (Ballygarraun North), with Tower Plant & Civil Engineering engaged by Galway County Council to deliver the project. (see photos below) The project will not only ease congestion but also enhance connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists, supporting the sustainable growth of Athenry.



## ACTIVE TRAVEL PROGRAMME

### BEECHLAWN FOOTPATHS SCHEME, BALLINASLOE TOWN – PH3

Footpath construction and accommodation works are substantially completed with minor snags outstanding.



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## BUS STOP ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME (BESP)

Two packages are in progress: 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; Bearna; An Spidéal; 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. It is anticipated that Plan B (Flagpoles) will be rolled out initially in the Tuam MD, followed by Ballinasloe MD, with support from local direct labour teams.



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## SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL ROUND 1 ORANMORE SCHOOLS

All 3 schools in Oranmore have recently been approved by the NTA Active Travel and SRTS teams to progress through to the next stage of the project delivery plan, which is Phase 5 Detailed Design.

**SRTS R1 Scoil Iósaif Naofa** – there is a tender for a contractor for the Construction phase currently live on Supplygov.ie. It is expected that this contract will be awarded Oct 2025.

**SRTS R1 Calasanctius College & Gaelscoil de hÍde** are both at Phase 5 Detailed Design.

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## SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL ROUND 1 ATHENRY SCHOOLS

Athenry Boys School and Scoil Chroí Naofa are both in Phase 3 Preliminary Design. Drawings and designs for the project are currently with the Road Safety Auditor. The project will move into the Planning next, and a Part 8 is envisaged due to required land take.

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## 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).



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### SRTS R2 SCOIL SAILEARNA (INDREABHÁN)

This SRTS scheme is currently in Phase 3 Preliminary Design. A non-statutory public consultation ran for a two-week period ending on 19/09/2025. 161 submissions were received, and the outcome report is in the final stages. All submissions are being considered to determine if design changes are necessary.

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### SRTS R2 SCOIL NA BHFORBACHA (FURBOGH)

Currently in Phase 3 Preliminary Design. Non statutory public consultation ran for a two-week period ending on 19/09/2025. 321 submissions were received, and the outcome report is in the final stages. All submissions are being considered to determine if design changes are necessary.

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### SRTS R2 BALLINDERREEN NS

Currently in Phase 3 Preliminary Design. Land dedication is currently progressing where three landowners are involved. A Road Safety Audit will be conducted following receipt of same. The next action will be compiling TII's Preliminary Design Report. Phase 4 Planning will require Part 8.

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### SRTS R2 ST BRENDAN'S NS (LOUGHREA)

We are currently in Phase 3 Preliminary Design, with meetings scheduled with the school to present the scheme drawings. Road Safety Audits will follow.

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### SRTS R2 GORT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

We are currently in Phase 3 Preliminary Design. Meetings are scheduled with the school to present the scheme drawings. Road Safety Audits will follow.

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### SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL ROUND 3

There are 11 schools included in SRTS Round 3. Preliminary Drawings in place for all 11 schools. Preliminary Designs for 8 schools are completed by designers, 6 of which have been presented to the schools involved where positive feedback was received. The other 2 schools' meetings are currently being scheduled by An Taisce. The remaining 3 schools are



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### ATHENRY ACTIVE TRAVEL DESIGN SCHEME – CHURCH ST. TO TUAM ROAD (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 Oct 2025.

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### TUAM ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME – SEAN PURCELL ROAD TO SPORTS GROUNDS ON R332

The Options Selection phase of this project was recently approved by the NTA and the project has now progressed to the next stage, Phase 3 Preliminary Design. It is intended that the final Preliminary Design package will be made available to the NTA for review and approval Oct 2025.

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### HEADFORD FOOTPATHS

Phase 3 Preliminary Design drawings have been completed, and designs have been presented to the main stakeholders within close proximity to the scheme. Positive feedback has been received. Road Safety Auditors for stage 1-2 have been appointed. Report is due end of October 2025.

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### GLENBRACK ROAD, GORT

Land dedication with two landowners is progressing well. Brendan Slevin Engineering has been engaged with to carry out Preliminary Design with respect to one element of the scheme.

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

Statutory public consultation is now closed, and a Section 38 report is in progress. A tender assessment has been completed for the Construction phase of this project with the contract to be awarded Oct 2025.



*Fig 1- Location of Proposed Scheme*

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### LOUGHREA ACTIVE TRAVEL DESIGN SCHEME

The tender date closed on 24/09/2025. A tender assessment has completed, and a Design Consultant will be appointed in October 2025 to bring this project through Phase 2, Options Selections.

## BROADBAND OFFICE

### PUBLIC SECTOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AWARDS 2025

We're pleased to share that Galway County Council has been shortlisted for the upcoming *Best Local Government Authority Project* at the 2025 Public Sector Digital Transformation Awards, in association with KPMG. **The nomination recognises the *Women's Health Programme 2025*, led by the Healthy County Galway Office.**

**The Broadband Office supported this project** by supporting live-streaming of expert-led health talks to several participating Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) across the county. This digital connectivity allowed women in remote and island communities to access vital health information and engage in the five-week virtual programme. The project highlights



the role of broadband infrastructure in advancing inclusive public service delivery.

*Category: Best Local Authority Project*

*Entry title: Women's Health Programme 2025, (Digital Connectivity, Broadband Office).*

L-R: MS. ADELE RANKIN, HEALTHY GALWAY CO-ORDINATOR AND MS. DONNA BYRNE, BROADBAND SUPPORT OFFICER

## CLIMATE CHANGE

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Climate Action Unit continued its comprehensive outreach programme in September. The team delivered presentations and hosted stands at numerous local and national events, raising awareness and sharing best practice on Climate Action including the PPN Plenary in Athenry, the Galway Rural Nature Network Event in Ballinasloe. They were also invited to present at the Government of Ireland Village at the National Ploughing Championship.



L-R: DENISE FEENEY, COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION OFFICER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL; ÁINE BYRNE, COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION OFFICER, CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL, JACINTA CARRINS, 60+ CLIMATE DRIVE AND SINEAD MCEVOY, COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION OFFICER, OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL



## UPCOMING CLIMATE ACTION EVENTS

Preparations are underway for Climate Action Week which will take place from the October 13th to 19th, with Galway County Council and partners hosting a vibrant series of events. Highlights include a Climate Action Day on October 14th at Áras an Chontae and a free four-week online Local Climate Action Course for community groups which



Galway County Council are hosting with GRETB.

## COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION FUND

The week will culminate in the launch of the Community Climate Action Programme at Brigit's Garden on Saturday, October 18th, featuring a showcase of local climate projects and a presentation and Q&A on the Community Climate Action Fund. Importantly, the second round of the Community Climate Action Fund will officially open for applications on October 21st. This fund provides 100% project funding—up to €726,000 in total—to support community-led initiatives that build low-carbon, sustainable communities across Galway County.



L-R: MS. KIM O'CONNOR, MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, MS. TINA RYAN, CLIMATE CHANGE CO-ORDINATOR, CLLR. DAVID COLLINS, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY, MS. DENISE FEENEY, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, MR. UINSINN FINN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES AND MS. REBECCA MOONEY, CLIMATE ACTION OFFICER

## RURAL WATER

### RURAL WATER PROGRAMME

#### MULTI-ANNUAL RURAL WATER PROGRAMME (MARWP) 2024-2026

The most recent developments for the Rural Water Programme was the publication of the final measures of the 3-year Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2024-2026 on July 22, 2025. Galway Co. Co. received approval for 70 projects under eight measures, with a combined value of € 6.8 M. Within the MARWP there are 30 Group Water Schemes listed for taking in charge (TIC) and 40 projects across the seven remaining measures.

#### BALLINABANABA GWS – MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The RWP team are engaging with all of the approved schemes to progress their projects through their design, procurement and construction phases to the delivery of these projects. One of these projects is the Mains Replacement Project for Ballinabanaba GWS located in Ballinasloe Municipal District, the group scheme signed a contract on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2025, with Source Civil to upgrade 6.6 km of water mains to current industry (Uisce Éireann) standard. The value of this project is € 698k, the works will commence once the road

opening licences have been granted and will take four months to complete. It is expected to be completed by the end of March 2026.



CONTRACT SIGNING 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2025 FRANK CANAVAN, RWP GCC WITH MEMBERS FROM THE GWS AND SOURCE CIVIL

## TAKING IN CHARGE

The following Group Water Schemes, on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025, have formally been taken in charge by Uisce Éireann:

- Kiniska GWS, Baile Chláir – (Ref: GWS-GY-038).
- Cahermorris Glenrevagh GWS, Tuam Area – (Ref: GWS-GY-039).

## NATIONAL FEDERATION OF GROUP WATER SCHEMES ANNUAL RURAL WATER CONFERENCE, CLAYTON HOTEL, GALWAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

The NFGWS Rural Water Conference was held in Galway this year, the theme of the conference was "Quality and Quantity - Building Resilience in a Changing Environment". Minister Christopher O'Sullivan TD opened the conference by video link and addressed the attendees. He also announced the winners of the various annual awards, Galway County Group water schemes were honoured with the following awards,

- *Ethos & Volunteerism* - Kevin Ryan, Cappataggle & District GWS, Martin Farragher, Bert Curley & Michael Ward, Glinsk Creggs GWS
- *Water Demand Management* - Milltown GWS
- *Community Engagement* - Milltown GWS
- *Water Safety Planning & QA Implementation* - Kiltiernan GWS

The Conference was broken into 3 sessions with presentation on each of the following themes:

- *Building Resilience*, Chaired by John McLoughlin, CE Donegal County Council.
- *Abstraction Regulations & New Licencing Process*, Chaired by Lisa Cronin, Lecturer ATU Sligo.
- *Pesticides in Water bodies & Source Risk Assessment & Risk Management*, Chaired by M. Sheil SEE, Galway County Council.

All of the sessions were followed with engaging discussions with the panels drawn from the presenters and comments and questions from the floor.



WINNERS OF THE  
ETOS &  
VOLUNTEERISM  
AWARDS

We continue to support Group Water Schemes with subsidy payments which is available to fund their operational costs of providing water for domestic use. 121 applications have been processed to date with a total payment of €4,750,800.

We have also processed 41 individual well applications to date, with a total payment of €162,845.

## FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### OPERATIONS

The new Incident Command Unit (ICU) was completed by Sidhean Teo in An Spidéal and handed over to Galway Fire and Rescue Service on Monday 18 August 2025.

Training for relevant stations and watches was conducted on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Familiarisation training on the operation of the unit at each station and watch will be conducted during October 2025.



### NEW INCIDENT COMMAND UNIT

Construction of a new Hazmat Unit has also commenced in Sidhean Teo. A visit to view the recently completed Limerick unit was conducted on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025. It is expected that the unit will be handed over in early 2026.

## CAPITAL PROJECTS

### LOUGHREA FIRE STATION

Galway Fire & Rescue Service has received approval to proceed to tender for a Main Contractor for a three-bay station. It is anticipated that the tender process will commence by the end of October 2025.



PROPOSED NEW FIRE STATION  
LOUGHREA

### BRIGADE MECHANICS WORKSHOP ATHENRY

It is anticipated that the Part 8 planning application will be submitted by the end of October 2025.

PROPOSED NEW BRIGADE  
MECHANICS WORKSHOP  
ATHENRY

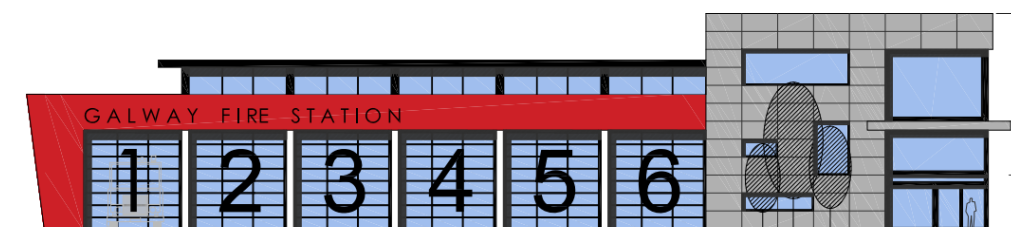


(Indicative Only)

### HEADQUARTERS AND GALWAY CITY FIRE STATION

An initial planning and flood risk assessment has been undertaken and a report received in mid-September 2025, and it supports the potential development of a new fire station and headquarters on the proposed site adjacent to Bóthar na dTreabh and the Headford Road. The City Council will shortly commence a variation to the City Development Plan to rezone the site in question.

The National Directorate of Fire and Emergency Management has given Galway County Council approval to tender for a design team which will allow for a more detailed appraisal and design to be completed.



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

### REGIONAL MEM

The quarterly meeting of Western Region Emergency Management Working Group (WREM WG) took place 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025. A Dynamic Recommendations Log issued post

meeting. The log dynamically records all recommendations arising out of all regional interagency training and exercises conducted in the western region by the WREMWG.

An interagency Exercise planning meeting, regarding the Connemara Airport and Offshore Islands Response Plan took place on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025. Future meetings are scheduled for November 2025. The live and tabletop exercise will take place on 16<sup>th</sup> December and will include the deployment of the Irish Coast Guard helicopter. This year's exercise will be conducted from the dual locations of Connemara Airport & Inis Óírr

## ROAD SAFETY WEEK 06TH – 12TH OCTOBER 2025

### ROAD SAFETY TOGETHER COMMITTEE

Galway County Council's Road Safety Together Committee consists of representatives from Galway County Council, Galway City Council, Elected Member, Road Safety

Authority, An Garda Síochána, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and An Taisce.

The Committee meets regularly and jointly examines options available to improve road safety for motorists, pedestrians, motorcyclists, cyclists, e-scooter users and road users, in general.



L-R: MS. DEIRDRE CAULFIELD, ROAD SAFETY OFFICER AND CLLR. DAVID COLLINS, CATHAOIRLEACH PROMOTING THE WEARING OF HIGH VISIBILITY VESTS ON THESE DARK EVENINGS

### 2024 ROAD SAFETY AUTHORITY STATISTICS

- 172 people lost their lives on Irish Roads in 2024 - 180 died in 2023
- In 2024, there were 127 Males, and 45 Females killed on our roads
- 38% of road users were killed on 80 km/h roads
- 27% of road users were killed on 100 km/h roads
- Vulnerable road user fatalities - 33 Pedestrians/ 17 Motorcyclists/ 12 Cyclists/ 3 E-scooter users
- 9% of drivers and passengers killed were not wearing a seatbelt
- Sunday was the most dangerous day of the week
- 35% of fatalities were aged 25 years or younger
- Almost a quarter, 24%, of fatalities occurred between 4pm and 8pm



DISPLAY STAND IN COUNTY HALL'S ATRIUM

**Road Safety Awareness Literature** is available on the following:

- driving under the influence of drugs
- seat belt wearing
- mobile phone and driving
- Look Out! Stand Out!
- Going to School - advice for parents & guardians
- speeding
- driver tiredness
- medicines and driving
- guide to tyre safety
- cycle safety
- motorcycles/ mopeds
- child safety in cars
- motorway driving
- driver licensing rules for drawing light trailers
- learner drivers
- roundabouts: using the correct lane
- revised standards for agricultural vehicles
- the bright way to save lives!
- road safety information for charitable events on public roads
- 'Arrive Alive' – car disc holder

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### BIKE SAFETY/MAINTENANCE EVENT AT ST. BRENDAN'S NATIONAL SCHOOL, LOUGHREA

On Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> October, there was much excitement at St. Brendan's Boys National School, Loughrea, when a Bike Safety/ Maintenance Event took place. Thirty pupils were given a road safety awareness talk and guidance on maintaining their bikes - checking their tyres, brakes, lights, gears, reflectors, chain, saddle, handlebars, bell and the wearing of correctly fitted helmets and high visibility gear. On the day, the pupils were given free bike lights, high vis vests, armbands and high vis string bags in order that they will be well lit up

on their journeys! In the photo are pupils and Deirdre Caulfield, Road Safety Officer, who organised the worthwhile event.



**FIRE SERVICE DEMONSTRATION – CAMPAIGN AIMED AT YOUNG DRIVERS-TO-BE**  
On Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> October, Galway Co. Council, in conjunction with Galway Fire & Rescue Service, An Cheathrú Rua; Galway Civil Defence and An Garda Síochána, teamed up for a road safety awareness event aimed at teenagers at Scoil Phobail Mhic Dara, Carna. Coláiste na bPiarsach, Ros Muc, students also attended.

**FIRE SERVICE DEMO HELD AT  
SCOIL PHOBAIL MHC DARA,  
CARNA OCT. 2025**



The secondary school students who are about to become young drivers had the opportunity to experience what happens at the scene of a road traffic collision – a car dismantling demonstration took place, and a person was released from a vehicle. Crew from the Fire Service and Civil Defence were present, along with An Garda Síochána, to advise the 100 plus students present. The aim of this initiative was to raise awareness of what happens at the scene of an incident which will hopefully prevent the young drivers-to-be becoming involved in road traffic incidents that all too often result in serious injury or death.

On Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> October, this event took place at Clifden Community School.



FIRE SERVICE DEMO HELD AT CLIFDEN COMMUNITY SCHOOL ON 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2025

### BE SAFE, BE SEEN! - CAMPAIGN AIMED AT UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY STUDENTS

Galway Co. Council, in conjunction with University of Galway's Students Union, are running a road safety awareness campaign encouraging students who walk or cycle to college to arrive safely. High visibility vests will be distributed to students attending the college during Road Safety Week, courtesy of the Council.



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## SPECSAVERS OFFER



To ensure the correct vision for driving, the Road Safety Committee encourages everyone to have a Sight Test at least every 2 years. Specsavers Headford Road (Galway Shopping Centre) are currently offering standard Sight Tests at a reduced cost of €15 (normally €30) from 6th to 31st October 2025. In addition, they will offer a discount on anti-reflective lenses which help reduce glare while driving, details available in store. Please contact Specsavers directly, in relation to this offer – Phone 091 507050 / or book online: [Specsavers.ie/book/headfordroad/appointment-type](https://Specsavers.ie/book/headfordroad/appointment-type). *\*Please note that Specsavers stores are independently owned, so this offer applies to the Headford Road store only and excludes OCT scans.*

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## ‘ARRIVE ALIVE’

Galway Co. Council’s ‘Arrive Alive’ initiative advises on No Texting and Driving. Car Discs Holders are available, free of charge, to members of the public through its Motor Tax Offices.

If you would like one, please email: [ochala@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:ochala@galwaycoco.ie)



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## DON'T WAIT – CHECK YOUR TYRES TODAY!

Tyres are the only part of your vehicle in contact with the road and their importance is often



overlooked. Defective tyres can be a contributing factor in fatal or serious road collisions. Based on analysis of road collision reports, the

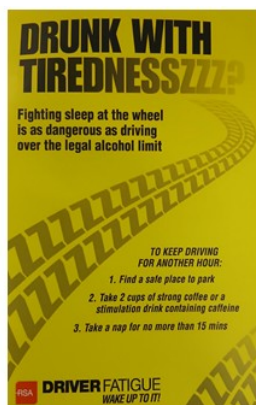
RSA estimates that defective tyres could be a contributory factor in as many as 14 deaths each year. Up to 162,000 motorists fail NCT annually from tyres in poor condition.

Irish Tyre Industry Association (ITIA) urges drivers to check tyres – today, 6<sup>th</sup> October, is Tyre Safety Day. ITIA dealers nationwide are offering **free tyre safety checks**, including a pressure test, tread depth inspection and an overall condition assessment, up to Sat. 11<sup>th</sup> October.

There are six locations in Galway – Ballinasloe Tyre Centre; Loughrea Tyre Centre; Kevin Burke Tyres, Tuam Road; Bestdrive, Headford Road, Galway; First Stop, Tuam Road, Galway and Ballybrit Exhaust & Tyre Centre, Galway.

### BESTDRIVE FREE VEHICLE ‘HEALTH CHECK’

As the evenings are getting shorter and the weather gets more changeable, it is of the utmost importance that your vehicle is in proper working order. For the month of October, BestDrive is offering road-users the opportunity to avail of BestDrive’s **Free 5 Point Safety Check** to ensure that the vehicle’s *Tyres, Brakes, Shocks, Lights/ Levels and Wipers* are working correctly. It will give peace of mind knowing your car is fit for driving this winter. The check takes approx. 15 minutes. If you want to avail of this, please book in advance on their website on [www.bestdrive.ie](http://www.bestdrive.ie) or ring: Ph. 091 562154. Location: BestDrive, Headford



Road, Galway City (beside LIDL) – Opening Hours – Mon.-Fri. 8.30a.m.-6.00 p.m. Sat. 9.00a.m.-5.00 p.m.

BEST DRIVE WILL DISTRIBUTE THE COUNCIL'S 'ARRIVE ALIVE' DISC HOLDERS AND RSA 'DRIVER FATIGUE' BOOKLET

### ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS ADVERTS



The Council recently teamed up with Pearl & Dean and SuperValu and are running road safety awareness advertisements on 21 Digital Screens in various locations, throughout the county.

The messages have an eye-catching image, with a simple, easy-to-digest message.



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**'BE BRIGHT' CAMPAIGN AIMED AT ATU**  
Galway County Council has teamed up with ATU's Students Union and a road safety awareness campaign is taking place which will ensure pedestrians and cyclists visibility on our roads whereby high visibility vests, courtesy of the RSA will be distributed to students attending the college.



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### CYCLE TRAINING FOR NATIONAL SCHOOLS

A National Cycling Training Programme 'Cycle Right', in conjunction with Cycling Ireland and the Road Safety Authority, is available to all national schools in Co. Galway for the 2025/'26 school year. The training upsills young cyclists and outlines tips on safer cycling and the use of a helmet at all times. In August, '25, the Council's Road Safety Officer advised all national schools of funding towards the cost of this worthwhile course.



PUPILS CARRYING OUT THE CYCLE TRAINING COURSE AT BAILE CHLÁIR NATIONAL SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2025

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PUPILS CARRYING OUT THE CYCLE TRAINING COURSE AT LURGA NATIONAL SCHOOL, GORT, WITH AISLING MORONEY, TEACHER, DEIRDRE CAULFIELD, ROAD SAFETY OFFICER GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND LEROY KULCZYNSKI, CYCLE SAFE IRELAND TRAINER – SEPTEMBER 2025



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### THE BRIGHT WAY TO SAVE LIVES!

It's not just at night that you need to turn on your lights:

**Bright thinking:**

- Preventing head-on and front-corner collisions which frequently occur during the daytime
- Making it easier to identify oncoming vehicles in the distance
- Promoting safe road user behaviour
- Encouraging all motorists to turn their lights on

- Exposing motorists with faulty lights

**Brighter future:** Dipped headlights can help reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries on our roads. SO REMEMBER, 'Lights on to Save Lives!'



## HIGH VISIBILITY VESTS

High visibility vests are distributed free-of-charge to members of staff and the general public, on an on-going basis, courtesy of the Council and Road Safety Authority.

Craughwell National School recently commenced a 'Walking Bus' to school on Wednesdays where the children meet at the village hall and walk to school together – the Council provided high visibility vests to the children to ensure their visibility and safety. The RSA's Information leaflets on 'Going to School – A guide to getting children to school safely' and 'Cycle Safety – some tips on safer cycling' were also distributed to the pupils.



COLÁISTE CHROÍ MUIRE, AN SPIDÉAL, TY STUDENTS AVAILED OF HIGH VISIBILITY VESTS TO ENSURE THEIR VISIBILITY WHEN THEY ARE OUT AND ABOUT AT EXCURSIONS/ EVENTS – ALSO IN PHOTO IS HILARY VESEY, TY CO-ORDINATOR AND DEIRDRE CAULFIELD, ROAD SAFETY OFFICER.

## FREE GOODIES!

If you would like to avail of a High Visibility Vest, please email your preferred size to -

[ochala@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:ochala@galwaycoco.ie) or call to the Public Counter, Roads Department, in Áras an Chontae.

Adult Sizes: S/M/L/XL/XXL and Kids Sizes: Age: 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12 years.

For Teenagers, size Small generally suits.





Email [ochala@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:ochala@galwaycoco.ie) if you would like a High Vis Reflective Dog Vest (*yellow only*), in sizes S/M/L, dimensions as follows while stocks allow!

## PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### MINISTERIAL VISIT

On Friday, 10th October 2025, James Browne, TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, visited County Galway to participate in a series of official events highlighting a number of Galway County Council's key housing and infrastructure projects. The visit included a site visit to the redevelopment project at Tuam Station House and improvement works at Oranmore Train Station.

### ORANMORE TRAIN STATION

The Minister inspected ongoing works at Oranmore train station, where a new pedestrian and cycle underpass is currently being installed. This will provide access to a second platform which will commence construction early 2026. A one-kilometre dynamic passing loop will also be constructed which once complete, will significantly increase train frequency in both directions. The project is being led by Galway County Council and supported by almost €10m funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) and by the Department of Transport.



MR. JAMES BROWNE, T.D., MINISTER FOR HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HERITAGE, ALONG WITH OTHER ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES, PICTURED AT THE ORANMORE TRAIN STATION  
PHOTO: ANDREW DOWNES

L-R: MR. LIAM HANRAHAN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, MR. JAMES BROWNE, TD, MINISTER FOR HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HERITAGE, VALERIE LOUGHNANE, PLANNING PICTURED AT ORANMORE TRAIN STATION  
 PHOTO: ANDREW DOWNES



## TUAM STATION HOUSE

Minister Browne began the day with a site visit and briefing at Tuam Station House, which is being redeveloped by Galway County Council into an enterprise hub with €6.66 million in funding from the Northern and Western Regional Assembly through the European Regional Development Fund. The local authority-led facility will feature individual workspaces, a podcast studio, café, and multi-use community area.



L-R: MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, CLLR. DAVID COLLINS CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY, MR. JAMES BROWNE, T.D. MINISTER FOR HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HERITAGE AND MR. SÉAN CANNEY, T.D., MINISTER OF STATE AT TUAM STATION HOUSE. PHOTO: ANDREW DOWNES



L-R: CLLR. TOM WELBY, CLLR. SIOBHAN MCHUGH RYAN, CLLR. DONAGH MARK KILLILEA, SENATOR SHANE CURLEY, LOUIS O'HARA, TD, CLLR. MARY HOADE, MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, CLLR. DAVID COLLINS, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY, MR. JAMES BROWNE, T.D. MINISTER FOR HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HERITAGE, MR. SÉAN CANNEY T.D., MINISTER OF STATE, MR. ALBERT DOLAN, T.D., PICTURED AT TUAM STATION HOUSE. PHOTO: ANDREW DOWNES



L-R: MR. LIAM HANRAHAN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, MR. JAMES BROWNE, TD MINISTER FOR HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HERITAGE, MR. ALBERT DOLAN, T.D., PICTURED AT TUAM STATION HOUSE

PHOTO: ANDREW DOWNES

L-R: MR. JAMES BROWNE, T.D. MINISTER FOR HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HERITAGE, SENATOR SHANE CURLEY, MR. ALBERT DOLAN T.D., MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AT TUAM STATION HOUSE.

PHOTO ANDREW DOWNES



## GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL PLANNING DATA

KEY Statistics: 1 <sup>st</sup> JANUARY – 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	
Applications Received/Valid	1676/1358 (81%)
Granted	1200
Grant Rate	91%
Refused	113
Breakdown of Decisions Granted Outline (8)	
Permission (939)	
Retention (226)	
Permission Consequent (6)	
Extension of Duration (21)	
Percentage of applications received via Portal/Hardcopy	85%
Red III Applications	3 (The completeness checklist is currently under review)
Stage 1LRD	3
Stage 2 LRD	1
Major Meetings	16
SID Meetings	1

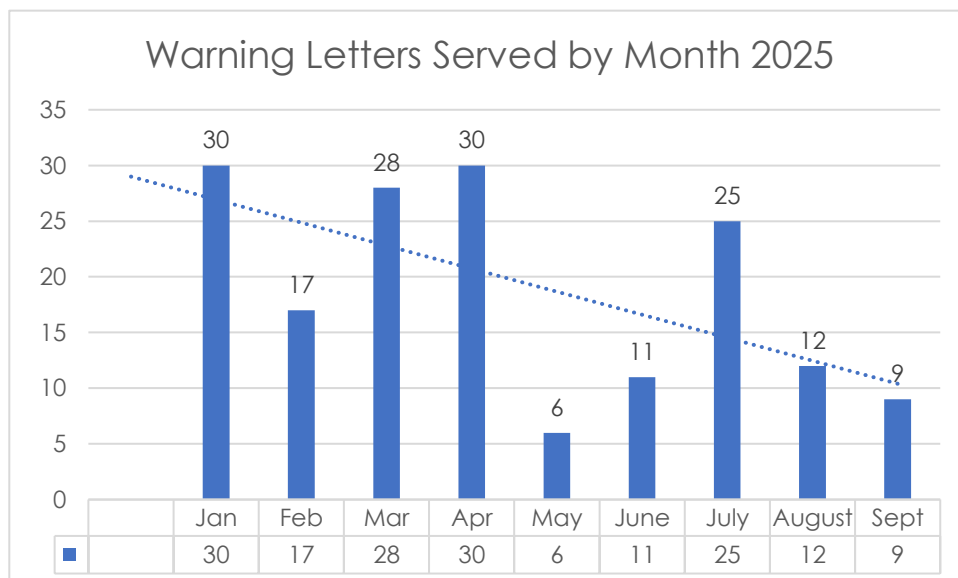
COMMENCEMENTS AND COMPLETIONS 1 <sup>st</sup> JANUARY – 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	
Submitted and Validated Commencement Notices	582
Submitted and Validated Certificates of Completion	89

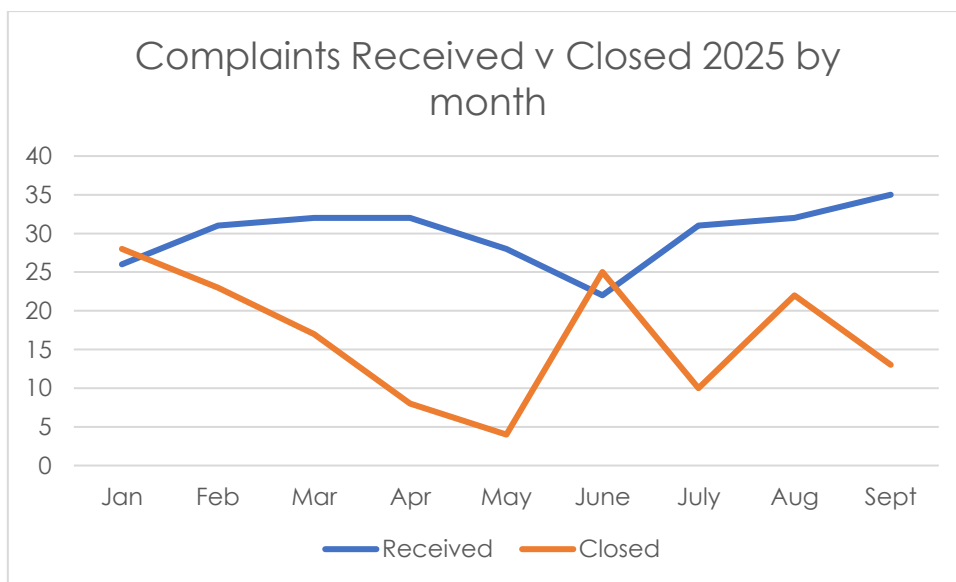
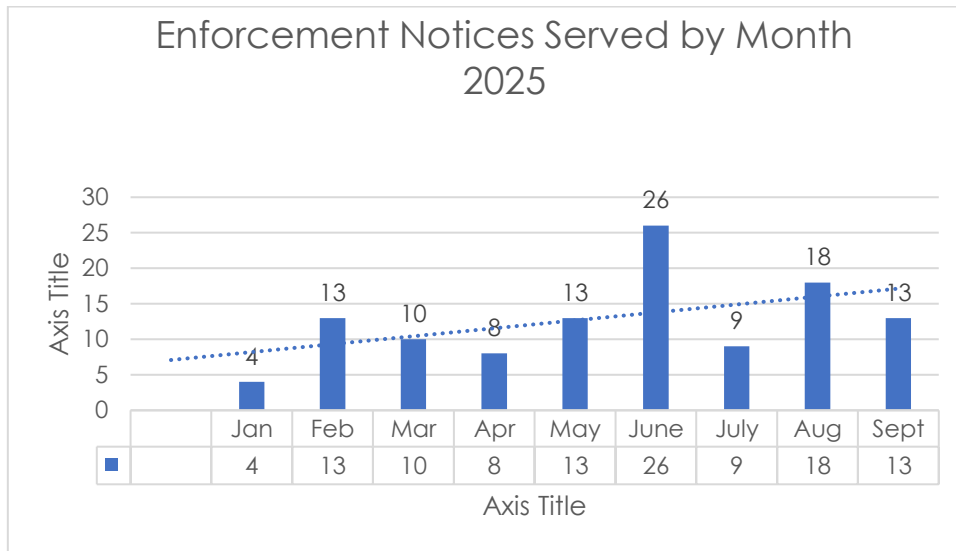
KEY STATISTICS 1 <sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2025 –30 <sup>th</sup> September 2025.	
Exempted Development Applications (under Section 5)	121
Exempted	63
Not Exempted	44
FI	4
Withdrawn	0
Decision Pending	7
Appealed	3

#### PLANNING MEETINGS BY MONTH 2025

PPM per MD per Month	Januar y	Februar y	March	April	May	June	July	August	September
<b>Athenry/Oranmore</b>	3	7	5	5	7	3	5	0	7
<b>Ballinasloe</b>	2	2	5	6	2	2	6	1	2
<b>Connemara N &amp; S</b>	3	4	6	7	3	0	7	2	4
<b>Loughrea</b>	8	9	9	5	2	6	2	6	5
<b>Tuam</b>	1	6	3	3	7	2	2	3	0
<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>	<b>18</b>

#### ENFORCEMENT






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#### PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2024

Commencement Orders received with respect to the SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations.

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#### COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN/DEVELOPMENT PLAN VARIATION

Development Plan Variation Workshop held with Members on 01/10/2025. Expect to publish Variation 1 of County Development Plan (CDP) by late November. Environmental Consultants have been appointed. Review and update of HNDA (Housing Need Demand Assessment) is also under way. Ongoing monitoring and background work being carried out. Report to issue to Elected Members week ending 10/10/2025).

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

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## MONITORING OF GALWAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028

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

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## VACANCY SURVEY

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

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## URDF

Final sign-off of Design Documents for design of local centre, Eco park and density typology study at Garraun to be completed in the coming weeks.

Pedestrian underpass works at Oranmore Train Station is scheduled to be carried out on weekend of 10/10/2025.

Systra Engineering Consultants have been awarded tender in respect of Carpark Design for Oranmore Train Station.

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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Call for Tender for City/County Joint Economic Strategy was published on 26/09/2025. Closing date for tender responses is 24/10/2025.

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## BRIARHILL URBAN FRAMEWORK PLAN LANDS

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

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## JOINT RETAIL STRATEGY

Final Strategy to be signed off and agreed by City/County personnel. Presentation made to Joint SPC in September 2025 of Joint Retail Strategy.

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## DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Review of Development Contributions currently underway by the Forward Planning Team. Report/Working Draft expected to issue to Executive Team in the coming weeks.

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## CAHEROYN URBAN FRAMEWORK PLAN (ATHENRY)

Meeting held with Roads & Transportation Section with respect to access to Caheroyn lands. Meeting was held with Uisce Eireann with respect to Wastewater/Water Supply and Surface Water at Caheroyn.

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.



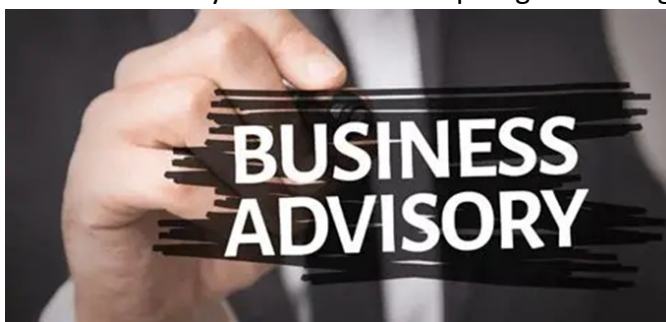
**October Schedule:**

1st & 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Marketing Techniques for your Business
9 <sup>th</sup> October	Preparation for Craft Fairs/Shows
15th & 16th October	Online Revenue Returns
21 <sup>st</sup> October	Using Canva Like a Pro
4 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup> November	How to Create Christmas Themed Marketing Videos

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.

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## 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.



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## 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 finished on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September. The October SYOB programme commenced on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September and finishes on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October.

LEO Galway is also running a 2 hour 'Business Basics Startup' online webinar on October 8<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 12pm via Zoom. This webinar is aimed at individuals who are interested in understanding what is involved in starting a business.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### DESIGN MINGLE

Chloe Gardiner from The Wonky Woolins will speak at Design Mingle on Friday October 24<sup>th</sup> in CREW. Chloe is the founder of The Wonky Woolins, a children's brand creating heirloom-quality handmade toys. She started the business at 15 with €50 and a box of wool, inspired by her grandmother's handmade toys that lasted for generations.

At 22, Chloe has built a multi-award-winning brand that now employs hundreds of women across Nepal, Morocco, and Turkey through ethical manufacturing partnerships. Stocked in Avoca and Blarney Woollen Mills, The Wonky Woolins provides fair wages, further education, and economic empowerment for marginalized women while creating toys designed to last generations rather than



seasons. Chloe left university to focus full-time on proving that businesses can grow without compromising values. She speaks on ethical manufacturing, purpose-driven entrepreneurship, and building businesses that prioritize both people and quality.

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

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## NATIONAL WOMEN'S ENTERPRISE DAY

National Women's Enterprise Day will be held in the Breaffy House Hotel, Castlebar on Thursday 16th October. Ireland's largest female enterprise event promotes, encourages and stimulates female entrepreneurship across Ireland. It is designed and led by women and is an annual high point in promoting entrepreneurship to women in Ireland. The Local Enterprise Office along with Enterprise Ireland provide a wide range of help, incentives, training, and development programmes to female entrepreneurs.



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## FOOD & CRAFT FAIR PREPARATION TRAINING

Food and Craft fair preparation training for stand holders is took place on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September and will continue 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.

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## LUNCH & LEARN PORTUMNA COURT HOUSE



LEO Galway staff will attend a Growth and Networking Lunch and learn on October 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Portumna Court House. This Lunch & Learn session will highlight the LEO services & supports available to those looking to start or grow their business in County

Galway. Such topics will include Mentoring, Training, Grant aid, Green for Business, Lean for business, Digital for business etc. The audience will get the chance to meet our LEO Galway team to discuss their business needs and get their business questions answered.

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## FORUM CONNEMARA SOCIAL ENTERPRISE NETWORKING EVENT

Forum Connemara is hosting a Social Enterprise Networking event in Oughterard Community Centre on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. LEO Galway will host a stand on the day, providing LEO information and supports.

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## 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 October Grant Clinic date to be confirmed.



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

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### BLAS NA HÉIREANN AWARDS 2025

Sandra Regan of LEO Galway recently attended the Blas na hÉireann Awards 2025 in the Blas Village, Dingle on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Now in its 18th year, Blas na hÉireann, The Irish Food Awards is the biggest competition for quality Irish produce on the island of Ireland. The annual events build into the biggest celebration in Irish food and its producers. Located in the heart of Dingle, this pop-up village becomes a central point for producers across the country to come together and celebrate the very best of Irish food and drink. As well as the awards being held there, finalists and winners can showcase their products, engage with customers and meet key industry buyers. A bumper year for Galway producers at Blas na hÉireann 2025. Galway Local Enterprise Sponsored– Best in County Galway.

A total of 15 food producers from Galway received 22 awards this year. These include: All About Kombucha, Birdhouse, Builín Blasta Cafe, Bakery & Retail, DK Connemara Oysters, Dough Bros, The Foods of Athenry, Galmere Fresh Foods, Gather/Abbert Bailiu Teoranta, Grá Chocolates (*Awarded Best in County*, sponsored by Galway Local Enterprise Office), Ivy

House Chocolates, Joyce Country Bakery / BÁCÚS Dhúiche Sheoigheach, Kylemore Abbey & Gardens Ltd., Loughnane's Of Galway, Sean Loughnanes and The Lán Kitchen.

These producers were recognized across a wide range of categories, with bronze, silver, and gold awards presented. The awards ceremony took place in Dingle and featured the Blas Village, Eat Ireland in a Day market, and panel discussions at the Backyard at Blas.



L-R: MS. MARY MULLINS, GRÁ CHOCLATES AND SANDRA REGAN, LEO GALWAY

REPRESENTATIVE FOR JOYCES COUNTRY BAKERY



REPRESENTATIVES FROM LAN KITCHEN

REPRESENTATIVES FROM IVY HOUSE CHOCOLATES



## STARTUP STAGE

Stephanie Colombani of LEO Galway recently attended the Startup Stage – Powered by NDRC x AI Venture Forge in the Portershed on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Where Innovation took

centre stage as NDRC, and the AI Venture Forge Accelerator joined forces to spotlight emerging talent in Ireland’s startup ecosystem. The event brought together founders from both the AI Venture Forge Accelerator and the NDRC Pre-Accelerator for an afternoon of pitching and connection.

Over the course of the event, 30 founders presented their ventures, showcasing cutting-edge ideas and progress in artificial intelligence and startup innovation. Pre-Accelerator teams delivered concise elevator pitches, while AI Venture Forge companies shared updates from their journeys in AI.



The audience was treated to a front-row view of the future of tech and entrepreneurship in Ireland. The energy, ideas, and connections sparked throughout the event highlighted the strength and creativity driving the country’s next generation of startups.

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MS. MARY RODGERS, CEO PORTERSHED

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L-R: MR. RUSHYANT SINGH, PROGRAMME MANAGER, PORTERSHED AND MS. STEPHANIE COLOMBANI, LEO GALWAY



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## EMPOWER ELEVATE PROGRAMME LAUNCH

Stephanie Colombani and Mairead Herlihy of LEO Galway recently attended the EMPOWER Elevate Programme Launch in the ATU Innovation iHubs on September 9th. The LEOs in both Galway and Mayo play a key role in supporting the EMPOWER Elevate Programme, a 20-month initiative designed to foster a thriving ecosystem for established businesswomen in County Mayo and County Galway. With a structured approach and high-impact outcomes, the programme supports female entrepreneurs in scaling their businesses, enhancing leadership capabilities, and driving sustainable growth.

Structured across three semesters, EMPOWER Elevate offers a clear roadmap with practical milestones and measurable outputs. Participants engage in a rigorous schedule that includes both in-person and online sessions, biweekly business reflections, structured peer learning, and personal development activities. The programme demands a high level of commitment, ensuring that each participant is fully immersed in the journey of growth and transformation.

EMPOWER Elevate is more than a business development programme—it’s a catalyst for innovation, resilience, and long-term success. By equipping participants with the tools, insights, and networks needed to thrive, it plays a vital role in strengthening the regional economy and advancing gender equity in entrepreneurship.



ATTENDEES ON THE DAY OF THE LAUNCH

MS. SUSAN HAYES CULLETON, MANAGING DIRECTOR, HAYES CULLETON GROUP



### 'THE RISE: LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION 'WISDOM IN ACTION'



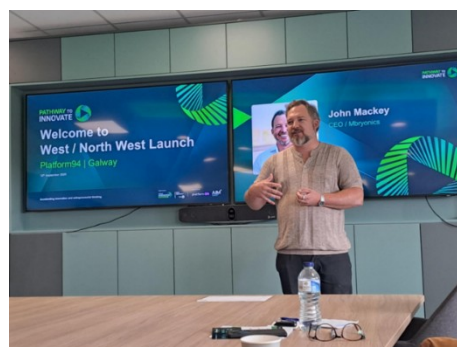
Caroline McDonagh and Mairead Herlihy of LEO Galway recently attended ‘The Rise: Leadership Succession ‘Wisdom Action’ event in the Hardiman Hotel on September 11<sup>th</sup>. This event was organised by itag with Dr Sarah Kieran from Kemmy Business School as the guest speaker on the day. This was followed by a panel Q&A.

DR. SARAH KIERAN (KEMMY BUSINESS SCHOOL, UL)

### PATHWAY TO INNOVATE

Caroline McDonagh and Mairead Herlihy of LEO Galway recently attended the launch of the Pathway to Innovate event in Platform94 on September 12<sup>th</sup>. This event was held alongside

Skillnet Innovation Exchange, IRDG Innovation Skillnet and Advancing Innovation in Manufacturing (AIM) Centre. This new initiative is designed to unlock innovation for SMEs with practical, results-driven support from expert led workshops and real-world case studies to tailored guidance that helps businesses achieve measurable outcomes.



MR. JOHN MACKAY, CEO, MBRYONICS

## GETTING TECHNOLOGY SPEND RIGHT: FUTURE-PROOFING BUILDINGS WITHOUT BREAKING THE BANK

Caroline McDonagh of LEO Galway recently participated in the Getting Technology Spend Right: Future-Proofing Buildings Without Breaking the Bank event in CREW on September 18<sup>th</sup>. The technology landscape for buildings is more complex than ever. From access control, security, and energy management to digital twins and AI-driven modelling, the choices can be overwhelming. Meanwhile, changing tenant expectations, remote work, and demographic shifts are redefining what "good technology" means for residential,

hospitality, and commercial spaces. This immersive seminar showed how to avoid wasted spend while delivering what purchasers, tenants, and guests truly value.



L-R: MS. CAROLINE MCDONAGH HEAD OF ENTERPRISE, LEO GALWAY AND MR. STEPHEN THOMPSON, HAS INTEGRATION

L-R: MR. TREVOR Ó CLOCHARTAIGH, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND HR, TG4), MS. KAREN JORDAN, CEO, GALWAY CHAMBER, MS. MARIA KELLY, EVENTS/MARKETING CO-ORDINATOR, CREW, MS. CAROLINE MCDONAGH, HEAD OF ENTERPRISE, GALWAY, MS. NIAMH COSTELLO, CREW, AND MS. SHARON PHELAN, HAS



## NATIONAL AI MEET

Caroline McDonagh & Mairead Herlihy of LEO Galway attended the Tech Ireland National AI Meet event in the Galmont Hotel on September 18<sup>th</sup>. The day opened with Strategic insights, followed by focused industry applications of AI and three expert panels. From

Google's cutting edge Agentic AI solutions to OpenAI's GPT-5 live demo, the event was a knowledge packed day along with excellent networking.



MS. MAIREAD HERLIHY, LEO GALWAY, MS. NIAMH SMYTH, MINISTER OF STATE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENTERPRISE, TOURISM AND EMPLOYMENT AND MS. CAROLINE MCDONAGH, HEAD OF ENTERPRISE GALWAY

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## CEED

Caroline McDonagh (Head of Enterprise Galway), Eoin Connaire (LEO Galway) and Mairead Herlihy (LEO Galway) recently attended the launch of the 2025 Creative Entrepreneurship & Enterprise Development programme, a high growth creative entrepreneurship start-up



programme to inspire and engage the next generation of dynamic Creative Digital Entrepreneurs. This programme is in partnership with LEO Galway, CREW and ATU.

SOME ATTENDEES AT CEED IN CREW

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## PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL MEMBERS

Caroline McDonagh (Head of Enterprise Galway) recently attended the Plenary Council meeting on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and held a presentation for Council staff and elected members on LEO supports and advice.

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## CHAMBER LUNCH WITH MICHAEL MCGRATH

Caroline McDonagh and Mairead Herlihy of LEO Galway recently attended the Galway Chamber Autumn Business Lunch with Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law and Consumer Protection, Michael McGrath in the Galway Bay Hotel on September 26<sup>th</sup>. This Business Lunch was an opportunity to hear directly from Commissioner McGrath on his vision for upholding the rule of law, safeguarding democracy and civil liberties, and enhancing consumer protections across the European Union, and what these priorities mean for Galway and the wider region.

L-R: MS CAROLINE MCDONAGH, HEAD OF ENTERPRISE, MS. MAIREAD HERLIHY, LEO GALWAY, MR. MICHAEL MCGRATH, COMMISSIONER FOR DEMOCRACY, JUSTICE, THE RULE OF LAW AND CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND MS. KAYANNE HORGAN, KAYANNE HORGAN SOLICITORS



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## NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS

One of Galway's best small businesses got a chance to exhibit their business to almost 300,000 people at the National Ploughing Championships in Screggan, Tullamore as part of the Local Enterprise Village. The Local Enterprise Village, an initiative of the Local Enterprise Offices, housed over 30 small businesses at the heart of this year's National Ploughing Championships which was held on September 16th to 18th, 2025.

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.

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L-R: MR. MICHAEL GILL AND MS. KARLA QUINN, SCORE FACTOR, PICTURED AT THE NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS

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## SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

### FACEBOOK:

7.4 LIKES

REACH YEAR-TO-DATE: 9.4K

### LINKEDIN:

1.5K FOLLOWERS

REACH YEAR-TO-DATE: 3.8K

### INSTAGRAM:

3.4K FOLLOWERS

REACH YEAR-TO-DATE: 4.4K

### X (TWITTER):

5884 FOLLOWERS

### 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 engagement evening took place on September 9th where draft projects were presented to the wider public.

#### 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 following a presentation to the members of the Municipal District on September 10th.



#### AN CHEATHRÚ RUA

The Town Centre First Plan for an Cheathrú Rua is being led by Údarás 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.

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## PORTUMNA

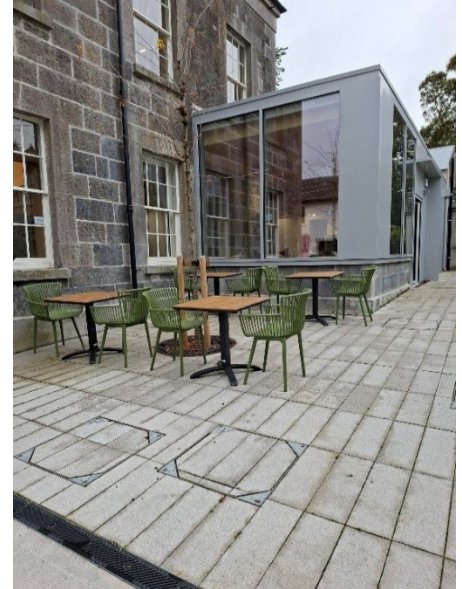
### PORTUMNA COURTHOUSE

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

**Café Launch:** The soft launch/opening of the Courtyard Café took place on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The new business is being operated by local woman Elaine Conroy and 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.





### PORTUMNA PUBLIC REALM

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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

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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

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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



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## 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>

A new decision date from An Bord Pleanála is not available at the time of writing.

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## ATHENRY

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### 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.

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### RRDF PROJECT – COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE HUB

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





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## TUAM

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### TUAM TOWN HALL

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







## TUAM STATION BUILDING: REPURPOSING, RENOVATION AND EXTENSION

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

The funding application to deliver the capital project (made to the Northern and Western Regional Assembly under the European Regional Development Fund) has been successful. The funding amounts to some €6.6 million euros.





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## 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.

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## 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

Pleanála 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.

A new decision date from An Bord Pleanála is not available at the time of writing.

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## GORT

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### 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.



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## 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 by year end.

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## ORANMORE

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### RINVILLE PARK SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Cunnane Stratton Reynolds have been appointed to develop a sustainable development plan for Rinville Park. A final stakeholder workshop took place on October 2nd 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

### FÉILE NA GCLOCH 2025

Féile na gCloch took place on Inis Oírr from Thursday 11th – Sunday 14th September 2025 and was organised by the Heritage Office of Galway County Council and Comhar Caomhán Teo. It was supported by the island community, and various partners including the Dry-Stone Walling Association of Ireland.

Féile na gCloch 2025 was a well-attended event focused on traditional stone crafts, heritage, and community involvement, held on Inis Oírr. The festival attracted a diverse international audience, with participants and visitors from Japan, Australia, Canada, America, England,



Italy, France, Croatia, a group of 18 from Austria, and 7 from Jeju Island, Korea. This global attendance highlights the festival's growing reputation as a hub for cultural exchange and traditional skills.

BUILDING THE 2025 WALL.

PHOTO CREDIT: EMMA LAFFEY

PRESENTATION TO HELMUT SCHNEIDER, AUSTRIA BY CLLR MARY HOADE, LEAS CATHAOIRLEACH, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND ANTOINE O'COISDEALBHA, BAINISTEOR COMHAR CAOMHÁN TEO



The success of Féile na gCloch was made possible through the dedicated support of the island community and Comhar Caomhán Teo working with Galway County Council. Special recognition is due to the Planning Office staff—Martina Creaven, Anne Power, Gina O'Shaughnessy; Tommy Murray and James Duane, Caretakers, Galway County Council and Bernie Doherty, Galway Community Archaeologist—whose behind-the-scenes work was invaluable in coordinating logistics and programming.



ALEXANDRA MORESCO, SCULPTING ST GOBNAIT. PHOTO CREDIT SIOBHÁN NÍ DHONCHA

## PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

The festival featured a rich and varied programme including:

Dry Stone Wall Building Workshops

Stone Carving and Letter Carving Workshops



SOME INSTRUCTORS AND PARTICIPANTS ON THE STONE LETTERING AND STONE CARVING WORKSHOPS. PHOTO CREDIT: AILEEN ANNE BRANNIGAN

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## ON-LOCATION SKETCH OUTS



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SKETCH OF THE LIGHTHOUSE  
PHOTO CREDIT: JAMES MOORE



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SKETCHING AMONGST THE CURRACHS  
PHOTO CREDIT: JESSICA PEEL YATES

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## LIME MORTAR DEMONSTRATIONS



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SECTION OF  
AUDIENCE AT ONE  
OF THE TALKS.  
PHOTO CREDIT:  
EMMA LAFFEY

Talks and Exhibitions on vernacular heritage, international collaborations, and traditional building techniques. They include the following: *The Value of the Vernacular* by Shane Lehane; *The Intangible Cultural Value and Transmission of Jeju Dry Stone Walling* by Mijeong, Jeong; *Collaborations: When Unlikely Marriages Make for Perfect Bonds!* by Alexandra Morosco; *From Stone Field to Vineyard: Using Drawing as a Tool for Exploration and Expression* by Jessica Peel Yates; *Stoneship - Friendship Workshop and Congress October 2025: A Preview* by Helmut Schieder; *4 GRADA DRAGODID - Safeguarding Dry-Stone Heritage and Traditional Knowledge* by Duje Mikelić, Dragodid Association, Croatia.



CHILDRENS' STONE ART WORKING WITH  
STONE MASON CÁITE FEALTY PHOTO  
CREDIT: EMMA LAFFEY

A notable addition this year was the Children's Programme, developed for the pupils of the local national school. This initiative was met with great enthusiasm and proved highly successful, fostering early appreciation for heritage and craft.

## INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION



GROUP FROM JEJU ISLAND, KOREAN WITH MARY CONDON, MARTINA CREAVER,  
EMMA LAFFEY AND MARIE MANNION. PHOTO CREDIT: ANTOINETTE LYDON

Féile na gCloch 2025 showcased meaningful international partnerships, including: Gonggitdolnori is a traditional Jeju island (Korea) game in which five Gonggitdol stones are used to compete for dexterity and concentration, and it is handed down by various rules and names depending on the region. Talks from various Irish and International speakers as outlined above.

These collaborations enriched the festival's educational and cultural dimensions, promoting shared heritage values across borders.



PRESENTATION TO DUJE MIKELIĆ, DRAGODID ASSOCIATION, CROATIA BY CLLR MARY HOADE, LEAS CATHAOIRLEACH, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND ANTOINE O'COISDEALBHA, BAINISTEOIR COMHAR CAOMHÁN TEO. PHOTO CREDIT: MARIE MANNION

## CULTURAL EXHIBITIONS AND SHORT FILMS

Three major exhibitions ran concurrently with the festival:

Echoes of the Isles – exploring island heritage through visual art

Áras Éanna @25 – celebrating 25 years of artistic exchange on Inis Oírr

Holy Wells of County Galway – curated by Cormac Coyne

In addition to this there were two exhibitions held in An Halla entitled: ‘Hands Across Europe ~ Lámha Trasna na hEorpa’ and ‘Jeju Stone Walls and Jeju Stone Park’.

There were three short films shown as part of the festival:

‘Inis Oírr - A History Written in Stone’; There were two short films from Greece: ‘Boulouki Itinerant Workshop on Traditional Building Techniques’ | Europa Nostra Award, and ‘The Fountain at Pigadoulia - Restoration of a Traditional Infrastructure for Fresh Drinking Water’. Boulouki is among the 26 outstanding winners in the category “Education, Training & Skills” European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Award 2024. This video was created by Yorgos Kyvernitis for Boulouki on the occasion of the announcement of the Europe Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards 2024. The *Fountain at Pigadoulia* showcased the restoration of a traditional infrastructure for fresh drinking water. This video was produced in the framework of the project “Connectivity Conservation Initiative for Fresh Drinking Water,” wherein Boulouki is the main implementing organisation. The project aims to enhance the ecological connectivity of protected areas and roadless areas in the Northern Pindus region.



The core actions of the project involve the restoration of two traditional freshwater supply infrastructures (fountains). The first restoration took place at the Pigadoulia area in the countryside of Kerasovo (Agia Paraskevi) village. The restoration was carried out through participatory processes during a five-day experiential workshop, utilizing traditional knowledge and modern sustainable practices while emphasizing the use of local materials and traditional building techniques with stone and mortar.

## IMPACT

Féile na gCloch continues to play a vital role in extending the island's tourism season, promoting traditional crafts, and supporting local economic and cultural development. The



festival fosters a deep appreciation for Ireland's built heritage and intangible cultural traditions, while also offering a platform for international dialogue and artistic inspiration.

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FÉILE NA GCLOCH,  
LEARNING, KNOWLEDGE AND  
FRIENDSHIP. PHOTO CREDIT:  
EMMA LAFFEY

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## JEJU ISLAND, KOREA DELEGATION TO ÁRAS AN CHONTAE AND VISIT TO CONEMARA AND EAST GALWAY



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JEONG MI JEONG, CURATOR, JEJU STONE PARK/DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, JEJU SELF GOVERNING ISLAND, CLLR DAVID COLLINS, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY, JO HWAN JIN, STONE MASON AND FOUNDER OF DOLBITNA ART SCHOOL, LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, SOONIE DELAP, INTERPRETER. PHOTO CREDIT: BRIAN HARDING

Cllr David Collins, Cathaoirleach of the Couy of Galway welcomed the delegation from Jeju Island, South Korea, to County Galway and Féile na gCloch on Inis Oírr on 15<sup>th</sup> September

2025. He acknowledged the shared values between Jeju and the Galway County in preserving dry stone walling traditions and praised Jeju's efforts to gain UNESCO recognition for their stone heritage.



FRONT ROW – LEFT TO RIGHT: MS. ANN MARIE MURPHY HAWE, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER, MR. LIAM HANRAHAN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING, JEONG MI JEONG, CURATOR, JEJU STONE PARK/DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, JEJU SELF GOVERNING ISLAND, CLLR DAVID COLLINS, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY, JO HWAN JIN, STONE MASON AND FOUNDER OF DOLBITNA ART SCHOOL, MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, SOONIE DELAP, INTERPRETER.  
BACK ROW: WON HUN CHEOL, JO MAENG YONG, KIM CHANG WON, MS. ANNE POWER, SENIOR STAFF OFFICER, MS. MARIE MANNION, HERITAGE OFFICER, JO YE JI AND MS. MARTINA CREAVERN, SENIOR STAFF OFFICER. PHOTO CREDIT: BRIAN HARDING

He highlighted the importance of cultural exchange and commended Jeju Stone Park and the Dolbitna Art School for their commitment to education and heritage. The visit was seen as a valuable opportunity to strengthen ties and explore future collaboration between Jeju and Galway.

Liam Conneally, Chief Executive, Galway County Council also welcomed the Jeju Island delegation, highlighting the shared values of heritage, sustainability, and international cooperation between Jeju and Galway. He praised Jeju Stone Park and the Dolbitna Art School for their role in preserving stone culture and noted the strong parallels with traditions in the west of Ireland.



MR. LIAM HANRAHAN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING, CLLR. DAVID COLLINS, CATHAOIRLEACH, GALWAY COUNTY, MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, JEONG MI JEONG, CURATOR, JEJU STONE PARK/DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, JEJU SELF GOVERNING ISLAND, JO HWAN JIN, STONE MASON AND FOUNDER OF DOLBITNA ART SCHOOL, SOONIE DELAP, INTERPRETER. PHOTO CREDIT: BRIAN HARDING

He reaffirmed Galway County Council’s support for Féile na gCloch and acknowledged the importance of global participation in enriching the festival. Mr. Conneally expressed interest in future collaboration with Jeju through cultural and heritage initiatives.



CLLR DAVID COLLINS, CATHAOIRLEACH, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, LIAM HANRAHAN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING, LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, JEONG MI JEONG, CURATOR, JEJU STONE PARK/DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, JEJU SELF GOVERNING ISLAND. PHOTO CREDIT: BRIAN HARDING

Following the meeting in Áras an Chontae the Jeju Island delegation participated in a guided tour of Connemara. The group visited Glengowla Mines, where Keith Geoghegan provided insights into local mining history. They then travelled to Ballynahinch Castle for a tour of the gardens, before continuing to Kylemore Abbey, one of Connemara’s most iconic landmarks.



JEJU ISLAND DELEGATION VISIT TO BALLYNAHINCH CASTLE. PHOTO CREDIT: MARIE MANNION

Following their tour of Conemara, the Jeju Island delegation continued their cultural visit with a day exploring East Galway. The itinerary highlighted East Galway's rich medieval and social heritage.



JEJU ISLAND DELEGATION VISIT TO KYLEMORE ABBEY. PHOTO CREDIT: MARIE MANNION



JEJU ISLAND DELEGATION VISIT TO ATHENRY HERITAGE CENTRE. PHOTO CREDIT: MARIE MANNION

JEJU ISLAND DELEGATION VISIT TO ATHENRY CASTLE. PHOTO CREDIT: BERNIE DOHERTY





JEJU ISLAND DELEGATION VISIT TO THE IRISH WORKHOUSE CENTRE, PORTUMNA. PHOTO CREDIT: MARIE MANNION

JEJU ISLAND DELEGATION VISIT TO PORTUMNA CASTLE. PHOTO CREDIT: MARIE MANNION

The group visited the Athenry Heritage Centre, Athenry Castle, and the Dominican Friary, gaining insights into the town's historical significance. After lunch, the delegation travelled to Portumna to explore the Irish Workhouse Centre, followed by a visit to Portumna Castle.



## GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL'S STORYMAPS PROJECT WINS EGOVERNMENT AWARD



PICTURED WITH THE 2025 IRELAND EGOVERNMENT 'OPEN DATA' AWARD, LEFT TO RIGHT, ARE BRÍDÍN FEENEY, GIS OFFICER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, AND GILES NEWSOME, CEO OF ICONNECT101 AND A MEMBER OF THIS YEAR'S JUDGING PANEL. PHOTO CREDIT NOEL HILLIS.

Galway County Council's innovative StoryMaps project, which has digitised the heritage of communities across County Galway into interactive online experiences, has been named a category winner at the 2025 Ireland eGovernment Awards.

The project received the Open Data Award, having been shortlisted alongside the National Cancer Registry of Ireland.

Galway County Council’s Heritage and GIS sections, working in conjunction with community groups and academia, have so far created over 40 town and village StoryMaps showcasing the rich heritage of the County’s towns, villages, and townlands.

In addition, historical information relating to 1,000 townlands has been digitised, providing a valuable resource for communities, schools, heritage groups, Tidy Towns committees, academia, and the public.

By integrating mapping technology with text, images, and multimedia content, StoryMaps delivers location-based stories that can be accessed on any internet-enabled device, from desktop computers to tablets and phones.



**Cllr David Collins, Cathaoirleach of Galway County**, said, “This project showcases and promotes knowledge of, and pride in, the rich heritage of our townlands, villages, towns, and other aspects of our heritage. It presents this heritage to local, national, and international audiences and serves as an extremely valuable resource.”

**Liam Conneally, Chief Executive of Galway County Council**, added, “This project is a fantastic example of how local history can be preserved and shared using modern technology and innovative research techniques. The partnership approach to developing StoryMaps shows how collaboration is central to preserving and sharing our local history.”

**Liam Hanrahan, Director of Services for Planning and Economic Development**, said the project places a strong emphasis on community engagement, presenting local heritage in a way that is easily accessible to the public, the Irish diaspora, and scholars at home and abroad.

Led by Galway County Council’s Heritage Office and GIS Department, the project was developed in collaboration with the Galway County Community Archaeology Project, University of Galway, Atlantic Technology University (ATU) Galway, ICAN (Irish Community Archive Network) Galway, Galway County Heritage Forum, The Heritage Council, and local Tidy Towns, heritage and community groups.

**Bridin Feeney, GIS Analyst in Galway County Council’s ICT Department**, said the project is about unearthing stories, local lore, and forgotten histories and presenting them in an engaging digital format.

Outlining the background to the project, she added, “Several community groups approached us wanting to develop a digital platform to showcase the heritage and history of their local areas but lacked the capacity or resources to do so. Working with these groups, our GIS team and Heritage Officer developed a framework to create StoryMaps for their heritage trails and townland research. Some communities had the knowledge but not the digital expertise, so we

worked with them and trained them on the possibilities of StoryMaps and how they could reach their target audiences.”

**Heritage Officer Marie Mannion** said the primary goal of StoryMaps is to make heritage accessible to everyone.

“We initially expected to train local communities and students on how to create StoryMaps and make this information available as open-source data. It has turned out to be much more than that,” she explained. “It has given people confidence in their skills and fostered a strong sense of pride in their communities. The StoryMaps are used by local residents, schools, academics, the diaspora, and many others. They have a myriad of uses, and we are only now discovering additional applications, including their use in ATU Galway’s Heritage Studies course.”

The Ireland eGovernment Awards celebrate excellence, innovation, and creativity in Ireland’s public sector and are recognised as the benchmark for digital government services. This year’s awards were presented by An Taoiseach Micheál Martin TD at O’Reilly Hall, UCD.

**Giles Newsome, CEO of iConnect101 and a member of this year’s judging panel,** said, “This

submission proved very much the value of using GIS, open-source mapping data to deliver something very valuable from Galway County Council to the people of Galway and beyond. What has been done here is the creation and curation of very valuable content on interactive maps about places of interest, historic monuments, historic sites right across County Galway. A fantastic smart use of mapping technology.”



**Local StoryMaps project wins eGovernment award**

The StoryMaps project is available at [www.tinyurl.com/StoryMapGalway](http://www.tinyurl.com/StoryMapGalway).

### Local StoryMaps project wins eGovernment award

Galway County Council's StoryMaps project has won the 2023 Ireland eGovernment Open Data Award, presented by An Taoiseach Micheál Martin TD at O'Reilly Hall, UCD. The award was presented to Brian Feeney, GIS Officer, Galway County Council, and Giles Newsome, CEO of iConnect101, a member of this year's judging panel.

The award-winning project, which has digitised the heritage of Galway into interactive online experiences, has been named a category winner at the 2023 Ireland eGovernment Awards. The project received the Open Data Award and has been shortlisted alongside the National Cancer Registry of Ireland. Galway County Council's Heritage and GIS sections, working with community groups and academics, have so far created over 40 town and village StoryMaps showcasing the heritage of the county's towns, villages, and townlands. Additionally, historical information relating to 1000+ townlands has been digitised, providing a 'valuable resource' for communities, schools, and heritage groups. The project also involves creating a digital platform to showcase the heritage and history of their local area and has been shortlisted alongside the National Cancer Registry of Ireland.

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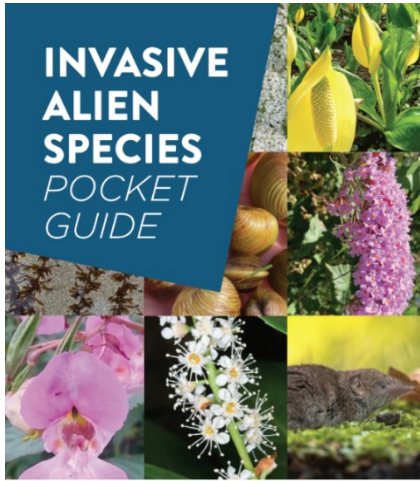
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## BIODIVERSITY

### INVASIVE SPECIES ERADICATION – WEST CONNACHT ISLANDS

The Invasive Species Eradication Programme on the West Connacht Islands is a joint initiative between the Biodiversity Offices of Mayo and Galway County Councils and the ACRES West Connacht Cooperation Project (CP). It focuses on Inishbofin in County Galway, and Inishturk and Clare Island in County Mayo. Community outreach is taking place through horticulture and invasive species identification workshops for residents and landowners,

alongside botanical surveys to identifying and mapping invasive plant species, the creation of tailored Invasive Species Management Plans for each island, and the application of treatment measures. This multi-faceted approach ensures that both ecological and social dimensions of invasive species management are addressed—building local capacity, improving awareness, and enabling long-term, site-specific solutions that are informed by scientific data and community input.

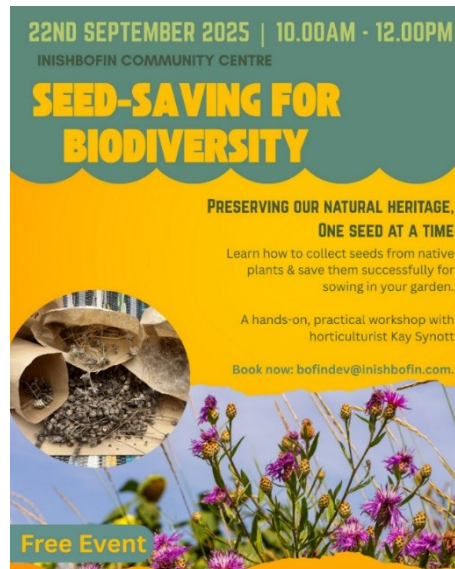


Invasive Alien Plant Species are a significant threat to biodiversity. Invasive species can cause the decline in native species through competition for light, space and food sources. Invasives such as a rhododendron or giant rhubarb often creates dense stands of growth if left unchecked or unmanaged, this over time can impact badly upon the

landscape.

The Invasive Species Eradication Programme on West Connacht Islands is unique in the advantage of the geographical locations of the islands and the natural barriers to invasive species spread i.e. distance from mainland and the barrier of the Atlantic Sea. This provides immense opportunity to use the natural advantage of the island’s location in the prevention of invasive species spread and the development of targeted eradication plans.

**BIODIVERSITY HORTICULTURAL WORKSHOPS THAT WERE HELD AS PART OF THE INVASIVE SPECIES ERADICATION – WEST CONNACHT ISLANDS LBAF PROJECT**



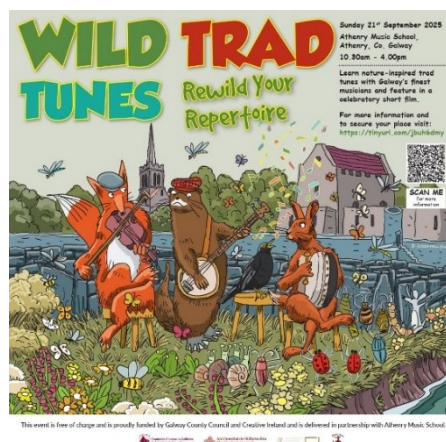
Over the last number of weeks, horticultural workshops were delivered for the islanders on each of the three islands and focused on the specific threats of invasive alien plant species through garden escapes and biosecurity. Invasive Alien Species Pocket

Guides have distributed to the workshop participants and have been made available throughout the islands. The botanical surveying work along the public road network on the island has also been completed for the season.

This project is funded by Galway County Council, Mayo County Council and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund 2025.

## WILD TRAD TUNES – REWILD YOUR REPERTOIRE

Wild Trad Tunes took place on the 21<sup>st</sup> September in Athenry and saw 40 musicians of all ages come together to learn about the intersection of biodiversity and traditional music through a Galway County Council Creative Ireland project, in partnership with Athenry Music School. A short film on the day is currently being completed and will be shared on social media platforms in the coming weeks.



## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

### ATHENRY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

Road's programme is coming into the final phases with most of the larger project almost at completion stage.

- Restoration Improvement works (Overlays) – 90% Complete by contractors. (Station Road, Oranmore Remaining).
- Capital pavement works on N83 at Corinthians due to commence shortly.
- Restoration Maintenance (Surface Dressing) 100% complete.
- Local Improvement Schemes Round 1 - 100% Complete,  
Round 2 – 3 additional will commence in 2/3 weeks
- Community Involvement schemes. – Footpaths in Athenry progressing by direct labour. Contractor due to commence Mid-October to carry out further works.
- Climate Adaptation Schemes – Aughcloggeen Landowner agreement currently being sought & Coolarne retaining wall – Progressing.
- Specific Improvement works at Belville are under discussion with affect landowner.
- Low-Cost Safety measure at Carnmore are progressing with works due to commence in the next 2/3 weeks.
- Build out works to footpath, Northgate street, Athenry



INSTALLATION OF  
NEW FOOTPATHS  
ON TUAM ROAD,  
ATHLERY



HEDGE CUTTING SEASON IN  
OPERATION



FLOOD RELIEF WORKS AT BALLINVOHER

WORKS TO EXTENSION OF ATHENRY OUTER RING ROAD



RESURFACING AT BAUNMORE

REPAIRS TO MARKET SQUARE, ATHENRY



## BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

Ballinasloe MD staff and contractors on its behalf continued the delivery of the remaining projects on the 2025 roadworks programme throughout the MD during September, including overlays and inlays in Ballinasloe Town (Poolboy and Sarsfield Road).

To date, 54 of 61 Restorative Improvement RI (~88%) projects are complete, while 100% of the Surface Dressing programme is complete.

Restorative Improvement (RI + DG) Works	Total Nr of Jobs	Nr of Jobs Commenced/ Completed	% Progress
Contractors	54	47	87%
Direct Labour	7	7	100%
	61	54	88%

Works were on-going on the climate adaptation project in Aughrim to replace and upgrade an existing culvert in Cloonameeragaun between St. Gabriel's GAA changing rooms and the Cloonameeragaun Abbey graveyard.

Direct labour crews completed three Local Improvement Schemes, including LIS at Fohenagh, Cloonkeen/Kilkerrin, and Moneen Williamstown.

Preparations were ongoing for the October Fair 2025 (5th – 12th October) in Ballinasloe, building on the success in 2024, in terms of traffic and waste management, trading and general business uplift throughout Ballinasloe.

During September, works were completed for the improvement and repairs to the changing rooms at the Dunlo Running Track. These works included the installation of 5 new exterior doors, repairs to vandalised out of hours booking access system for gate and doors, and painting of the interior and exterior of the building.

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### THE FOLLOWING ARE EXAMPLES OF WORKS UNDERTAKEN IN OCTOBER 2025



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### ROAD INLAY WORKS ON-GOING ON THE R348 SARFIELD ROAD, BALLINASLOE



ROAD INLAY WORKS COMPLETED ON THE R348  
SARFIELD ROAD, BALLINASLOE

ROAD INLAY WORKS ON-GOING ON  
THE L-4603 AT POOLBOY,  
BALLINASLOE



LIS CLOONEEN KILKERRIN

LIS FOHENAGH





WORKS ON-GOING FOR THE LIS MONEEN WILLIAMSTOWN

PRESS RELEASE



PREPARING THE FAIRGREEN FOR THE BALLINASLOE OCTOBER FAIR 2025

IMPROVEMENT TO THE CHANGING ROOMS AT THE DUNLO RUNNING TRACK, REPAINTING OF THE BUILDING AND INSTALLATION ON NEW DOORS



## DRAINAGE WORKS



Walsh Waste jetting/suctioning Slotted Drainage Kerbs along the L-1313 Road in Maigh Cuilinn and the L1309 Road from the Eastern Bypass Roundabout to Coill Bruachláin, including the two new roundabouts themselves. This is both slow and costly work, and the public's patience and



adherence to the temporary traffic management systems in place is appreciated.



P&D Lydon upgraded an undersized stone culvert in the R336 at a problem location in Cinn Mhara below. Works included a new 'headwall' construction using precast concrete blocks and an access chamber on the downstream side of the road

## DIRECT LABOUR WORKS ON INIS MÓR ISLAND

Three Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) projects were completed during the month of September at Corruch, Bóthar na Seacht dTeampall (down past the OPW managed site), and Róidín Chlaí Choggs. Works are complicated by the logistics of working on an island and the available working widths between the stone walls bounding the roads and the steep gradients that are a feature of many roads on the island that are being upgraded under the Local Improvement Scheme. This can be clearly seen on the following photos.




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## MAINTENANCE OF PERIODIC LIGHTS AT SCHOOL ACROSS THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

This is where Special Speed Limits are in force for certain times of the day, aligning with School Drop-off and Collection times. The photo taken below is at Scoil na Maighdine Muire gan Smál, Camus Uachtar on the R336.




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## STORM AMY, 3RD OCTOBER AND PRECEDING TORRENTIAL RAINFALL EVENT

Storm Amy, the 1<sup>st</sup> storm of the 2026/2026 season hit on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October with Orange Wind warning in effect from 2pm and lasted until 10pm. It was preceded by a Yellow warning for rainfall, Met.ie daily data shows that 70mm of rain fell across the two days in Athenry and Mace Head, but the effects were particularly felt across the Conamara MD

Storm Amy, the 1<sup>st</sup> storm of the 2026/2026 season hit on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October with an Orange Wind warning in effect from 2pm until 10pm. It was preceded by a Yellow warning for rainfall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October, which lasted most of the day, and again returned on the morning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> October with with-ranging impacts.

Met.ie daily data shows that 70mm of rain fell across the two days in Athenry and Mace Head, and the effects were particularly felt across the Conamara Municipal District with over a dozen road closures recorded across the network on all classes of roads. The National Secondary N59 road did not escape, and it was closed at a location east of Clifden near Pine Island Viewing Point and also near Kylemore Abbey and Lake. Temporary Traffic lights were in operation during daylight hours on Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Pine Island location but it was deemed too unsafe to leave them in situ after darkness, so the decision was made to close

the road on safety grounds. Thankfully, the waters receded, and the road was re-opened fully on Sunday morning, 5<sup>th</sup> October.

Conamara North Council staff did trojan work across both days and over the weekend, ensuring that roads were reopened as soon as possible for the public and emergency services.

In Maigh Cuilinn, Conamara South Council staff, aided by local contractors managed to re-open the 'Mountain Road' near the Playground the evening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> October and kept it open on the Friday in the height of the storm. A number of trees came down onto public roads during Friday afternoon, and again, the vast majority of these were addressed later that day when winds died down and it was deemed safe to attend.

Galway County Council operates an On-Call (Out of Hours) service to assist with dealing with Roads issues during evenings, at night and at weekends. Over the weekend there were multiple outdoor staff 'on call' together with attendant crews, plant and equipment. During this event, as with all severe weather events, the Council maintained communications with the crews on the ground, the Fire Service, the Civil Defence and An Garda Síochána. The Council benefited from its' bespoke self-developed management IT system for such events called 'SWEMS' (Severe Weather Emergency Management System). This enables us to map incidents and damage as we become aware of same to facilitate a clear picture of storm impact and the targeting of our resources.

## 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 76% complete. A high-level overview is as follows:

- 49 Restoration Improvement Grant projects – 43No. Complete (87%)
- 27 Restoration Maintenance Grant (RMG) projects – 27No. Complete (100%)
- 8 Local Tertiary Roads – 4No. Complete (50%)
- 5 Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Schemes – 4No. Complete (80%) and 1No. On-going
- 3 Low-Cost Safety Improvement Works – 1No. Complete and 2No. On-going
- 2 Former National Schemes – 1No. on-going and 1No. yet to commence
- LIS and CIS Schemes – 4No. complete.

An overview of other works on-going is as follows



BEDDING AND PERENNIAL PLANTS GROWN FROM SEED AT LOUGHREA DEPOT AND PLANTING SARCOCOCCA CONFUSA (SWEET BOX) AT THE GROVE, LOUGHREA



SEASONAL CUTTING AND REMOVAL OF GRASS AT CORRY'S FIELD, LOUGHREA TO ENHANCE BIODIVERSITY AND ENCOURAGE NATIVE SPECIES.



RECONSTRUCTION IN WOODFORD VILLAGE ON THE R-351 REGIONAL ROAD



ROAD RECONSTRUCTION ON THE R380 GORT ROAD, LOUGHREA



ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORKS AT CARRABANE VILLAGE



REINSTATEMENT OF ROCK ARMOUR UNDER THE CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE SCHEME AT AUGHINISH



BLACKWEIR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME (CIS) PROJECT



DRAINAGE AT RATHBAUN FARM



ROAD RAISING PROJECT AT GRANNAGH

### LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME (LIS)

The Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) supports the improvement of non-public roads that provide access to homes, farms, and community amenities. These roads are not maintained by the local authority but are of significant benefit to multiple landowners or the wider community.

The scheme is co-funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and local contributions from beneficiaries.

In 2025, the Tuam Municipal District saw strong progress under the LIS:

5 schemes from Round 1 have been successfully completed

9 new schemes from Round 2 have commenced

Total LIS funding allocated to Tuam MD in 2025: €318,967

This investment continues to enhance rural connectivity and support local communities across the district.



LIS ELLAGH HEADFORD

### SAFETY WORKS

#### TRAFFIC SIGNAL UPGRADES – TUAM 2025

As part of Galway County Council's ongoing commitment to road safety and traffic efficiency, new state-of-the-art traffic lights are being installed at two of Tuam's busiest junctions:

1. Ballygaddy Road / Milltown Road Junction

This junction had long-standing issues with traffic congestion, especially during peak hours. It serves as a major access route for traffic from Kilconly, Kilbannon, and Ballinrobe. The outdated signals are being replaced with modern, synchronised systems to improve flow and reduce delays.

## 2. Weir Road Junction

A critical route for traffic from Sylane, Caherlistrane, and the Tuam Industrial Park, connecting to the motorway. The upgrade aims to enhance safety and streamline traffic movement for both commuters and commercial vehicles.



Installation Timeline: Works are scheduled to be completed over a two-week period in October 2025.

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## HEDGE CUTTING – TUAM MD 2025

Galway County Council has made significant progress in its 2025 hedge cutting programme across the Tuam Municipal District:

National Roads: Hedge cutting works on all national roads across the county are nearing completion, ensuring improved visibility and road safety.

Regional Roads: Hedge cutting has commenced, with works being carried out by appointed contractors.

Local Roads: Operations are underway, managed by direct labour crews and local plant hire contractors, focusing on enhancing safety and accessibility for all road users.

These efforts are part of the Council's commitment to maintaining clear sightlines, improving road safety, and supporting biodiversity through responsible vegetation management.



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## NEW GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL TRUCK

In 2025, Galway County Council added new trucks to its fleet to support essential road maintenance and public works across the county.

One of these new trucks has been assigned to the Dunmore Roads Crew in the Tuam Municipal District, where it is already in active use for a range of operations, including:

Surface dressing of local and regional roads

Drainage schemes to improve road resilience and prevent flooding

Winter maintenance, where it will serve as a gritter for salting roads during icy conditions in the coming months



This investment enhances the Council's capacity to deliver efficient, year-round road maintenance, ensuring safer travel for all road users.

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MR. MICHAEL HUSSEY, PLANT YARD DRIVER ALONG WITH DUNMORE GENERAL SERVICE SUPERVISOR ON RECEIVING THE NEW TRUCK RECENTLY TO DUNMORE DEPOT

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## NATIONAL ROADS

The Tuam Municipal District Office is overseeing the procurement, contractor management, and delivery of several key Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)-funded HD28 and emergency pavement schemes across Galway County. These projects aim to improve road safety, surface quality, and long-term durability on national routes.

Key Projects Under Management:

N59 Oughterard Pavement Scheme – Full pavement rehabilitation to improve surface condition and safety.

N83 Parkmore Scheme – Includes both pavement improvements and safety enhancement works at a critical junction.

N84, N65 – Pavement retexturing to restore skid resistance and surface grip.

N63 Briarfield Pavement Improvements – Currently in procurement phase, with works to follow.

Total Funding Managed: €700,000

These projects are part of Galway County Council's strategic approach to maintaining and upgrading national road infrastructure, ensuring safer and more efficient travel for all road users.



N59 NIGHTTIME  
OVERLAY IN  
OUGHTERARD



N84 ROAD RETEXTURING

Mise, le meas,

**Chief Executive**  
**Galway County Council**  
**14<sup>th</sup> October 2025**