



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

TURASCÁIL BAINISTÍOCHTA MANAGEMENT REPORT



Samhain 2025
November 2025

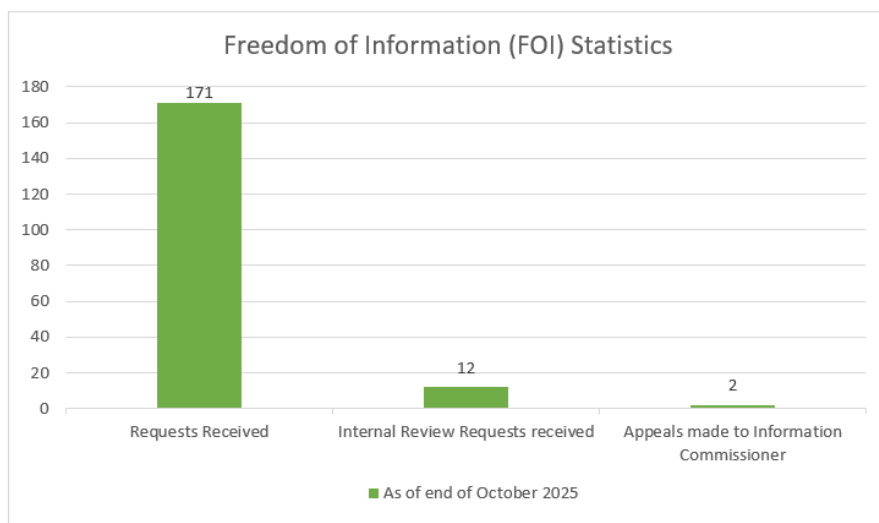
RURAL AND CORPORATE SERVICES AND RURAL, COMMUNITY & TOURISM
DEVELOPMENT & INTEGRATION

CORPORATE SERVICES

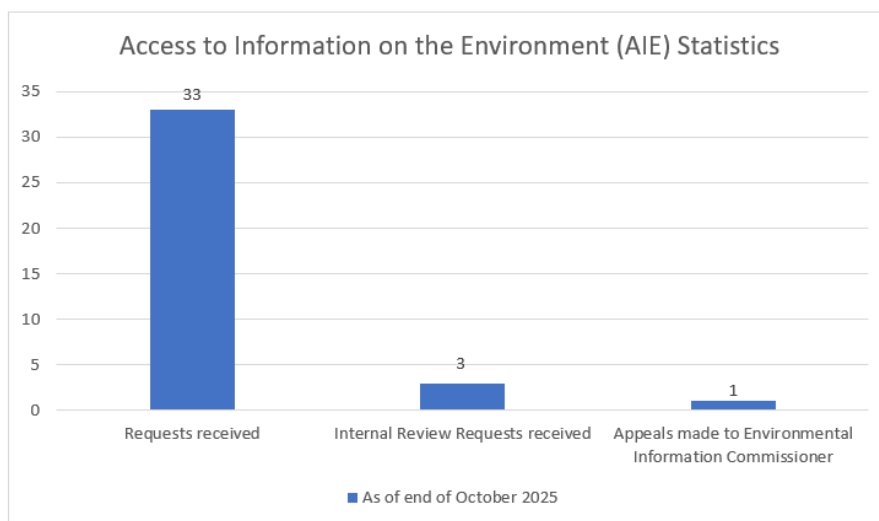
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION &
DATA PROTECTION

2025 YEAR TO DATE STATISTICS TO 31.10.2025

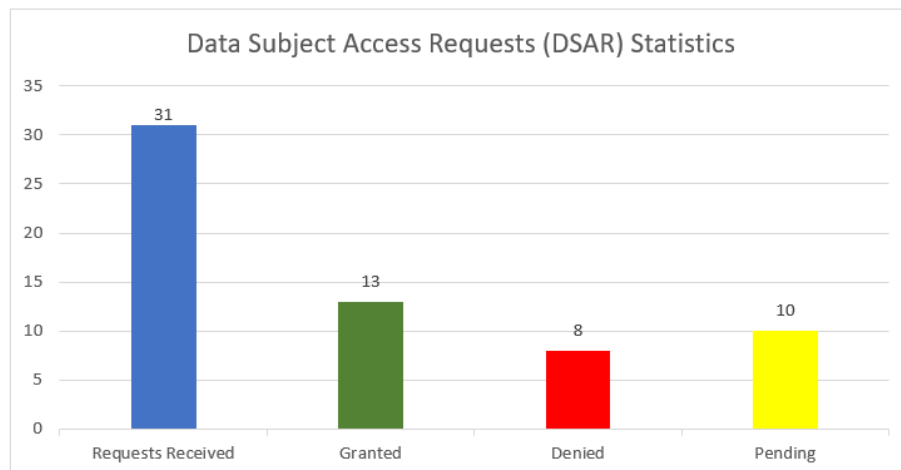
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



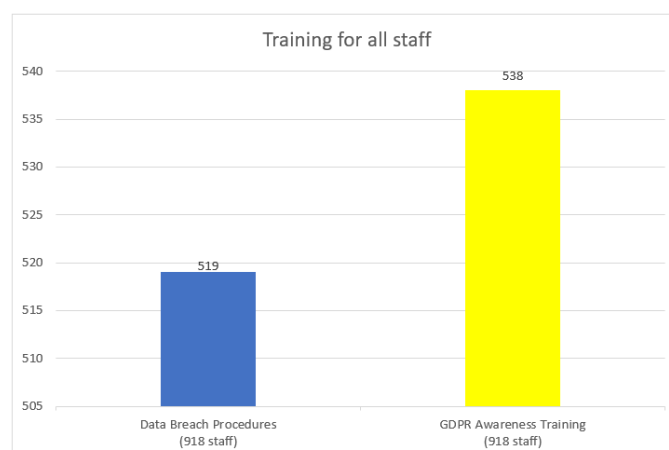
ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT



DATA PROTECTION



- 31 Requests received:
 - 24 Subject Access Requests
 - 5 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

We are delighted that the second playground inspection training took place on Saturday 8th November with a further 19 trained. Mel Cambell from Paly Services Ireland completed



both training workshops. 41 trained inspectors for County Galway playgrounds were trained in 2025.

ATTENDEES AT PLAYGROUND TRAINING 8TH NOVEMBER 2025

WATER SAFETY

Water Safety is a shared service between Galway County Council and Galway City Council. A comprehensive signage programme has been introduced to support risk assessments required under the Blue Flag and Green Coast standards. Following a successful bathing season, during which Galway County Council employed more than 50 lifeguards, the priority now is to continue working with the Water Safety Area Committee to deliver training in rescue techniques and beach lifeguard courses. Qualified participants will be eligible to apply for positions with Galway County Council when recruitment opens in 2026.

FACILITIES

The works required the replacing of several limestone capping stones to the steeple structure of St. Mary's church in Athenry. The contractor's preferred safe system of work used to transport and place these 100kg stones was a rope access system. See below pictures of completed work.



VISIT TO ÁRAS AN CHONTAE BY THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO IRELAND

The Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Councillor David Collins, Mayor of Galway City, Councillor Mike Cubbard, Chief Executive of Galway County Council, Liam Conneally with Chief Executive of Galway City Council, Leonard Cleary, welcomed the British Ambassador to Ireland Her Excellency Ms. Kara Owen, to Áras an Chontae. The special links between Galway and Britain were discussed and shared. This visit underscores our shared heritage and will further strengthen the deepening ties and ongoing economic collaboration and

mutual support between the two communities.

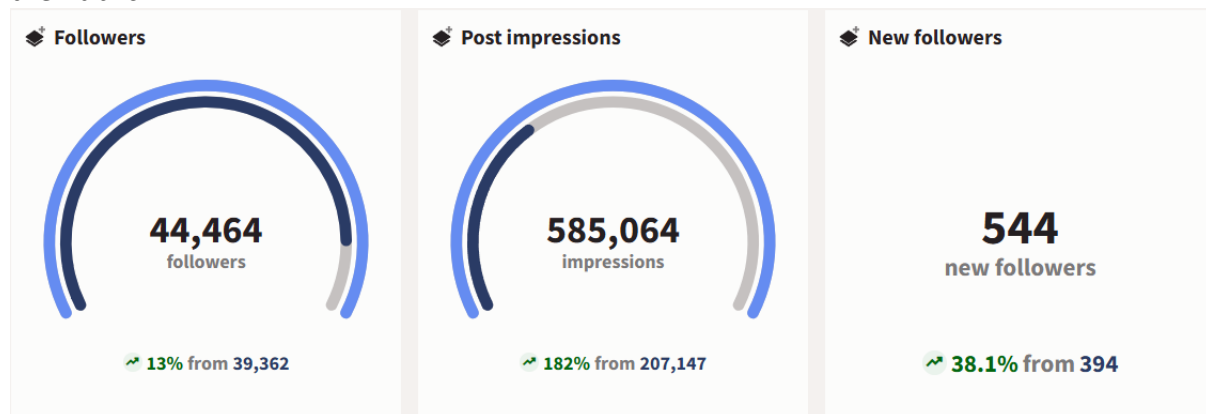


L-R: MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, CLLR. DAVID COLLINS, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY, HER EXCELLENCY MS. KARA OWEN, BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO IRELAND, CLLR. MIKE CUBBARD, MAYOR OF GALWAY CITY AND MR. LEONARD CLEARY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY CITY COUNCIL,

SOCIAL MEDIA

OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY





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



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

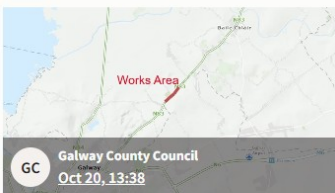
***Engagement** - The number of interactions people have with your content.

Includes: Likes, comments, shares, clicks, saves, and sometimes video views

Social Media Platform	Link	Number of Posts	Monthly Post Impressions
	www.facebook.com/galwaycounty	193	439,249
	www.x.com/galwaycoco	107	25,757
	www.instagram.com/galwaycountycouncil	214	117,648
	www.linkedin.com/galwaycoco	6	2,410
		520	

FACEBOOK NOVEMBER'S TOP THREE POSTS

Top posts



Galway County Council are giving notice for upcoming roadworks on the N83 Claregalway to Parkmore Junction from Galway Corinthians Rugby Club towards Parkmore for 600m. These works have commenced and will run for 3

34,370 impressions



Further reductions to car parking capacity at Oranmore train station from this Wednesday 8th October at 6pm The car park will be closed fully from this Thursday 9th October at 6pm until Tuesday morning 14/10/2025

20,370 impressions



John Madden & Sons Ltd will be commencing resurfacing works on behalf of Galway County Council on Wednesday 15th October on Station Road, Oranmore for a period of 2 weeks. To facilitate these works a Temporary Traffic

16,599 impressions

X(TWITTER) NOVEMBER'S TOP THREE POSTS

Top tweets



Status Orange - Wind warning for Donegal, Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Sligo Storm Amy: Near gale force to gale force and very gusty southwest to west winds. Valid: 14:00 Friday 03/10/2025 to 22:00 Friday 03/10/2025

1,045 impressions



On Friday, Minister @JamesBrowneTD broke ground on a €23.6m housing development in Baile Chláir. Galway's first council-led shared equity scheme will deliver 88 homes, a crèche, playground & more by Sept 2026.

640 impressions



Status Yellow - Rain warning for Galway, Kerry Storm Amy: Further spells of heavy rain. Potential impacts: • Flooding • Difficult travelling conditions Valid: 09:00 Friday 03/10/2025 to 15:00 Friday 03/10/2025 Issued: 13:49

468 impressions

INSTAGRAM NOVEMBER'S TOP THREE POSTS

Top posts



Storm Amy
Update :
Thursday 2 October 2025

galwaycountycouncil
Oct 02, 17:35

Galway County Council wishes to advise that Met Éireann has issued an Orange Weather Warning for strong wind events expected tomorrow Oct 3rd, particularly in coastal areas. Residents should prepare for near-gale gusts from

11,029 views



galwaycountycouncil
Oct 03, 11:45

Orange Weather Warning – Friday 3rd October 2025. Galway County Council continues to advise that Met Éireann has issued an Orange Weather Warning for strong wind events expected today Friday 3rd October 2025,

2,992 views



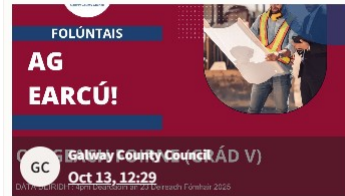
galwaycountycouncil
Oct 16, 14:33

On Friday, Minister James Browne TD broke ground on a €23.6 million mixed-tenure housing development in Baile Chláir, Claregalway. Led by Galway County Council and backed by €12 million from the Department of Housing,

2,973 views

LINKEDIN NOVEMBER'S TOP THREE POSTS

Top posts

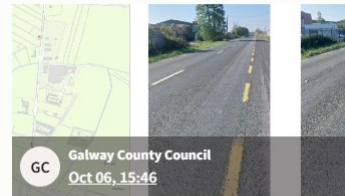


FOLÚNTAIS
AG EARCÚ!

Galway County Council
Oct 13, 12:29

Folúntais/Vacancy <https://ow.ly/eUpJ50WmSQ2> #jobfairy #gaillimh #galway


810 impressions



Galway County Council
Oct 06, 15:46

Road retexturing works will commence this Wednesday 8th October at 10am until 4pm on the N84 Headford Road at Carrowbrownne. A stop go system will be in operation during the works. Consequently users of this road are

555 impressions



VACANCIES
NOW HIRING!

Galway County Council
Oct 06, 11:48

Vacancy/Folúntais <https://ow.ly/eUpJ50WmSQ2> #jobfairy #gaillimh #galway

394 impressions

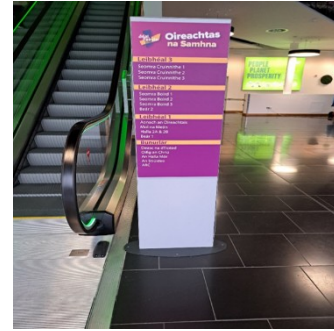
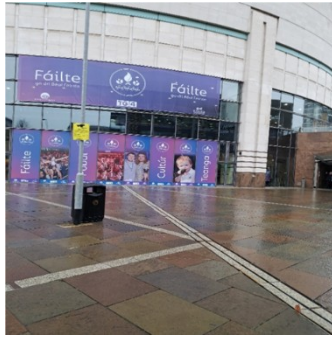
IRISH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

OIREACHTAS NA SAMHNA – BÉAL FEIRSTE, 29–31 DEIREADH FÓMHAIR 2025

OVERVIEW



Over three days, the Irish Officer attended Irish language and cultural events in Belfast (Europa Hotel, Belfast City Hall, and the Waterfront International Conference Centre (ICC). The events provided valuable insights into current developments in Irish language policy, media, education, and technology, and offered significant networking opportunities with stakeholders from across Ireland. Attendance exceeded 10,000 participants.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

IRISH COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS CEREMONY – BELFAST CITY HALL

- Recognition was given to outstanding Irish media across categories including Best Radio, Best TV, and Best Publication of the Year.
- The event highlighted the continued excellence and innovation within Irish-language media.

THURSDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2025

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF COFG (IRISH DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION)

- Attended by 35 Development Officers from Local Authorities, Government Departments, and Educational Institutions.
- Membership currently stands at 60.
- Concerns were raised regarding the absence of funding for COFG in 2025, with emphasis on its importance as a networking and information-sharing body for Irish language legislation and obligations.
- Government guidance indicates the launch of new language compliance measures in Jan/Feb 2026.
- Advertising monitoring under Article 10A of the Official Languages Act will follow the 2025 questionnaire format.

GREASÁN NA GAEILGE NETWORKING EVENT

Attended by approximately 120 participants. Organised by an tOireachtas to foster collaboration among professionals working through the medium of Irish.

OCTOBER – CONFERENCES & INNOVATION

CONFERENCE ON IRISH LANGUAGE SUPPORTS – EUROPA HOTEL

- Jointly organised by Conradh na Gaeilge, Sinn Féin, and Foras na Gaeilge.
- Topics included:
 - Language planning strategies
 - Housing challenges in Ireland, particularly in Gaeltacht areas

- Advocacy for preferential planning treatment for Irish-speaking applicants in Gaeltacht regions

WORKSHOPS & PRESENTATIONS:

- Coimisinéara Teanga report on advertising obligations.
- Launch of **ABAIR É** AI initiative for Irish dialects and accessibility.
- Údarás na Gaeltachta update on AI translation tools.

TRADE FAIR

- 150+ stands from media, government, academia, regulators, and political parties.
- Strong networking opportunities.

KEY ENGAGEMENT

Meetings with Catherine Connolly (President), Dara Calleary TD, Eamon Ó Cuiv, Senator Shane Curley, Irish Language Commissioner Seamus Ó Coincheanainn, NI Language Commissioner Paul Deeds, and Gerry Adams.

SUMMARY

The Oireachtas na Samhna events in Belfast offered a comprehensive overview of current challenges and opportunities in Irish language development. Key themes included funding constraints, legislative compliance, technological innovation, and strategic planning. The



engagements facilitated valuable connections with policymakers, educators, media professionals, and public sector representatives, reinforcing the importance of continued support and collaboration in promoting the Irish language. There were in excess of ten thousand people in attendance at these events.

COMMUNITY, RURAL & TOURISM DEVELOPMENT & INTEGRATION

OUTDOOR RECREATION STRATEGY

Funding of €30,000 per county has been provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRCDG) to support the development of an Outdoor Recreation Strategy, with a recent additional €10,000 allocated for environmental screening and translation into Irish.

The development of the Outdoor Recreation Strategy will be a key objective for 2026. The strategy will align with the national framework Embracing Ireland's Outdoors and guide the strategic enhancement of outdoor amenities across Galway. The strategy will play a key role in advancing our recreational development agenda, strengthening our capacity to deliver

high-impact recreational infrastructure and to support communities in accessing and enjoying Galway’s natural assets. It will also assist in identifying projects for delivery under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS).

The development of the strategy will be informed by an extensive public consultation process to include direct engagement with key stakeholders and the establishment of a County Outdoor Recreation Committee.

The Outdoor Recreation Team are delighted to confirm that the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht has approved funding of €245,700 for the construction of a 2.5km walkway with low level lighting around the perimeter of the Renville Sports & Community Grounds (Sports Centre of Excellence, Oranmore-Maree, is currently at construction stage).



Figure 3.5 Renville Sports and Community Centre - Master Plan

Renville Sports & Community Grounds will serve the sporting needs of the area with a number of all-weather and full-size pitches, and other community facilities.

The 2.5km walkway project is a major extension to the existing facilities in Renville Park and will interface well with planned and potential future developments in the area, including the proposed Galway-Athlone Cycleway. The project will provide improved access to the amenities in the

area for people of all ages, and specifically for people with disabilities and young children.

The project demonstrates leadership through the initiative of the Oranmore Maree Renville who are working in collaboration with Galway County Council on the project.



LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

A LCDC meeting will take place on the 9th December to discuss the SICAP case studies and to hear a presentation from the Integration Office.

STRATEGY CONSULTATION - DEPARTMENT OF RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND THE GAELTACHT - SUSTAINABLE, INCLUSIVE AND EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES (2019 - 2024)

The Department of Rural, Community Development and the Gaeltacht is currently preparing a successor strategy for the following:

Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities (2019 – 2024)

This is a whole of government strategy led by the DRCDG, which set out a long-term vision for communities in Ireland and a general direction of travel for government policy in relation to community development, local development and the community and voluntary sectors for the coming years.

The new strategy will look to build upon the structures, achievements and objectives of **Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities**, to further support the community and voluntary sector in Ireland and strengthen the relationship between government and the C&V sector at local and national level. It will aim to create a supportive policy, funding and institutional environment within which the sector operates, locally and nationally. It will also provide a high-level framework within which related policies that affect the C&V sector will operate.

This strategy is currently in the developmental phase, and as part of this process the Department are consulting with stakeholders, including other Government Departments, to share their views on key strategic and cross-cutting issues to help shape these strategies for this period.

Building on the work of the Department since its establishment in 2017 and reflecting commitments in the new Programme for Government, the DRCDG would be grateful to receive your input and views on:

- initiatives/objectives under your organisations remit that should be identified and prioritised in this strategy.
- Any current/planned developments relating to your organisations engagement with the Community and Voluntary sector

As a key stakeholder in this process, and should it be desired, the Department are available to engage in a bi-lateral discussion on topics that you consider warrant inclusion in this strategy.

If you would like to provide your views centrally, the department are asking for views to be submitted by email to communitypolicy@drcdg.gov.ie.

LCDC NATIONAL AND LOCAL COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN

As part of the National and Local LCDC Communications Campaign development phase, a schedule of training programmes' for LCDC members, staff, sub-committees, and communication team members has been organised. Attendees can attend a one day in person training or on-line over two separate sessions. To register for this training, attendees must email either eimear@matchmarketing.ie or brigeen@matchmarketing.ie

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME

Galway Rural Development has been approved additional funding of €5,735 under a one off targeted call for a specific project to support existing Empowering communities pilot programme. The project included supporting activities for children in the Ballinasloe area during the Halloween break.

2024 AUDIT OF THE SICAP AND LEP PROGRAMME

Galway County Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) has been selected for an audit for the Local Enhancement Programme and the SICAP 2024-2028 Programme. The objective of the audits is to review the implementation of the programmes by the LCDC and to undertake financial verification checks on behalf of the department. The audits of the two programmes will cover the 2024 financial year.

In relation to SICAP, the PIs selected for audit is GRD for contract 1 and 3 and Forum Conemara for Contract 2. The Local Government Audit Service will be visiting Galway County Council, Forum Connemara and GRD.

PRIDE OF PLACE COMPETITION

Clarinbridge has been named winner of the '300 – 1,000 Population' category at the 2025 IPB Pride of Place Awards, held on the 7th November at the Strand Hotel in Limerick. Nominated by Galway County Council to represent the county in the all-island competition, the south Galway village was selected for its exemplary community development efforts. The Pride of Place Awards, now in their 23rd year, are organised by Co-operation Ireland and sponsored by IPB Insurance. The programme recognises voluntary groups that demonstrate a strong commitment to improving their local areas through collaboration and civic engagement.

Established in 1979, the Clarinbridge Tidy Towns group has played a central role in enhancing the village's physical and social environment. It has been a part of projects involving the maintenance of local landmarks such as The Green, Parish Hall, Kilcornan Estate, and Cowpark. The village also promotes heritage and environmental care through the development of walking trails and green spaces.

Judges commended Clarinbridge's partnerships with organisations including the Clarinbridge Men's Shed and SCCUL Sanctuary, as well as its annual events such as Clarinbridge Market Day and Halloween on the Green.

The Marconi Men's Shed in Clifden also represented Galway County in this year's competition, competing in the 'Community Wellbeing' category. Although not a category winner, the group was recognised for its innovative approach to supporting male family carers and promoting health and wellbeing in the Connemara region.

The Clarinbridge Tidy Towns group was represented at the awards ceremony by Ronan Kavanagh and Mary Daly.



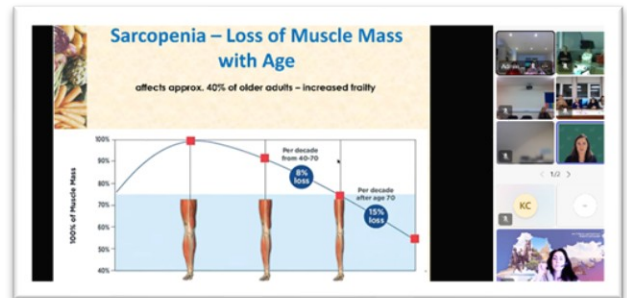
L-R: MS. HELEN MELIA, SENIOR STAFF OFFICER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, MR. RONAN KAVANAGH, CLARINBRIDGE TIDY TOWNS, CLLR. DAVID COLLINS, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY, MS. MARY DALY, CLARINBRIDGE TIDY TOWNS, MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, MS. THERESA DONOHUE, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND MR. MICHAEL OWENS, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES FOR CORPORATE SERVICES, RURAL, COMMUNITY 7 TOURISM DEVELOPMENT & INTEGRATION, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



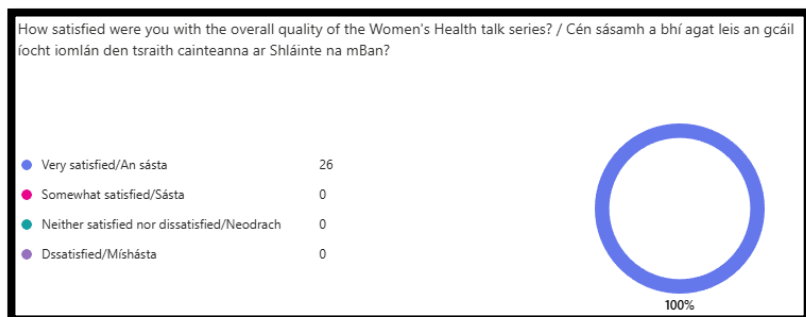
L-R: CLLR. DAVID COLLINS, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY, MS. MARY DALY & MR. RONAN KAVANAGH, CLARINBRIDGE TIDY TOWNS

WOMEN’S HEALTH PROGRAMME

The recent Empowering Women’s Health programme, focusing on perimenopause, menopause, and postmenopause, has been a very informative and worthwhile project. Participants praised the sessions for the informative content and practical advice, delivered by expert speakers across a range of topics including women’s health, herbal medicine, nutrition, physical exercise, and mental wellbeing. Feedback received to date has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the programme’s value in supporting women’s health and wellbeing within our community.



The findings confirm that the initiative has had a significant impact, reinforcing the importance of continuing and expanding similar health-focused programmes in the future. Building on this, a free breathwork session was recently provided to all the women who attended the Women’s Programme, offering participants an opportunity to learn and get further acquainted with breathwork as a daily practice. Additionally, in partnership with Galway Sports Partnership, there is an upcoming online workshop scheduled for women on Wednesday, 10th December from 7:00–8:00pm online. This workshop will cover menopause and muscle changes, the benefits of multimodal exercise for midlife health and information on the upcoming Menowell2 program scheduled to take place in early 2026.



TAKING STOCK FARMER'S HEALTH PROGRAMME

MEN ON THE MOVE UPDATE – LEITIR MÓR



The free 8-week Men's Health & Fitness Programme at Sportlann Naomh Anna, Leitir Mór got off to a very positive start welcoming men of all fitness levels on Thursday 9th of October from 7:00–8:30pm.



Combining practical workouts with expert advice on physical activity and wellness, the programme has seen consistent weekly attendance of 22–25 participants, many of whom have expressed interest in continuing beyond the initial eight weeks. A wide range of physical activities has been provided, and last week, Healthy County Galway attended to distribute Healthy Ireland merchandise to participants. The initiative for farmers and men locally has offered an ideal opportunity to improve health and wellbeing in a friendly, supportive environment.



This initiative is supported by Healthy Ireland, Galway Sports Partnership, and Forum Connemara. Healthy County Galway will also be supporting the upcoming National



National BEEF CONFERENCE
Beef Farming 2025: Value, Profit & Renewal
18TH 5 PM NOVEMBER
RAHEEN WOODS HOTEL ATHENRY CO. GALWAY

Session 1: High-Value Weanlings: From Breeding Decisions to Market Demand
Chairman: Dr. Pádraig Ó Súilleabháin
Speaker: Professor David Kenny

Session 2: Beef 2025 and Beyond: Prices, Profits and Passing on the Farm
Chairman: Dr. Pádraig Ó Súilleabháin
Speaker: Robert Clifton

Panel Discussion: Generational Retention on Irish Beef Farms
Chairman: Dr. Pádraig Ó Súilleabháin
Speakers: Dr. James O'Brien, Dr. John Heffernan, Dr. Pádraig Ó Súilleabháin

Panel Discussion: How to Increase Profit and Sell More of Your Product
Chairman: Dr. Pádraig Ó Súilleabháin
Speakers: Dr. James O'Brien, Dr. John Heffernan, Dr. Pádraig Ó Súilleabháin

www.teagasc.ie/beefcon25

Beef Conference, titled *Beef Farming 2025: Value, Profit & Renewal*, as part of the taking stock program which will take place on Tuesday, 18th November at 5:00 p.m. in Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry, Co. Galway. This free event will feature two key sessions: “High-Value Weanlings: From Breeding Decisions to Market Demand” and “Beef 2025 and Beyond: Prices, Profits and Passing on the Farm.” Expert speakers will address key topics on farming

National BEEF CONFERENCE
Beef Farming 2025: Value, Profit & Renewal
Exhibitors on the evening include:

- Teagasc: Advisory Service, Organic, Forestry, Collaborative Farming, Education, Health & Safety
- Waters of LIFE
- ht Galway
- Mental Health Ireland
- CRUI: Fighting Heart Disease & Stroke
- DAIRYBEEF
- Water Quality
- SIGNPOST
- WATERBEEF

www.teagasc.ie/beefcon25

strategies and planning, and free health checks will be subsidised by Healthy County Galway program on the evening. Exhibitors on the evening will include Teagasc, Mental Health Ireland, Croí, Healthy County Galway, and other organisations offering advice on farming, health, and wellbeing.

CONNEMARA DEMENTIA CAFÉ INITIATIVE

MEMORY CAFÉ MOVES TO OUGHTERARD

The Memory Café, previously held in Letter Mealláin, has now relocated to the Lake Hotel in Oughterard. This welcoming space offers informal gatherings for people living with memory loss and their carers, providing a chance to connect, share



experiences, and enjoy a relaxed social setting. Upcoming sessions will take place on Thursday, 30th October, Tuesday, 11th November, and Tuesday, 2nd December, running from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. The café will be facilitated by Kathleen Aspell, with support from volunteers.



Planned activities continue at our Memory Cafés in Clifden, Roundstone and Letterfrack, Connemara including live music, chair yoga, arts and crafts sessions and talks on aromatherapy and positive touch for attendees. This initiative is proudly supported by Healthy Galway, Forum Connemara, Creative Ireland, and the Alzheimer Society of Ireland, ensuring a friendly and inclusive environment for all.

Plans are also underway for a Christmas social event for people living with dementia, their caregivers and volunteers who have helped to facilitate the cafes in 2024.



The social gathering will take place at the Station House Hotel in Clifden on December 8th at 1:00 p.m. The event aims to bring together all those involved in the cafés throughout the year, fostering connection and celebration in a supportive environment. Activities will include a relaxing sound bath and live music, creating an enjoyable and inclusive experience for all in attendance.

COMMUNITY GROUPS – EVENTS & PROJECTS



Thrive Connemara hosted a free event on Tuesday, 14th October, at the Alcock & Brown Hotel in Clifden to celebrate World Mental Health Month. This event was codesigned to support mental health in Connemara and was subsidised by the Healthy County Galway program. Running from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., the event featured a series of wellbeing workshops for adults aged 18 and over, including

creative art activities, sound baths, drumming sessions, and practical guidance on the Five Ways to Wellbeing.



Further physical activities

supported by the Healthy County Galway programme have included Qi Gong classes in An Indreabhán, Connemara, and self-defence classes delivered at Domestic Violence Galway in Maigh Cuilinn. These initiatives aim to enhance physical

wellbeing, build confidence, and provide accessible opportunities for community members to engage in health promoting activities.



AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

The National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards were hosted by Galway City and County Councils on October 23rd in Galway. Organised by Age Friendly Ireland in conjunction with the two Galway Local Authorities, the awards acknowledge the good work in this area that is part of the Government's vision of an Age Friendly Ireland. Moreover, the awards highlight the commitment of communities across the country to improving the quality of life for older people and celebrate excellence across eight categories, each aligned with World Health Organization (WHO) Age Friendly themes.

The awards were in the following categories:

- Age Friendly Transport Award (sponsored by the Department of Transport)
- Age Friendly Community Innovation Award (sponsored by the Department of Rural & Community Development)
- Age Friendly Communication Award (sponsored by An Post)
- Age Friendly Housing Award (sponsored by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage)
- Age Friendly Environment Award (sponsored by the Centre for Excellence in Universal Design at the National Disability Authority (NDA))
- Age Friendly Safety & Security Award (sponsored by An Garda Síochána)
- Age Friendly Business Innovation Award (sponsored by Chambers Ireland)
- Age Friendly Active & Healthy Ageing Award (sponsored by the Department of Health and the Health Service Executive (HSE))
- Special Recognition Award



GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL STAFF AND CATHAOIRLEACH AT THE AGE FRIENDLY AWARDS

GALWAY COUNTY NOMINATED PROJECTED – CLIMATE DRIVE 60 +



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

The second PPN plenary meeting for 2025 is scheduled to take place on Wednesday November 12th @7pm. This is an online meeting. This will be a **FREE** gathering and networking event for community and voluntary groups from around the County. It will be an opportunity for volunteers to pick up useful information for their community and for their community groups. The Public Participation Network (PPN) is a network of over 1300 community & voluntary groups from all over County Galway. Its main purpose is to act on behalf of communities and provide input into local policies and plans at decision making committees both within Local Authorities and on other organisations. It is also an information sharing platform where PPN registered groups get regular information on topics that are of interest to them such as funding schemes, community events and training workshops There will be short presentations with a focus on the various departments of Galway County Council pertaining to Community Grants & Services, Galway Rural Development pertaining to SMART Villages Projects and Campion Insurance regarding Community Insurance. The PPN Plenary will provide a great opportunity for volunteers and community groups to learn about grants, procurement and community insurance.

RURAL GRANTS SCHEME

ARTS OFFICE

TULCA AT SCHOOL

The 23rd edition of TULCA, **Strange lands still bear common ground**, is curated by Beulah Ezeugo. The festival runs from 7-23 November. TULCA is a multi-venue, artist-centered festival of contemporary art that works with Irish curators to present innovative exhibitions that provoke and energise audiences into the world of the Visual Arts. TULCA Festival champions Galway city and county as central to the contemporary visual arts community and as a hub for artists, audiences and culture.

This year TULCA is working with 3 groups of teenagers based in Galway County through Irish: Coláiste an Eachréidh, Athenry, Foróige, Gort Youth Service and Scoil Phobail Mhic Dara, Carna. Ciara Corscadden Hennessy, TULCA's Irish Language Education Officer has been working with the teenagers in advance of the festival and guiding them through the process of interpreting art through Irish and developing art appreciation for contemporary art. As



part of this project the groups will visit the festival's exhibitions and immerse themselves in contemporary art with Ciara's support.

TULCA, STRANGE LANDS STILL BEAR
COMMON GROUND

STORYTELLING WITH ATHENRY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Renowned storyteller Órla McGovern is working with 50 students in two 3rd class groups at Athenry Primary School. The project started with a gorgeous storytelling performance by Órla with live music from Niceol Blue at Athenry Heritage Centre on 17 October. After giving the classes a sense of wonder about storytelling, Órla is delivering a series of workshops in November with the students to get their creative juices flowing so they can create and perform their own stories.

ÓRLA MCGOVERN



CREATIVE PLACES TUAM

A number of events have taken place as part of Creative Places Tuam programme during November. **The Loop Sessions** launched in September. Loop Sessions are informal monthly gatherings where creatives can connect, share ideas, and spark collaborations - all in a relaxed, welcoming setting. This has been a very welcome gathering for locals in Tuam



Graft is a new series of artist gatherings rooted in connection, conversation, and shared practice. Exploring the unseen work behind sustaining a creative carer. The first takes place took place on the 6th of November in Brú Bhríde, Tuam with Valerie Kelly, Creative Ireland and Ceramicist Claire Mclaughlin.



121 Soundboard. This has been formalised into the Creative Place Tuam Programme where Artists can book a 30 minute sessions between 10am-1pm every third Wednesday of the month with either Fiona Hession or Joanna McGlynn. Launched in September 2025.

CREATIVE IRELAND

October and November are a hive of activity in Creative Ireland. Over the past few weeks there has been a steady stream of projects finishing up as we approach the deadline for recoupment. Funding for the Creative Ireland programme is divided into a number of categories, including Open Call projects, Culture and Creativity Team projects, and Flagship projects. Below are some recently completed examples from the 2025 programme.

CREATIVE IRELAND OPEN CALL

Each year we run an Open Call for funding. This year 12 projects out of 59 applications were successful. A total of €71,055 was awarded to projects covering every Municipal District. Many have been reported on in previous management reports, so below is a rundown of the most recently completed projects.

ATHENRY MUSIC SCHOOL – JOINING OF WORLDS

Athenry Music School joined the old and the new together with their project ‘Joining of Worlds’, wherein the historical setting of Athenry’s Medieval castle was used as the



backdrop for a pop venue.

Orchestral arrangements were created for modern pop songs as audiences of the younger and older members of the community came together in a collaborative celebration of music and heritage. In total almost 200 people were involved in this project, either as performers or audience members.

CREGGS RURAL DEVELOPMENT CLG – CREGGS QUILT

Creggs Rural Development made their first application to the Creative Ireland Open Call this year for a wonderful community project. Over the course of the summer months, a group of people came together to create a heritage quilt for Creggs. The project took place every Thursday evening from 7.30 to 9 pm. The group consisted of people living in the village for many years, new residents, people with intellectual disabilities, people from Ukraine who came to the area following the onset of war, elderly people, young people and was a wonderful opportunity for people to get to know each other. A decision was made to base the design of



the quilt on the streetscape of Creggs and people undertook to design the various buildings plus representations of various elements of biodiversity, community, inclusion etc.

GORT ARTS – FITE FUAITE 3



Now in its third year, Fite Fuaite is a programme of free creative workshops managed and delivered by Gort Arts. The aim of these workshops is to introduce members of the community in Gort



to new forms of crafting, and to help them learn new skills and become better acquainted with other members of the community. A surprising change this year was that the vast majority of the 80 attendees were not members of Gort Arts, but rather people from the wider community who had not previously engaged in creative projects. This project has gone from strength to strength each year as Gort's creative portfolio grows and diversifies.

PORTUMNA ARTS GROUP – A PATTERN FOR PORTUMNA

This intergenerational project saw students from Youthreach Portumna work collaboratively with senior attendees at the Portumna Day Care Centre to create a piece of mosaic artwork which is now on display at the local library. An artist worked with the participants to develop a diamond shape which could then be customized and personalized to match the tastes of each individual. This project gave participants an opportunity to have a meaningful and tangible effect on the aesthetic appeal of their town. Staff at the Day Care Centre reported an increase in social skills amongst their senior attendees and students reported a strong sense of personal reward.

CULTURE & CREATIVITY TEAM

Within Galway County Council we have an active Culture & Creativity Team. This consists of staff members from a broad range of areas including but not limited to, Libraries, Heritage, Biodiversity, Climate Action, Healthy Ireland, and Integration. Each year members of the C&C team pitch ideas for Creative Ireland funded projects. Below is a bulletpointed list of the 2025 C&C Team projects as they will be discussed in more detail in their respective sections.

- Biodiversity Office
 - Wild Trad Tunes
- Climate Action Office
 - Sustainable Fashion Project with SAUTI Youth

- Healthy Ireland
 - Dementia Cafés for Connemara
- Heritage Office
 - Forged in Fire: Ballinasloe's history of iron and metalworkers
- Integration Team
 - Community through Artistic Expression
 - One Million Stars
 - Diversity on our Doorstep
 - From Ukraine to the Four Roads to Glenamaddy
 - Tuam Tango
- Library Services
 - Spring Into Storytime
 - Bealtaine Festival
 - Summer Stars

FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

As well as the Open Call and C&C Team projects, we also manage a few projects in-house each year. These are generally chosen based on the gaps in programming to ensure that there is an even spread in creative opportunity for all members of our society. For this reason, it was decided that we would partner with Brothers of Charity Services Ireland to deliver creative programmes in Oranmore and South Connemara.

COIS CLADAIGH – TOTAM



Participants made a series of sculpted totems to be enjoyed in their communal garden and outside spaces. They experimented with mixed media, ranging from cardboard, papier mâché and clay. Inspiration was drawn from shapes and textures of their local Connemara landscape.

The artists then made a series of self-portraits, observing themselves in drawings and paintings and how they see themselves. These were then reimagined as masks, using a range of materials such as cardboard and papier mâché to sculpt and decorate. Artists also had the opportunity to partake in a dance/performance piece, wearing their masks and expressing themselves further through movement and music.

This is the third installment in a series of arts projects based on exploring the concepts of personal identity and connection to place.



LIMELIGHT CREATIVE ARTS - CREATIVE LIVING: AN INCLUSIVE HOMEWARE RANGE BY LIMELIGHT CREATIVE ARTS



Limelight Creative Arts has a strong track record of delivering inclusive, community-focused art projects that empower marginalized voices and foster creative expression.

This year's project saw the artists at Limelight create a unique home ware range using hand-drawn illustrations by artists with intellectual disabilities. Led by artist Sorsha Galvin, the project featured workshops in drawing, painting, and collage, enabling participants to develop their creative skills and translate their artwork into marketable designs.

The designs were then professionally applied to fabrics and home ware items by a third-party producer and may also be licensed to local businesses for product packaging, creating

long-term economic opportunities. At the time of reporting, roughly 50 orders had been taken for specific designs which are not being processed. Items were displayed in Limelight exhibition space where people could view and purchase items. The group took great pride in having the public appreciate their work with positive feedback from community members.

GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

HEALTHY IRELAND OUTDOOR SWIMMING INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

Galway Sports Partnership were successful in securing €25,000 as part of Round 2 of Healthy Ireland outdoor swimming infrastructure fund. This funding will go towards improved access at Loughrea Swim Area and freshwater showers at Trá Mhór, Traught and Trá na Dóilín and will build on Round 1 which saw the installation of new ladders and railings at Portumna Swim area along with three Beach Shelters at Traught, An Spidéal and Inis Meáin.

DYSPRAXIA SPORTS DAY

On Wednesday 29th October Galway Sports Partnership in partnership with Dyspraxia Ireland ran a Sports Day for children with Dyspraxia. Activities included walking soccer, giant board games and stretching/pilates. The children were particularly interested in the stretching/pilates delivered by Galway Sports Partnership. Galway Sports Partnership look

forward to working with this group of children on other activities in 2026.



MS. KELLI MCGRATH, ATLANTIC TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY PLACEMENT STUDENT WITH GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP SETTING UP THE SESSION.

MY MOVING BRAIN

MY MOVING BRAIN
Join us to hear from inspiring speakers, try inclusive sports & get hands-on with fun science activities at our Community Connect Event in Galway!

Our Speakers

- Living with a Brain Condition: Insights from a Neurologist
Dr Marwa Elamin, Consultant Neurologist at University Hospital Galway
- There is no 'I' in Team
Eamon McParlin, Founder of FND Ireland & Chartered Engineer
- From Participation to Co-creation: My Experience with Sport and Epilepsy
Kate Ni Ghobhain, Paralympic Ambassador & Epilepsy Ireland Volunteer
- Never accepting NO
Fergus Farrell, Challenge Seeker, Mental Health and Disability Advocate & Author
- European Academy of Childhood-onset Disability Congress 2026: A snapshot of what you can expect!
Hazel Killeen, President, EAACD Annual Congress 2026
- Seizing Control: Winning with Epilepsy
Dr Michael McKillop MBE, Paralympian champion & motivational speaker

The event aims to bring together people & families impacted by brain conditions, sports clubs, coaches, teachers, healthcare professionals, advocacy organisations & anyone with an interest to join the community conversation on brain health and inclusion in sport.

Scan the QR code to register now!

1 November 2025, 1:30 - 4:30pm
University of Galway

Partners: future neuro, Epilepsy Ireland, S, nai, Galway Sports Partnership, Galway City Council, Galway City Sports Partnership, Galway City Sports Partnership, Galway City Sports Partnership, Galway City Sports Partnership.

On Saturday 1st November Galway Sports Partnerships Sports Inclusion Disability Officer Ellie Loftus attended Future Neuro’s Galway event ‘My Moving Brain’ in the University of Galway. This event was run by Future Neuro in partnership with Galway Sports Partnership, Epilepsy Ireland, Research Ireland and The Neurological Alliance of Ireland. The aim of the day was to highlight the importance of exercise for brain disabilities and brain injuries. Guest speakers included Fergus Farrell disability advocate from Galway, Dr Marwa Elamin Neurologist in University College Hospital Galway and Paralympian Dr Michael McKillop. Two of Galway Sports Partnership tutors delivered demonstrations to

attendees. Helen Daly delivered an Activator Pole demo along with speaking to attendees about the benefits of the poles for individuals with issues such as Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinsons. Michael Callaghan delivered demonstrations on balance, coordination and flexibility and shared the importance of these to people with disabilities.



EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND SOCIAL INNOVATION IN SPORT

Over the past number of months, Galway Sports Partnership has built up a great

relationship with our friends at Dóchas don Óige.



Dóchas don Óige is a Probation Funded Project supported by Galway Roscommon Education Training Board, providing services for young people in the Galway city area. The primary concern of Dóchas don Óige is to provide a second chance. This is a key concept and not only does

the centre offer an alternative means of pursuing education for young people, but it also guides and counsels' young people and their families.

The young people have tried a varying range of sports over the past couple of months, including Lazer Tag, Paintballing and Go-Karting.



Club OSAAT (One Step At A Time) is a group of individuals in recovery. This group has continued to grow since its establishment earlier this year and it now has surpassed 40 members. The Club partakes in physical activity across Galway, and they have now taken part in Kayaking, Cycling, Hiking & Bushcraft, Go-Karting and in mid-November, they met in



Clarinbridge for a mindfulness and wellness retreat, aptly named – The Way Forward.

The club was developed by ESF+ Social Innovation in Sports Officer, Gary Flannery. We are currently recruiting people in recovery to come along and take part in some of our events.

People can have a huge sense of loss, especially in early recovery and helping fill that void with physical activities, is not only a very positive substitute, but it also promotes some planning and structure into people's lives.

We have some very exciting projects already in the pipeline for 2026, if you would like to know more, or get involved, email Gary on gflannery@galwaycoco.ie or call him on 087 1873141.

ACTIVE ISLANDS

Galway Sports Partnership and Klaaskickz have started a 6-week soccer program on Inis Mór for both primary schools on the island. Klaaskickz concentrates on four key areas Fun, Inclusion, Confidence Building and Fundamental Movement Skills. The High-Energy Sessions are delivered in Irish by Football Association of Ireland Qualified Coaches, focusing on the holistic development of every child to be Confident in Football & Confident in Life.

Gluaiseacht agus Greagaireacht

To mark world mental health month Galway Sports Partnership collaborated with Thrive Connemara, Pleanáil Teanga Inis Meáin and Parkrun Inis Meáin to organise a Walk and Talk



on Inis Meáin. On the 25th of October at 11:00am during Inis Meáin's Parkrun Islanders were encouraged to get out of the house, get some exercise and chat. There was some tea, coffee, biscuits and more for them after the Parkrun. The Walk and Talk will be ongoing for a few weeks with the goal of increasing island participation in the Parkrun.

WOMEN IN SPORT

Health and Strength in Menopause

Galway Sports Partnership have partnered with Edufit to deliver a 60min online workshop on all aspects of health, exercise and strength training during Menopause. This takes place on 10th December from 7pm-8pm and all who register will be able to access a recording.

The online session will also cover any questions that participants may have about the upcoming Menowell 2.0 programme which will be delivered in January 2026.

HER MOVES

The two HER Moves Empower Mix Programmes are entering the final few weeks of delivery, engagement has been fantastic, in no small part through the efforts of Susie Cunningham and Olive Flynn from Galway Community College and Elaine Mahony and the team at Tuam Schools Completion. Last week, Orna Murray from Move2B delivered an inspiring and educational workshop focused on the unique challenges teenage girls face in sport and physical activity. This session formed part of the programme's educational strand, exploring the physiological and psychological changes that occur during adolescence. Orna provided practical advice on managing menstruation and understanding its impact on body image and self-esteem. The workshop was delivered to 12 girls at Galway Community College and 88 girls at Archbishop McHale College in Tuam, sparking meaningful



conversations and empowering participants with knowledge and confidence to stay active during this pivotal stage of life.

The next few weeks will introduce gymnastics, gym circuits, aqua aerobics and dance. The programme will also feature a creative session focused on self-care and personal expression, such as hair styling, nail care, and makeup. These additions aim to support the holistic development of the girls, promoting both physical wellbeing and self-confidence.



As part of our ongoing club support funding initiative, four women from Letterfrack and the surrounding North Connemara areas—each actively involved in a range of sport and physical activity clubs including outdoor, kayaking, and walking groups—successfully completed their REC 3 First Aid training. The training took place in Delphi, providing a practical and immersive learning environment. The participants described the course as invaluable, significantly enhancing their ability to manage first aid scenarios while leading groups in outdoor settings. This training represents a key investment in building local capacity and ensuring safer participation in community-based physical activities.

WOMEN IN SPORT SUMMIT



On 08th Nov, our Development Officer Karen attended the *Women in Sport Summit 2025: From Progress to Impact – Leading the Next Chapter for Women in Sport*, which brought together a wide cross-section of Ireland’s sporting community. The event opened with powerful remarks from Dr. Úna May, Bethany Carson, and Michelle Tanner, setting a tone of ambition and collaboration. A standout moment was the keynote address by Marie Gleeson, former Naval Officer and Leadership Consultant, who spoke compellingly about the role of trust and leadership in shaping team culture and driving success. The summit also featured an insightful Q&A session led by

Rob Hartnett with Paul Haran, Chairperson of Golf Ireland, who emphasised the transformative impact of gender equality on organisational performance and the importance of education in shifting behaviours.

In addition to the rich content, the summit provided a valuable networking opportunity, allowing for meaningful engagement with colleagues from other Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs), National Governing Bodies (NGBs), and key stakeholders across the sport sector.

These connections are instrumental in fostering collaboration, sharing best practices, and strengthening collective efforts to advance gender equity in sport.

INTEGRATION

The Integration Team continued to deliver support to Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection living in 34 designated accommodation centres across the County and living in the community. We administer the Offer a Home programme, in partnership with the International Organisation for Migration, to 64 residents in 33 OAH properties. We provided 15 information clinics to 411 International Protection Applicants across 8 accommodation centres.

The Community Integration Forum of key stakeholders met along with the Intercultural Working Group and Health & Wellbeing group, identifying challenges in the migrant sector and identifying ways to meet these challenges.

We also delivered the following events along with local stakeholders:

Glenamaddy: 'From Ukraine to the Four Roads' with Glenamaddy Community Centre and Creative Ireland Galway County – an evening of music, dance, art and food.



UKRANIAN RESIDENTS
FROM ÁRAS BRÍDE
ACCOMMODATION
CENTRE, GLENAMADDY

TOURISM

JUST TRANSITION FEST 2025

The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) hosted Just Transition Fest 2025 in Mount Drude, Castletown, County Westmeath, showcasing the transformative impact of the EU Just Transition Fund across the wider midlands' region.

The event highlighted a range of innovative projects that demonstrate how EU Just transition funding is driving local enterprise development, job creation and sustainable economic growth.



The Activator for Galway attended this event, while Lyn Donnelly, project manager at BACD, highlighted the organisations’ role in advancing community led and sustainable development initiatives.

Overall, Just Transition Fest 2025 provided an inspiring overview of the positive and practical outcomes of EU Just Transition Fund investments across the Midlands.

MINISTER OF STATE MR. ROBERT TROY PICTURED WITH JUST TRANSITION FUND ACTIVATORS

JUST TRANSITION ACTIVATOR FOR GALWAY AND LYN DONNELLY, PROJECT MANAGER AT BACD, ATTENDED JUST TRANSITION FEST 2025



DESTINATION EXPERIENCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN – CONNEMARA AND THE ISLANDS

Community Meetings Schedule Connemara & Islands

- Wednesday 15th October
10.30 - 12.30 Connemara Coast Hotel, Furbo
- Tuesday 21st October
11.00 - 13.00 Connemara Lake Hotel, Oughterard
15.00 - 17.00 Community Centre, Carraroe
- Wednesday 22nd October
11.00 - 13.00 Community Hall, Leenane
15.00 - 17.00 Clifden Stationhouse Theatre
- Thursday 6th November *
10.00 - 11.30 Community Hall, Inis Óirr
12.30 - 14.00 Community Hall, Inis Meáin
16.30-18.30 Halla Ronan, Arainn
- Friday 5th December *
20.00 Community Le Chéile Event, Community Centre, Inishboffin

*Note change to schedule



All Welcome

Register in advance
by emailing
Agnes.ODonnell@failteireland.ie




Fáilte Ireland in collaboration with Galway County Council is developing a Destination Experience Plan (DEDP) for Connemara and the Islands.

As part of this process, a series of community consultation meetings have been held across various venues throughout Connemara. These meetings are designed to engage local communities and gather valuable insights in shaping the future of tourism in the region.

If you didn't get to attend one then please [complete this survey before November 14th.](#)

This is an opportunity to have a say in what the future of tourism will look like in this area.

DESTINATION EXPERIENCE PLAN – EAST GALWAY

Galway County Council is supporting the development of an East Galway Destination and Experience Development Plan (DEDP). This initiative, delivered by Fáilte Ireland, aligns closely with our Tourism Strategy and reflects our shared commitment to enhancing the visitor experience across the region.

As part of this process, consultants Mark O’Connell of Repucon have been appointed to lead the East Galway DEDP.

An online briefing with Galway County Council representatives took place on 5th November. This session was delivered by Repucon.

The purpose of the briefing was to outline the proposed approach and lay the groundwork for one-to-one interviews between Repucon and relevant Council colleagues. As part of the process, Repucon will be collating information on all relevant plans, feasibility studies, and shovel-ready projects currently in train or under consideration over the next five years.

A working group is currently underway, and community group meetings will take place in Q1 of 2026.

BIA INNOVATOR CAMPUS

4th CIBUS Regional Stakeholder Meeting in Galway

Join Galway County Council for the 4th Regional Stakeholder Meeting of the Interreg Europe Project CIBUS at BIA Innovator Campus

This free and open session will bring together local authorities, community organizations, researchers, and food system actors to continue our regional discussions on:

Date: Friday 5th December

Time: 9:30–12:00

Venue: BIA Innovator Campus, Athenry.

This workshop will gather hospitality businesses, educators, policymakers, and community organizations to discuss practical and policy-based actions for reducing food waste.

Topics include hospitality waste prevention, food education in schools, and green public procurement. Building on previous meetings and interregional exchanges, this edition will explore how to translate shared insights into concrete pilot ideas that can inform future policy actions.



ENVIRONMENT

WASTE MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

An invitation to tender for the operations of our Civic Amenity Sites was published on OJEU with a closing date of 24th October. Tender evaluation and award of contract is scheduled for November.

HISTORIC LANDFILLS

Further environmental monitoring, invasive species inspection, and CCTV survey was undertaken in Tullyvoheen, Clifden. The procurement of Consulting Engineers to prepare a planning application to An Coimisiún Pleanála for the remediation works will be undertaken next quarter when the new Multi Party Framework Agreement designed by the Regional Waste Management Planning Office becomes available.

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING & ENFORCEMENT

AIR & NOISE

Two asphalt plant sites were audited during the month for compliance with conditions of their air licenses. No air pollution exceedances were found. A number of Certificates of Compliance were issued to Vehicle Refinishers in the county under the Deco Paint Regulations. Radio advertisements and a social media campaign are being planned to promote awareness of the burning of approved solid fuels this winter heating season.



AGRICULTURE

Galway County Council attended and presented findings at a NAIP meeting on the organic manure movements pilot being carried out in the county. Our agricultural inspector also presented at an SPC meeting on the 6th October. Inspections were carried out in relation to reports received on slurry spreading in the closed season. One farmer is to be cross reported for spreading within 10 meters of a watercourse with heavy rain forecast, and a further case regarding pollution run off from a farmyard is progressing to court. Plans are being finalised for inspections in the Headford area, adjacent to Lough Corrib - these commenced the last week of October and will continue during November.



OVER APPLICATION OF SLURRY CLOSE TO A WATERCOURSE

SEPTIC TANK INSPECTIONS

A meeting took place with the law agents in relation to approximately 20 files that require enforcement proceedings to be initiated for failure to comply with advisory notices. On foot of this meeting, further inspections are to be carried out on these systems and will be completed in November.

CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

A pre-consultation workshop took place in Dublin on the 23rd October on identifying the significant water quality management issues in Ireland to inform the 4th River Basin Management Plan. This was attended by one of the environment section's technical staff and included presentations on:

- Water quality in Ireland – EPA
- Local Authority and Catchment Management Work Plans – LAWPRO
- Vision for engagement and participation in the fourth cycle – An Fóram Uisce
- Engagement on water quality across the farming community and industry – Teagasc

OIL POLLUTION

3 technical staff attended SEAPT (Shannon Estuary Anti-Pollution Team) training on Hazardous and Noxious Substance Awareness on the 20th October in Foynes, Co. Limerick. SEAPT provides annual training to its members and run on-site training exercises to mimic oil or hazardous substances pollution incidences.

PRE-PLANNING

Pre-planning meetings took place in relation to a number of large developments. One was for an anaerobic digestion facility to process agricultural organic wastes to produce renewable gas and electricity, others were for a large residential development in Loughrea and a solar farm for production of clean energy.



PROPOSED ANAEROBIC DIGESTION FACILITY

LITTER & WASTE

- As part of this year's Anti-Dumping Initiative, we ran a billboard campaign highlighting the importance of using authorized waste collectors. This billboard was displayed in several towns around the county during October and November.



- A large-scale clean-up of waste and old caravans began at Pollboy, Ballinasloe, in October. This site was the source of multiple complaints over the years, and multiple failed attempts to carry out the work due to occupied caravans on the site. A number of the residents moved out this year therefore we were able to carry out the clean-up. Multiple wrecked caravans and tens of tonnes of waste was removed from the site. A litter pick was carried out to finish the project. 3 loads of concrete kelly clocks were purchased to secure the road and block access / parking spots for caravans. There are still 2 occupied caravans on the road, which are preventing the completion of the project. We need the assistance of the Housing section to remove these caravans.



PHOTO SHOWING THE SCALE OF WASTE ON SITE

- Multiple inspections were carried out during October in accordance with our RMCEI monitoring programme. These included Producer Responsibility Inspections under the tyre regulations, plastic bag levy, WEEE, and battery regulations.



Three Waste Facility Permit site inspections, and 4 hazardous waste inspections, were also carried out.

The construction and demolition waste sector is becoming increasingly busy - there were 6 Article 27 registrations in October, and 2 C&D waste inspections were carried out on active building sites. A number of unauthorized C&D sites were inspected in October – this photo is of one such site in Tuam where the operator of this site was contacted, and all material was removed to an authorized site.

- During the month of October, 6 fines were issued under the Litter Pollution Act by our Community Warden Service. In total, 72 fines have been issued by the service as of the end of October with 34 fines paid in full, 11 files referred to the law agent to initiate legal proceedings, and a further 16 being actively processed through the system.
- 5 cases in regard to offences under the Litter Pollution Act were heard in Ballinasloe, Gort and Loughrea District Courts during the month of September. All cases were subsequently adjourned for further hearing in November.
- We had one waste prosecution before Tuam District Court in October. This related to assorted waste stored in the front garden/ driveway of a property in Headford. A Section 55 Notice was issued to the individual responsible. This Notice was not complied with despite multiple court appearances and adjournments. A Section 58 Court Order was granted by the court directing the defendant to comply with the Section 55 Notice.

BURIAL GROUNDS

CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME

An extension to Leitir Móir burial ground was awarded in June 2025 to CC Plant Hire following tendering under Chief Executive Order E3083. Works on site commenced at the end of July and progressed through the following months until early November, when works were completed. The Council have agreed with the local community that the official opening of this new section of burial ground will take place at Easter 2026.

STORM ÉOWYN WORKS PROGRAMME

Works to remove fallen trees and repair damaged boundary walls have been progressed at the following burial grounds; Ard Bear, Cargin, Cummer, Clonberne, Cor an Dola, Glenamaddy, Kilconly, Kilconnell, Kilcummin, Kilgerrill, Kilower Belclare, Mount Pleasant, Turlough, St. Marys Athenry.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS & EDUCATION

AWARENESS & EDUCATION INITIATIVES

The Environmental Awareness Officer visited Mountbellew NS and Clifden NS to advise on their Green Schools programme.



Climate Resilience: Rainfall & Flooding

How flood resilient is your school? Join this popular campaign to investigate rainfall, puddles & drainage.

All schools in the county were invited to take part in 2 globe projects, on river ecosystems and on Climate Resilience.



All schools in the county were invited to take part in the Biodiversity in Schools Coill na nÓg project. Coill na nÓg have over 4,000 FREE trees to give away as mini-woodlands and native hedgerows. Online training, resources, and certificates are provided, and there is also a social media competition with 3 outdoor classrooms to be won.

COMMUNITY ACTION & PARTNERSHIPS

Approximately 76 tonnes of electrical waste was collected for recycling at 11 collection points during October by WEEE Ireland.



As part of Climate Action Week, an information stand on waste management was hosted in Áras an Chontae.

LITTER PREVENTION INITIATIVES

A multi-media campaign was delivered to discourage burning of waste in bonfires in October.



DOG CONTROL

PROMOTION OF RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

651 dog licences were purchased during the month of October. Of these, 556 were purchased at the local post office with the remainder purchased online. Licencing campaigns were carried out in the Turloughmore and Baile Chláir areas of the county with the assistance of the Community Warden service. 7,625 dog licences have been purchased in the county by the end of October 2025.

Galway County Council continue to partner with dog charity MADRA on their spay initiative for dogs in the County. This initiative has been running since 2023 which was initially established in response to a tragic case of animal neglect and continues to expand providing subsidised spaying and neutering services. Over 300 applications for neutering vouchers have been received since the scheme's inception in 2023 with 69 neutering vouchers issued in 2025 to date.

DOG CONTROL & ENFORCEMENT

10 fixed penalty notices for offences under the Control of Dogs Act 1986 as amended were issued during the month of October, with 50 fixed penalty notices issued in the year to date. Of these, 21 have been paid in full, with a further 8 fixed penalty notices being paid via agreed payment plans and 3 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.

Unfortunately, the dog warden service was notified of further incidences of livestock worrying during the month of October, with reports received in the Kinvara, Peterswell, and Kilreekil areas of the county. 5 ewes were lost in in the incident reported in Kilreekil, with injuries to their flocks reported by the farmers in respect of Peterswell and Kilreekil incidents. Despite the dog warden service carrying out an extensive door to door checks in Kilreekil, he did not locate the dogs involved in the reported attack. The dogs involved in the

incidents in Kinvara and Peterswell were located by the warden and the owners are now subject to enforcement action from the warden service.

The Environment Department 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.

DOG SHELTER

8 stray/abandoned dogs came through the warden service during the month of October. To date, of the 200 dogs that come through the Council's service over 93% have been rehomed.

HUMAN RESOURCES



A Staff Induction day was held on 10th November in the Hardiman Hotel and there was a large attendance of approximately 60 staff.

The purpose of this Organisational Induction Briefing was to provide new staff with the opportunity to meet the Chief Executive, the Cathaoirleach and other employees who have joined the staff of Galway County Council in the past 12 months.

The Induction Day was opened with an address by Galway County Council's Cathaoirleach David Collins and followed by an address by the Chief Executive Liam Conneally.

Presentations were given by numerous departments:

- Human Resources
- Corporate Services
- I.T. Department
- Climate Change Team
- Health & Safety Officer
- Senior Social Worker
- Sports & Social Committee
- Sports Development Officer

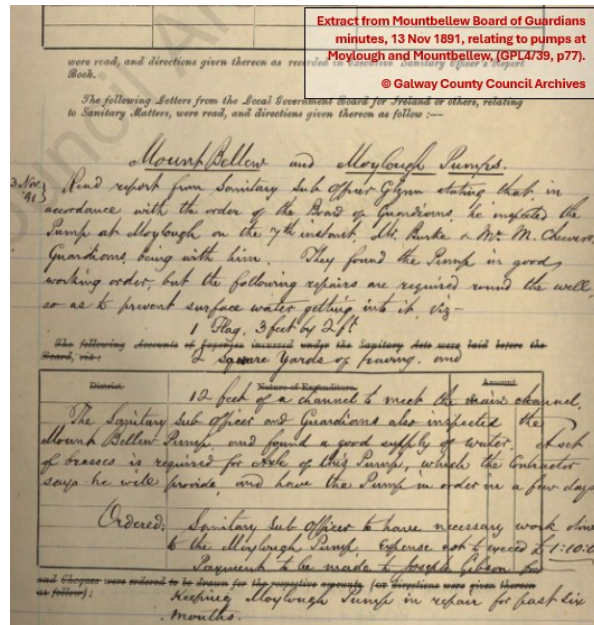
MR. LIAM CONNEALLY,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY
COUNTY COUNCIL



ARCHIVES

Galway County Council Archives has added the digitised minutes of the Mountbellew Board of Guardians, covering the years 1856 to 1920, to the [Digital Archive](#), under reference GPL4/11–90. This project was made possible through grant aid received from the Heritage Council in 2024, supporting the digitisation of these additional volumes. The full collection of surviving minutes is now freely accessible online. The completion of this work significantly enhances public access to historical Poor Law Union records in County Galway.

The Archives has also acquired Galway County Council minutes for the period 2014 to mid-2025 (Accession number 2025/016).



LOCAL STUDIES

There were 15 visitors to local studies, including drop ins and appointments, who wished to view Census records, O'Donovan's maps, Griffiths Valuation, The Tuam Journal, Slaters Directories for 1846, and 1856, the Cancelled Rate books, and the Journal of the Galway Archaeological and Historical Society, and books on Moycullen. There were also appointments to view the microfilm, and the British News Archive, and Thoms' directory for 1847. There were several phone calls, usually enquiries about genealogical research, including one from an Australian gentleman, and a lady from Gort who was researching the Anglican Archdeacon Henry Varian Daly, for which there was some information in the British News Archive. There were 40 plus emails with various enquiries, including one from a family member of a man who drowned tragically in Galway in 1981. The family only had a name, and a rough idea of the year, which was incorrect, but details of the tragedy, the search for the body, and the funeral were on the news archive, so they were very grateful for this information. There was also a query about routes of emigration used by Galway emigrants in the 1890's, the 1798 rebellion, and queries on burial grounds, and family history research.

BOOKIT! CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL 2025

Children's Book Festival was a vibrant celebration of literature and creativity held across multiple library branches in Galway County. The festival brought together popular authors, illustrators, and artists who engaged children through storytelling, workshops, and art

sessions designed to spark imagination and foster a love of reading among children of all ages.

STORYTELLING HIGHLIGHTS

Dynamic storytelling sessions were a cornerstone of the festival. Dave Rudden brought fantasy to life for audiences in Ballinasloe, while award-winning Irish author Marita Conlon-McKenna engaged children with discussions around *Under the Hawthorn Tree*, one of Galway Libraries' most requested class novel sets. Pat Ryan's whistlestop storytelling tour of the county captivated audiences in Leenane, Letterfrack, Clifden, Moylough, and Ballygar, with teachers praising his style as a model for budding storytellers and writers.

'Pat's style of storytelling is an excellent model for young storytellers and writers' teacher, Leenane NS

Fiona Dowling's *Magical Music Mystery Tour* blended global tales with music, creating an immersive experience in Eyrecourt, Killimor, Headford, and Tuam. Emma Larkin's sessions in Loughrea and Portumna explored the link between favourite hobbies, in this case fiction and sport, while they seem quite different, they go very well together, this challenged children to see storytelling in new, active ways.

ART AND ILLUSTRATION WORKSHOPS

Visual creativity was encouraged through hands-on workshops. Author Sinéad O'Hart combined readings from her books with themed art activities in Gort, while Tatyana Feeney led stocking design sessions in Oranmore and Athenry based on her book *Stockingopolis*, delighting children and teachers alike.

'It was very nice, and I really liked Tatyana's story. The art was very fun, and I really enjoyed it' 4th class pupil, Athenry Primary School

Jane Landy introduced *Gringer the Whinger* in Loughrea, inspiring dragon-themed drawings and concluded her workshops with a shared reading experience.

'Her relatability and kindness had the children at ease...their imagination was flowing' teacher, Cregmore NS

Aga Grandowicz's surreal drawing workshops in Dunmore and Tuam encouraged imaginative reinterpretations of everyday objects.

'It was cool, I really liked it. I hope something like this happens again. My favourite part was when we got to draw surreal images' 6th class pupil. Tuam ETNS

IRISH-LANGUAGE EVENTS

Leabharlann an Spidéil and Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua hosted Irish-language storytelling sessions with Geraldine Ní Mhiach and her puppet Gobnait, captivating younger children with interactive tales. Julie Anne de Brún delighted children in Loughrea and Headford libraries with her scéalaíocht agus ceol sessions.

"Bhí Geraldine ar fheabhas, bheimis thar a bheith sásta í a bheith linn arís. Thaitin a scéalta go mór leis na páistí – agus ar ndóigh, thaitin Gobnait go mór leo freisin."

CREATIVE COLLABORATIONS

A special workshop led by Laureate na nÓg Patricia Forde and author/illustrator Mary Murphy, based on their book *Making it up as you go along*, encouraged spontaneous storytelling and illustration, blending words and pictures in a playful, collaborative format, offering children the opportunity to explore their potential as future writers and creators.

'I really liked this workshop because it was inspirational and I am really excited to create my own story' Maymie, 5th class pupil, Trinity primary Tuam

Over the course of the month-long festival, 990 children aged 3 to 12 years attended 35 events.

The festival was generously supported by the Arts Office of Galway County Council.



FIONA DOWLING AT
EYRECOURT LIBRARY

AUTHORS PATRICIA FORDE AND
MARY MURPHY AT TUAM LIBRARY



STORYTELLER PAT RYAN AT LEENANE LIBRARY

AGA GRANDOWICZ
AT DUNMORE
LIBRARY



BALLYBANE LIBRARY

October was a dynamic and culturally rich month at Ballybane Library, marked by a wide array of community-focused events and artistic showcases. The month began with the much-anticipated Eastside Arts Festival, an annual celebration for the Ballybane and Doughiska communities. Although Storm Amy disrupted the original outdoor plans, the library quickly became the indoor hub for the festival’s activities.

On the Saturday of the festival, the library hosted a vibrant lineup of performances and interactive experiences. Families and visitors enjoyed facepainting, hair braiding, and live entertainment from a Samba band, the Ignite Gospel Choir, and dancers representing Indian and Ukrainian traditions. Musical performances by PJ Mongan and Dave Kody, along with traditional Irish music, added to the festive atmosphere.

Creative engagement continued with two crafting workshops facilitated by Anna Bartra and Youthwork Galway, offering hands-on opportunities for artistic expression. The success of the day was made possible by the enthusiastic support of local volunteers, including members of Foróige and residents from Doughiska and Ballybane.

Throughout the month, the library also featured three concurrent art exhibitions: works by the Doughiska Art Group, Helen Flynn’s intricate tapestries, and the thought-provoking collection titled *The Cut of Us*. These displays enriched the library’s environment and

provided visitors with diverse visual experiences.



HAIR BRADING AT BALLYBANE
LIBRARY AS PART OF THE EASTSIDE
ARTS FESTIVAL

SAMBA BAND



TRADITIONAL INDIAN DANCE

SINGER DAVID KODY



TRADITIONAL AFRICAN COSTUME

October was a month of meaningful engagement and joyful learning at Ballybane Library, with activities spanning early childhood support, literary celebration, and vibrant school visits.

SUPPORTING NEW FAMILIES

In partnership with the HSE, the library hosted a series of facilitated sessions for new mothers and babies. These included weaning workshops and breastfeeding support groups, creating a welcoming space for parents to connect, learn, and share experiences.

BOOKIT FESTIVAL SUCCESS

BOOKIT Festival brought stories to life for young readers across the community. Author and illustrator visits to Cregmore School and Radharc na Mara sparked imaginations, while Ballybane Library proudly welcomed author Dave Rudden for an engaging in-house session. In total, around 250 children participated in the festival, which included outreach efforts led by the library team. A special highlight saw 16 children enjoy a lively board game session with Aidan Ryan.

SCHOOL VISITS & CREATIVE ENCOUNTERS

The library was a hive of activity with regular visits from ASD classes at Merlin Woods, Radharc na Mara, and Scoil Chaitríona. Over two days, 185 pupils from Cregmore National School explored the library through interactive talks and storytimes. Additionally, 45 first-class pupils were treated to a delightful puppeteering workshop led by Dublin-based early years artist Clíodhna Noonan.



These events reflect Ballybane Library's ongoing commitment to fostering literacy, creativity, and community connection across all age groups.

PUPPETEERING WITH CLÍODHNA NOONAN

Library staff held some great craft workshops for local children in our Maker Space, including light house making and spooky portrait drawing. In all, approximately 20 children attended.



SPOOKY PORTRAITS FOR HALLOWEEN



LIGHTHOUSE MAKING

BALLINASLOE LIBRARY



Ballinasloe Library hosted the launch of *Forged in Fire*, a compelling art exhibition held in the Church Gallery. This collaborative

project celebrated the historical and cultural legacy of iron and metalwork in Ballinasloe and its surrounding areas. The exhibition was the result of a partnership between the Galway County Heritage Officer, Ballinasloe and District Heritage Society, and Group 8. It was proudly supported by Creative Ireland Galway County and the Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Forum. The event marked a vibrant intersection of history, art, and community engagement.



Ballinasloe Library was filled with laughter and imagination during a magical morning celebrating the **Children's Book Festival**. Over **120 young readers** gathered to enjoy the storytelling brilliance of **Dave Rudden**, whose humorous tales captivated the audience. Rudden not only entertained but also inspired budding authors by sharing practical tips on how to begin writing their own stories. The event was a joyful celebration of creativity and literacy, leaving a lasting impression on all who attended.

Ballinasloe Library welcomed Kate and James for a special **Wonder Wander** community drop-in session, held from 11 AM to 1 PM and again from 2 PM to 4 PM. This interactive event invited locals to share their thoughts on what makes the Ballinasloe Architectural



Conservation Area unique. Participants were encouraged to contribute ideas for a potential walking trail, highlighting buildings, features, and stories that reflect the town's rich architectural and cultural heritage. The session fostered community dialogue and local pride, helping shape future heritage initiatives.

WONDER WANDER BALLINASLOE WITH KATE AND JAMES OF STUDIO MYCO, BELFAST

Ballinasloe Library was filled once again with magic and imagination during a special morning celebrating the **Children's Book Festival**. Acclaimed author **Marita Conlon-McKenna** enchanted young readers with her storytelling brilliance, sharing captivating tales and insights into her writing life. The event sparked lively engagement, with students asking thoughtful questions and being inspired to begin crafting their own stories. Marita's visit was a heartwarming highlight, leaving a lasting impression on budding authors and book lovers alike.



The Europe Direct Ballinasloe Centre and Library came alive with energy and ideas during the **Europe Direct Soapbox Competition**. The event showcased exceptional public speaking talent across two categories, with participants passionately sharing their views on European topics.

 **Winners:** Rida Kashif & John Brady

 **Runners-up:** Mary Ellen Coen & Lidia-Rose Murphy

The competition was judged by a panel of experts who had the challenging task of selecting winners from a pool of outstanding speakers. The event was hosted by the ever-charismatic Cllr. Ollie Turner, whose lively presence kept the audience engaged and entertained throughout. It was a morning filled with inspiration, dialogue, and community spirit.



Spooky creativity took over Ballinasloe Library as students from **Scoil Chroí Naofa** joined in for a festive **Halloween Craft Event** led by Brid. The children crafted creepy-crawly spiders to take home and proudly showcased their imaginative costumes — from witches to vampires and zombies! The event was filled with laughter, creativity, and seasonal cheer, making it a memorable celebration for all who attended.

Ballinasloe Library continued its Halloween festivities with a delightful **Spooky Storytime and Ghost Craft** session hosted by Mary. Children arrived in their Halloween costumes, adding to the festive atmosphere. They listened to spooky tales and got creative with ghost-themed crafts, making it a fun and engaging experience for all. The event was a wonderful blend of storytelling, imagination, and seasonal celebration.



EUROPE DIRECT @ BALLINASLOE LIBRARY

Ballinasloe Library extended its outreach by organizing an informative talk at **Clonfert College**, where over **200 senior cycle students** gathered to hear from **Guy Flouch of Eunicas**. Eunicas is a service that supports students across Ireland and the EU in securing places in third-level education programmes abroad. The session offered valuable insights into international study opportunities, application processes, and the benefits of pursuing higher



education across Europe. It was a well-attended and impactful event that highlighted the library's commitment to educational support and youth engagement.

ORANMORE LIBRARY



It has been a busy month at Oranmore Library with 6196 people coming through the door. The Children's Book Festival took precedence this month with lots of activities for children.

Oranmore Library celebrated Children's Book Festival month with 7 Storytime sessions, 3 LEGO sessions, 5 DUPLO sessions, a Pumpkin Patch Art & Craft session attended by over 100 children, and 2 workshops with author/illustrator Tatyana Feeny and author Dave Rudden respectively. We celebrated Halloween with a Spooky Storytime with staff

members Anne Marie and Jayme and a Halloween Craft session which was attended by 145 children. Overall, in this period, we held 15 events for children, and they were attended by 523 children. Mary Healy and Jayme Street ran the Pumpkin Patch Art & Craft session. The tree was created by staff member Jayme Street using cardboard and brown paper. The children decorated leaves and pumpkins and cut them out to create an effective display.





The local pre-schools have been booking regular visits this month and we have welcomed them with a story and playtime.



ORANMORE STAFF MEMBER JAYME, READING TO LOCAL PUPILS



STAFF MEMBER ANNE MARIE ENTERTAINING A YOUNG AUDIENCE

The Adults have not been forgotten. Oranmore Library held 12 events for adults with 82 attendances. These include regular events such as our Morning & Evening Book Clubs and Poetry Reading Group.

We have commenced Digital Skills Sessions for Adults in conjunction with the GRETB as part of Galway County Library's Skills for Life Programme and a Writing Workshop led by Fidelma Healy-Eames.

Brampton Resource Centre has also commenced regular visits to familiarize their clients with the library and to learn how to request assistance. We have informed them of our facilities and provided relevant JAM cards if and when requested.

At an Outreach event, Aisling Mitchell attended a Healthy Ireland event hosted by Clarinbridge Cairde Club in conjunction with Galway Rural Development at Clarinbridge Hall. Aisling provided information on library services, especially those relating to Healthy Ireland. Through this event, the Oranmore Retirement Association has requested that Aisling attend

one of their meetings to provide information on accessing and negotiating the Library Online Resources services.



HEALTH AND WELLBEING
EVENT AT CLARINBRIDGE
HALL

TUAM LIBRARY

The October meeting of the Friday book club took place on the 31st where they discussed *Anxious People* by Frederick Bachman. The November meeting of the Thursday book club took place on the 6th discussing *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell. Our Young Adult Book Club meets on the first Saturday of the month. The group met on October 4th to discuss *Animal Farm* by George Orwell and again on November 1st to discuss *Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys.

Soundbites – a gathering of local musicians, storytellers, singers and poets gather from 1-2pm on the last Thursday of the month for a lunchtime session. This is a very special event in Tuam. The October session was held on the 30th with 30 people attending. The Breast-Feeding support group meets on the second Thursday of the month from 10.30-1pm. All are welcome to come and speak with the facilitator - a local HSE public health nurse/midwife. This is a beneficial time for new mothers to get expert advice from a midwife.

BOOKIT!

Tuam library hosted 4 **Children's Book Festival** sessions in October.

Aga Grandowicz facilitated an art workshop with 6th class from Educate Together School in Tuam on October 6th. She had their full attention as she discussed her art processes with them, encouraging creativity, individuality, and how she uses art to remember facts – all aspects that can be used in their school studies going forward. Authors Patricia Forde and Mary Murphy facilitated 2 sessions. All 4 classes came from Trinity Primary School in Tuam. The children were all very engaged for both sessions as Patricia and Mary discussed how they write, what makes a good book/story and how others can do the same. Fiona Dowling told amazing international stories to a 4th class from Tuam Educate Together.

Twenty-four 1st year students from St Jarlath's College visited the library on to sign up for membership. The staff gave them a talk on library services. 5th year students from St

Jarlath's College visited the library for a tour of our history section and to sign up for membership.

HEALTH AWARENESS

Health Awareness was active in Tuam Library with 2 events held in October. The first centered around breast cancer awareness when Traveller community group Brú Bhríde held a workshop which aims to promote awareness around breast cancer among their community and the community at large. The launch of their installation took place on October 13th with 20 people attending a talk on the signs and symptoms of breast cancer, given by a public health nurse. The second Health Awareness event was **Road Safety Week – October 6-12**. A supply of hi-viz jackets and brochures on road safety were available for library patrons.



Inclusion through craft - the ongoing craft workshops Tuam Mapping 2025: A Cultural Tapestry continued each Thursday morning, with a regular group of about 14 women attending each week. They are making amazing progress on their craft, with enthusiastic and knowledgeable direction from the facilitator Helen Flynn.

Digital skills drop-in sessions run each Friday morning from 10.30-12.30 until December 12th. These sessions are part of the library's social inclusion remit, enabling students of all ages to develop their IT skills.

Staff members Margaret and Caroline ran a super Halloween craft event on October 30th. The children made ghosts, and Caroline treated them to some face-painting.

On Saturday, November 1st the Old Tuam Society launched their installation of furniture by Al O'Dea, with a selection of photographs and pieces of his furniture generously donated for the day. Approximately 100 people attended the launch and after-gathering. Jan Frohberg, lecturer in architectural design in University of Limerick, opened the launch.

FIONA DOWLING STORYTELLER





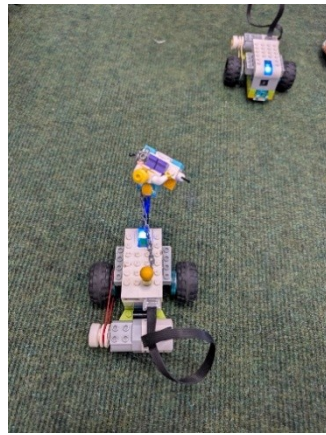
AUTHORS PATRICIA FORDE AND MARY MURPHY

Some of the work being done on the tapestry for Mapping Tuam 1925



JAN FROHBERG FROM UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

HEADFORD LIBRARY



From code to creation! Our young innovators brought robots to life at Headford Library!

From players to creators! These future game developers brought their ideas to life through code at Headford Library!



Little Fish, Big Imagination: a very successful crafting afternoon in Headford Library



CRAFTING IN
HEADFORD
LIBRARY



WESTSIDE LIBRARY

October brought a vibrant mix of creativity, learning, and community engagement to Westside Library. The branch was alive with excitement as we hosted ten events for BOOKIT! Children's Book Festival 2025, welcoming over 400 enthusiastic young readers. Big names in children's literature such as Tatyana Feeny, Dave Rudden, Marita Conlon-McKenna, Patricia Forde, Mary Murphy, Gráinne O'Brien, and Niall de Búrca captivated audiences, while a staff-led book-making workshop for families added a hands-on element to the celebrations. BOOKIT is kindly supported by Galway City Arts Office.



McKenna, Patricia Forde, Mary Murphy, Gráinne O'Brien, and Niall de Búrca captivated audiences, while a staff-led book-making workshop for families added a hands-on element to the celebrations. BOOKIT is kindly supported by Galway City Arts Office.

LIBRARY STAFF JOSEPHINE VAHEY AND MELÍOSA MCINTYRE WITH AUTHOR MARITA CONLON-MCKENNA IN CENTRE

STORYTELLER NIALL DE BÚRCA



AUTHOR DAVE RUDDEN

AUTHORS PATRICIA FORDE AND MARY MURPHY



Music also took center stage with another **Music Unveiled** session in collaboration with Music Connects. Under the evocative theme of “*Stormy Weather*”, Irish composer Greg Caffrey offered a fascinating deconstruction of his work *Pulled Down out of the Young*



Breath-Giving Air. Dr. Aidan Thomson, Senior Lecturer in Music at the University of Galway, enriched the discussion with insights into storm-inspired repertoire, complemented by live demonstrations from the Con Tempo String Quartet in trio formation. This session will be available to view online, extending its reach beyond the library walls.

CON TEMPO QUARTET

October was also a month of environmental awareness. Climate Action Week and Bioeconomy Week Ireland were marked with a variety of initiatives, beginning with a public screening of Tom Flanagan’s documentary *The Air We Share*, a creative exploration of air quality in the Westside area. Visitors engaged with an interactive “What’s Your Pledge?” wall, pinning their personal commitments to climate action, while themed book displays for adults and children sparked further conversation. Transition Year students from Coláiste Éinde joined Dr. José María Farinas-Franco from ATU Galway for an inspiring talk on shellfish reefs, marine meadows, and other overlooked ecosystems, delivered in partnership with the Marine Institute.



In addition, we launched a new collaboration with the University of Galway: a six-week Beginners Climate Course designed for participants over 55, offering practical guidance on understanding climate change and taking everyday action. Meanwhile, creativity continued to flourish through the Mapping 2025 Tapestry Workshop, which met throughout October and concluded on November 5th. We look forward to unveiling the finished tapestry at its December launch.

MAPPING 2025 TAPESTRY WORKSHOP

ATHENRY LIBRARY

Athenry Library was buzzing with energy this month! We welcomed 24 enthusiastic children for a joyful story time and art workshop led by the talented Tatyana Feeny. Our ever-passionate book club gathered for a lively discussion with 10 dedicated members in attendance. In addition, we continued to support digital literacy by hosting weekly drop-in

clinics every Thursday, offering two hours of one-on-one help to members of the public tackling tech challenges.

PORTUMNA LIBRARY

October was buzzing with activity at Portumna Library!

IRISH LANGUAGE GROUP

We kicked off the month with our bi-monthly Irish Group meet-up—an hour of craic, chat agus tae! It's a warm, age-friendly gathering where all levels of Irish are welcome.

BOOK CLUB

Our book club dove into *Academy Street* by Mary Costello. The verdict? Mixed reviews—but plenty of thoughtful discussion!

REDWOOD N.S. VISITS

We were delighted to welcome regular visits from Redwood National School. These young readers cross the Shannon twice a month to explore our library—always a pleasure TO host.

CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL

This year's festival was a treat! Author Emma Larkin visited and captivated 4th and 5th class students from Portumna N.S. with her love of storytelling and books.

POP-UP WORKSHOP

At month's end, we hosted a creative workshop for very young children. The imagination on display was incredible—parents, carers, staff, and kids were all in awe!

ONGOING FUN & ACTIVITIES

- Our 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle is a hit—drop in and add a few pieces!
- LEGO & DUPLO boxes are always open (especially on Fridays, but we're flexible!)
- The Games Shelf is a constant source of fun and connection for all ages.
- Local Author Spotlight

We're thrilled to celebrate Gundars Gruzitis, one of our own borrowers, who launched his debut children's fiction book *The Bag of Truths Big, Heavy Lies*, beautifully illustrated by Amna Arshad. Huge congratulations to Gundars!

LOUGHREA LIBRARY

RIGHT TO READ

The library became a place of discovery as children from St. Ita's National School arrived in eager groups, their faces lighting up as they explored shelves filled with stories waiting to be

uncovered. Senior students from St. Raphael's Secondary School brought a different kind of energy, diving into local history research with curiosity and determination, their notebooks filling with details of the past. More classes from St. Ita's followed, their laughter and chatter echoing through the building as they settled into reading corners. Even the younger pupils, wide-eyed and enthusiastic, found themselves swept up in the magic of books. Meanwhile, the adult book club gathered in quiet conversation, sharing thoughts on Gabrielle Zevin's *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry*. The discussion unfolded like a tapestry, each voice adding a new thread of insight, weaving together a shared appreciation for storytelling.

CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL

The Children's Book Festival brought a joyful buzz to the library. Author Julianne de Brún captivated young listeners with *Scéal, Ceol is Cruthú*, blending story, music, and creativity in a way that made the room sparkle with imagination. Jane Landy's visits were equally enchanting, as children leaned forward, eyes wide, hanging on every word of her tales. Emma Larkin's sessions transformed the children's book club into a lively gathering, where stories became bridges between schools and sparked conversations that lingered long after the event ended. As autumn deepened, the library embraced the spirit of Halloween. Children crowded around tables, their hands busy with paints and paper, turning pumpkins into grinning faces and masks into fantastical creations. The following day, ghosts and cats made from simple rolls of paper came to life, each one a playful reminder of how imagination can turn the ordinary into something magical.

AGE FRIENDLY INITIATIVES

The library also opened its doors to older members of the community, offering a warm and welcoming space for learning and connection. Weekly digital skills clinics became a place where patience and encouragement helped people unlock the mysteries of technology, each small success celebrated with smiles and relief. The Loughrea Active Retirement Association added to this spirit of community with a talk and demonstration on Pan Pan safety watches, where practical advice was shared alongside laughter and conversation.



Creativity flourished too, as the adult craft group gathered week after week. Around tables scattered with materials, participants exchanged ideas, shared stories, and found joy in making something with their hands. The hum of conversation and the quiet focus of crafting created a comforting rhythm, reminding everyone that learning and creativity have no age limit.

AUTHOR JULIE ANNE DE BRÚN

AUTHOR JANE LANDY



AUTHOR EMMA LARKIN



HALLOWEEN CRAFTS WITH STAFF MEMBER GRETEL

HOUSING

VACANT HOMES

There continues to be a high level of interest in the vacant property refurbishment grants (Croí Cónaithe scheme).



BEFORE



AFTER

Galway County Council has received 642 applications since the start of the scheme with 427 approved to a value in excess of 24 million euros, a further 73 applications are in progress with the balance having been withdrawn or rejected due to ineligibility for the scheme. 84 vacant property refurbishment grants, with a total value of €4,556,831.70, have been paid to applicants to date.

PROJECT DÍON



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Phase 1 of Project Díon is scheduled to go live week commencing 17th November 2025 for Local Authority Acquisitions - **Social Housing Investment Programme (Turnkey), Capital Assistance Scheme (Turnkey) and Local Authority Mortgage to Rent Scheme.**

Project Díon is a digital transformation initiative led by the Department of Housing, Planning, and Local Government (DHLGH), in collaboration with Local Authorities, Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs), the Housing Agency, and other stakeholders. It aims to modernise and streamline the management of over 30 housing programmes through a unified digital platform.

It aims to standardise and automate application, approval, funding, and reporting processes and enhance data quality, inter-agency collaboration, and decision-making.

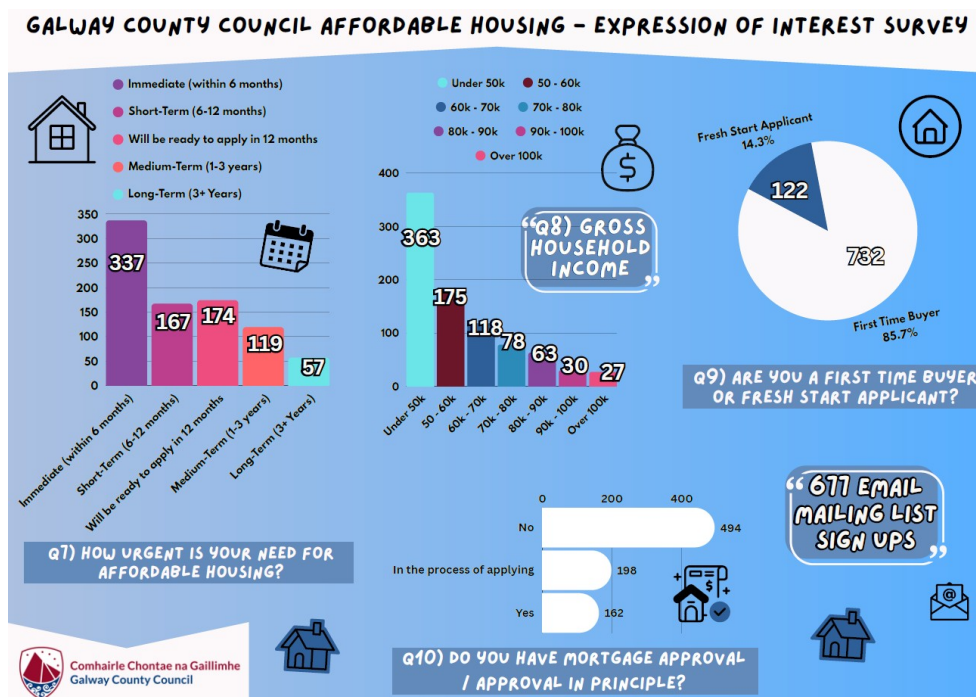
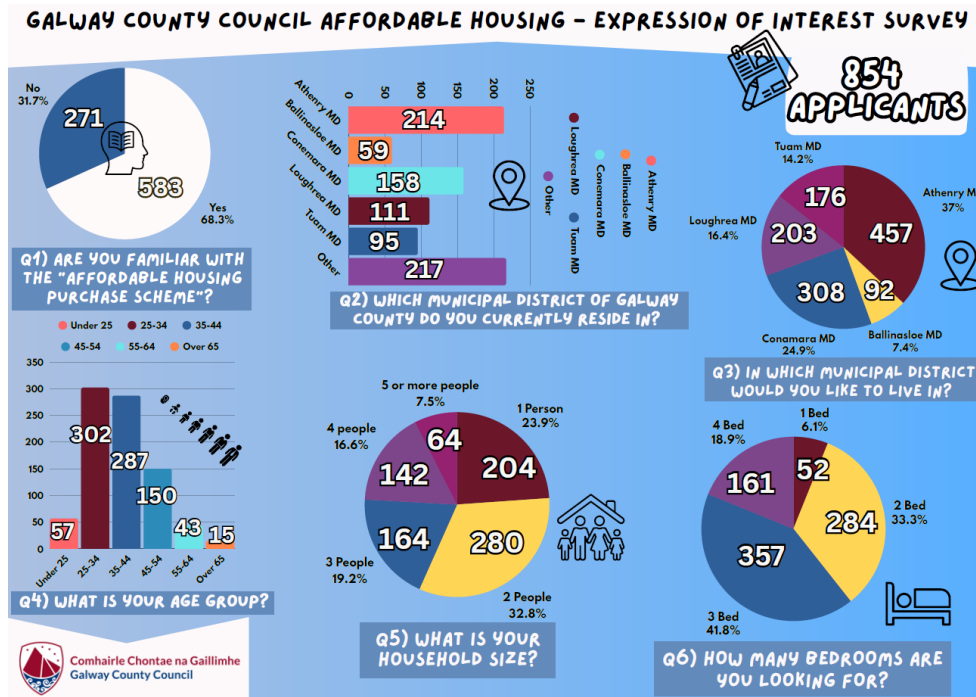
The initial rollout will be available to Local Authorities via the Project Díon Online Portal. Key functionalities include:

1. Application Creation & Submission
2. Project Tracking
3. Housing Agency Approval
4. Status Monitoring
5. Alerts & Notifications

Future Phases will include expansion to additional housing programmes and stakeholders in 2026.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

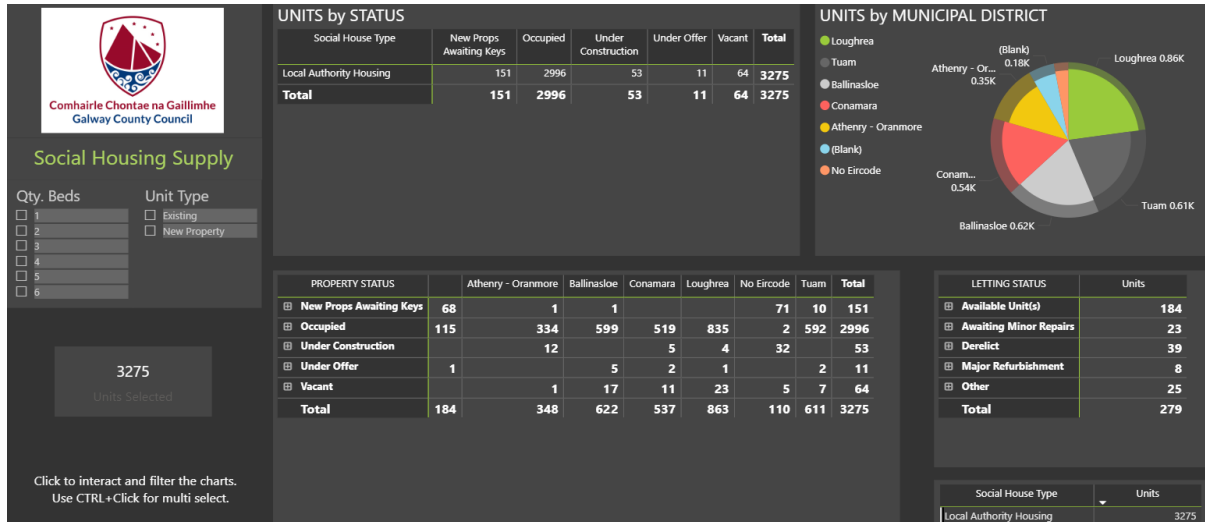
An Affordable Housing survey was conducted in September and 854 responses were received. The information from the survey will help determine the level of demand for Affordable Housing across County Galway. The results are displayed below:



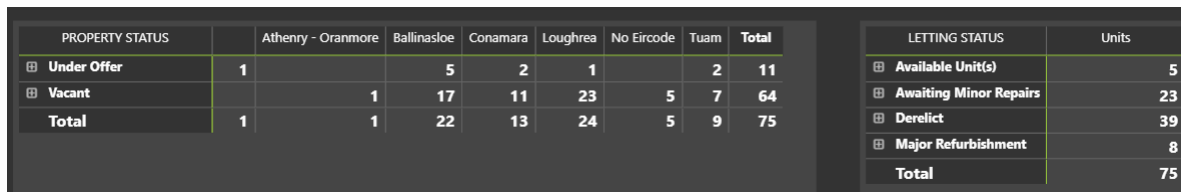
A more targeted follow up survey, focusing on respondents who expressed an interest in living in the Loughrea MD, received 225 responses. It demonstrated a clear interest in Affordable Housing in a suburb of Loughrea town. It is planned to run further targeted surveys to gauge the demand in other areas.

SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK

Current, and Under Construction Stock



Vacant Stock



Void/Turnover, Energy Retro Fit: works are ongoing to several units in the Connemara District with works been completed on a single rural unit at Cullen Carna:



BEFORE



AFTER

THE SUMMARY OF SOCIAL HOUSING ASSESSMENTS 2025

SUMMARY OF SOCIAL HOUSING ASSESSMENTS (SSHA) 2025

BACKGROUND

The Summary of Social Housing Assessments (SSHA) is an annual statutory report compiled by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. It provides a point-in-time snapshot of households that:

- Are qualified for social housing support, and
- Whose housing need is not currently met.

The SSHA is the official measure of unmet social housing need in Ireland and informs national housing policy, resource allocation, and targets under *Housing for All*.

PURPOSE

- Quantify national and local housing need.
- Guide budgeting and delivery targets for social and cost-rental housing.
- Provide transparency on waiting lists, household profiles, and emerging trends.

GALWAY 2025 SNAPSHOT

- Applications: 2,955 (up from 2,799 in 2024).
- Qualified households: 1,367.
- Assessments completed: 1,735.
- Other supports only (RAS/HAP only) 200 households (14.6% of qualified).
- Suspensions (two refusals): 19.

GALWAY SSHA 2021 TO 2025 SNAPSHOT

Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of Applications	3472	3051	2987	2799	2955
Number of Persons	7594	6761	6758	6219	6517
Number of new applications since the last assessment	651	313	610	553	547
Households subjected to a fully completed assessment to determine their qualification for housing support	990	603	800	1684	1735
Households subjected to fully completed assessment and are deemed qualified for social housing support	1661	1318	1260	1240	1367
Households where an assessment for qualification for support has been completed and are deemed not to qualify	133	288	198	444	368
Households where an assessment was not completed or no decision as to their qualification has been made	182	277	250	164	212
Qualified households that will only be consider for supports other than those ref. to in a,c,d of 19(2) Act of 2009	0	0	0	133	200
Households suspended from the list of qualified households for refusing 2 offers of accom. within 12-month period	4	10	1	63	19

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of Applications	3472	3051	2987	2799	2955
Number of Persons	7594	6761	6758	6219	6517
Number of new applications since the last assessment	651	313	610	553	547
Households subjected to a fully completed assessment to determine their qualification for housing support	990	603	800	1684	1735
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GALWAY'S LIVE HOUSING DEMAND DASHBOARD

Galway County Council is currently the only local authority in Ireland publishing a live housing demand dashboard. This innovation replaced fragmented, error-prone reporting with interactive Power BI dashboards for:

- Demand: Filters by area, bedroom need, and time on list.
- Supply: Tracks stock and pipeline by district and status.

BENEFITS

- Real-time insights and transparency.
- Improved decision-making for internal teams and external stakeholders (Elected Reps, AHBs, developers, NGOs & HSE).
- Significant time and cost savings, enhanced governance, and alignment with Ireland's National Digital Strategy.

This transformation positions Galway as a **leader in digital housing analytics**, enabling proactive resource allocation and trend monitoring without waiting for annual SSHA reports

<https://www.galway.ie/en/housing/social-housing-and-supports/social-housing-supply-and-demand>

Galway County Council Invited to Showcase Its Online Interactive Social Housing Supply and Demand Dashboards at the National Oversight and Audit Commission's (NOAC) second annual workshop 2025

On the 22nd October, in Kilkenny Castle, the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) hosted its second annual workshop celebrating and showcasing examples of excellence in local government.

Galway County Council, led by Ger Scully and Morgan Matthews, showcased its housing portal, another first in Ireland, which allows the public to see detailed information about both housing supply and demand in the local authority area. The Interactive Social Housing Supply & Demand Dashboards, developed using Power BI and integrated with the iHouse



system, provide a live, centralised view of housing applicant data and property availability across the county. "This transformation wasn't just technical—it was strategic," said Ger Scully. "We've created a single source of truth that empowers staff,

councillors, AHBs, and the public with transparent, accessible data.” The dashboards are publicly accessible at: [Social housing supply and demand | Galway County Council](#)

NOAC, Ireland’s independent oversight body of the local government sector, welcomed attendees from across the sector to its workshop: *Enhancing Customer Experience in Local Government*.

The event highlighted top quality examples from projects around Ireland and included an interesting Q&A panel discussion on the projects, latest findings from a national survey of customer service in local authorities and customer service in the local government sector.

NOAC board member and event Chair, Miriam McDonald, explained:

“We created this workshop to showcase creative ideas and demonstrate how our local authorities are driving excellence and setting new standards in customer experience.

“Coming together like this provides an opportunity for the sector to share, to learn from each other and to take away ideas and apply them in their own areas.”

TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME

Focus this month has been on Galway County Council Halting Sites and all sites have been inspected and independently certified for Fire Safety. Where necessary fire safety equipment has been repaired or replaced.

Ongoing works design and tendering services have been completed to implement Galway County Council Traveler Accommodation Programme 2025- 2028 with a particular focus on 6 units at Ballydavid, Athenry.

To encourage the change over from use of fossil fuels amongst the traveler community, it is proposed for a working group to visit a retro fitted unit to demonstrate the benefits and comforts associated with energy efficient accommodation.

SOCIAL WORK

The 31st National Local Authority Social Work conference took place on October 16 & 17th in Trim, Co. Meath, hosted by Louise Clinton and her colleagues from Meath County Council. It was an excellent event, very informative with an emphasis on good practice and working from a strengths-based perspective with clients and families.

All staff must complete the online Children’s First Training. If staff have any queries or concerns regarding child welfare & protection issues, contact Kieran Keon. During November, Senior Social Worker and Corporate staff have completed further work on the Unit Child Protection Risk assessments. This work is ongoing. Kieran also presented a Social Work & Children’s First briefing to new staff at the staff induction day on November 10th.

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL PROJECT WINS NATIONAL HOUSING AWARD

Galway County Council project wins national housing award. Galway County Council's regeneration project at Tobar Mhuire in Ahascragh has been named a category winner of the 'Building Communities' category in the 2025 Community Housing Awards.



The awards, organised by the Irish Council for Social Housing (ICSH), recognise innovation and sustainability in public and community housing.



Led by Galway County Council and funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the project involved demolishing 10 existing homes, building 12 new units and refurbishing six others, along with associated site works. The project design team included Vincent Hannon Architects and Tom McNamara & Partners, and the scheme was constructed by C&N Higgins Construction.

HOUSING FORUM SEEKS NEW WAYS TO ACCELERATE HOUSING DELIVERY IN GALWAY

The development of new strategies for accelerating the delivery of homes in Galway was



explored by senior officials and stakeholders from across the housing sector at a forum held at the Galmont Hotel on Wednesday the 12th November 2025.

MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, SETTING THE CONTEXT FOR THE DAY

The event, titled 'Speeding up and Scaling up Housing Delivery', looked at the key challenges holding back progress, and explored practical ways to make housing delivery in Galway City and County faster, and more efficient.

Organised by Galway City Council, Galway County Council and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the event feeds into the work of the Galway Housing Taskforce, a body established in 2019 to increase the supply of social and affordable housing in the region.

The forum used a World Cafe format, a workshop style designed to spark open discussion and practical ideas. Facilitated by Genesis Consulting, participants explored how land use, planning processes and how partnerships can be improved, and discussed the steps needed to speed up housing delivery over the coming years.

Those attending included representatives from Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs), Housing Agency, Land Development Agency (LDA), Housing Delivery Coordination Office (HDCO), Construction Federation Industry, banks, auctioneers, and housing developers.



L-R: MR LEONARD CLEARY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE GALWAY CITY COUNCIL, CLLR. MIKE CUBBARD, MAYOR OF GALWAY CITY, MS. LAURA BEHAN, A/SECRETARY GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING CLLR. DAVID COLLINS, CATHAOIRLEACH GALWAY COUNTY, MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



DELEGATES ATTENDING HOUSING DELIVERY FORUM





L-R: MR. JOHN MCCARTHY,
GALWAY HOUSING TASKFORCE
CHAIR, CLLR. DAVID COLLINS,
CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY
COUNTY, MR. LIAM
CONNELLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE,
GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

CLLR. DAVID COLLINS,
CATHAOIRLEACH OF
GALWAY COUNTY
ADDRESSING ATTENDEES



MS. KAREN KENNY,
HOUSING ACTIVATION
OFFICE PARTICIPATING
AT THE EVENT



MR. JOHN JOE RHATIGAN,
JJ RHATIGAN
PARTICIPATING AT THE
EVENT

MS. ORNA FLAHERTY AND MR.
RODDY ROWEN, GENESIS
CONSULTING



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

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

In addition to the above, the following is position @ 04/11/2025

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.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME (LIS)

In 2025, the Council achieved the successful completion of 51 projects, supported by a total funding allocation of €2,116,616.

This investment reflects the Council’s commitment to maximising the impact of available resources in line with the principles of the LIS Scheme.

The delivery of these projects demonstrates value for money while strengthening local infrastructure and enhancing outcomes for communities.

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL PARKING CONCESSIONS CHRISTMAS 2025

Galway County Council will again introduce the pay parking concession for the towns of Ballinasloe, Loughrea, Tuam, Clifden, Cleggan, Athenry and Gort to support increased activity in our county town on the run up to Christmas.

This initiative aims to support local businesses and encourage footfall during the Christmas shopping period, encouraging more people to visit local shops, restaurants and entertainment venues.

Free ON and OFF-street parking will be from the 8th December - 31st December 2025.

PIERS AND HARBOURS 2025

- LAMIS 2025 - Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme – DAFM Funded Pier & Harbour Projects
- MCIG 2025 - Minor Capital Island Grant – DRCDG Funded Pier & Harbour Projects

Funding approval of €357,750 for 2025 has been received for works to Piers and Harbours in the Galway County Council functional area from the Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme 2025 (LAMIS). Matched funding at 25% of the works value is provided from Galway County Council’s own budget to bring the total provision to €477,000.

Funding approval of €157,415 for 2025 has been received for works to Piers and Harbours in the Galway County Council functional area from the Minor Capital Island Grant 2025 (MCIG). Matched funding at 10% of the works value is provided from Galway County Council's own budget to bring the total provision to €174,906.

The table below identifies the location of the works, the grant funding provided and the total cost.

Location	LAMIS Funding Provision	Eligible Project Cost
Aill an Eachrias Quay	€90,000	€120,000
Seanché Spidéal	€37,500	€50,000
Rosroe Pier	€68,750	€90,000
Kilkieran Pier	€15,000	€20,000
Derryinver Pier	€30,000	€40,000
Ard West Pier	€30,000	€40,000
Gurteen Quay	€26,250	€35,000
Poll Uí Mhuirinn Quay	€15,000	€20,000
Leck Pier	€9,000	€12,000
Coradh an Ghiolcaigh Pier	€18,750	€25,000
Clifden Quay	€18,750	€25,000
	€357,750	€477,000

Location	MCIG Funding Provision	Eligible Project Cost
Cleggan Pier	€59,247.00	€65,830.00
Cleggan Cargo Pier	€15,322.50	€17,025.00
Inishbofin Passenger & Cargo Pier	€65,526.00	€72,807.00
Inishbofin – Coastal Protection	€4,500	€5,000
Kilronan Pier	€9,346.50	€10,385.00
Killeany Beacons	€34,730.00	€3,859.00
	€157,415.00	€174,906.00

Construction works at all pier locations have been completed ahead of the funding drawdown in late October. A total of **€515,165** was approved for funding, with an overall project spend of **€651,906**.

The most significant of the projects included a major upgrade of a once dilapidated Aill an Eachrais Pier in Rusheenamanagh. The project construction works was completed by employees from Galway County Council based in South Connemara. The upgrades included

raising the quay by 1.2m, new concrete deck, toe rails, ladders, public lighting and a crane. Additional funding will be sought to install a slipway next year.

The other projects included work involving

- Installation of fenders and a slipway concrete barrier
- Installation of new concrete decks and repairs to damaged slipways
- Installation of cranes, recessed ladders, edge protection, guardrails systems, handrails
- Concrete infill sections
- Pier wall stabilisation
- Stone beacons repairs
- Refurbished of cold storage building

The funding provided by both DAFM, DRCDG and our annual maintenance budget are critical to the maintenance of our marine infrastructure along our coastline. It has enabled Galway County Council to reach all areas of the county which has in turn helped rebuild a strong positive relationship with the local fishing communities.

This year the Piers&Harbours Section had a total overall budget of €1.1m (including external funding), which reflects significant year on year increase over the last three years. Additional funding will continue to be required to advance more complex projects requiring Part 10 Planning Approval & MAC'S (Foreshore Licenses).

The pictures in the following slides show the before and after conditions at several of the relevant landing places that were completed this year.



.....
AILL AN EACHRAIS PIER – PIER
UPGRADE

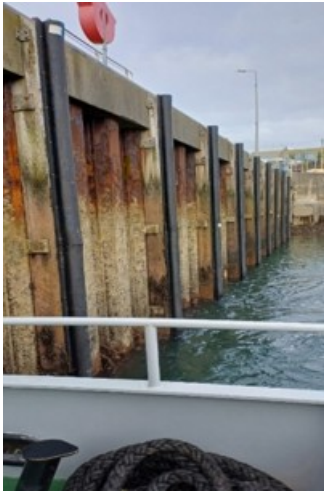




INISHBOFIN – RUBBER D-WING FENDERS & SLIPWAY BARRIER



ROSROE – INFILL SECTION, RECESSED LADDER, PUBLIC LIGHTING, EDGE PROTECTION





ÁIRD THÍAR - CONCRETE DECK, CRANE,
GUARDRAILS, EDGE PROTECTION



POLL UÍ MHIRINN – EDGE
PROTECTION & GUARDRAILS



ACTIVE TRAVEL PROGRAMME - ACTIVE TRAVEL FOOTPATH AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

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 Audits have been received back on the designs and recommendations, where appropriate, are being addressed.

A design report is being prepared to submit to TII and obtain approval for three locations on the national road network – Oughterard, Letterfrack, Dunmore.



ÚDARÁS NA GAELTACHT BUS SHELTER PROGRAMME

Progress meetings held with Age-Friendly Ireland and other Local Authorities to agree delivery mechanism. NTA supports this programme and Local Authorities can use their bus shelter contractor, Bauer Media. Identifying 5 no. locations in the Gaeltacht areas is under way.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL ROUND 1 ORANMORE SCHOOLS (X3NR)

SCOIL IÓSAIF NAOFA

This now at Phase 6 Construction Stage- Contractor (Harrington's) appointed for works- expected to commence mid Nov '25.

CALASANCTIUS COLLEGE & GAELSCOIL DE HÍDE

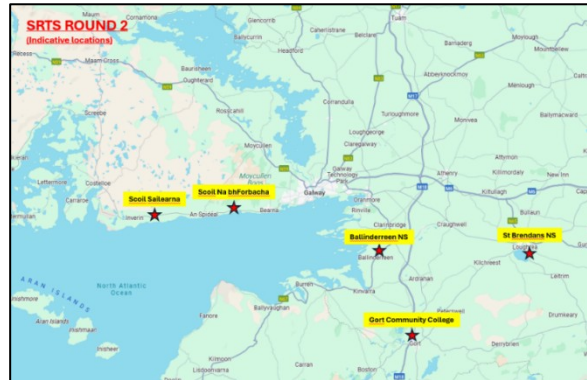
Both are nearing completion of Phase 5 Detailed Design. Tender for works anticipated for publishing end Nov '25.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL ROUND 1 ATHENRY SCHOOLS (X2NR)

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. NTA Gateway 3 approval will then be sought to progress the project into the Planning phase. Part 8 is envisaged due to required land take.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL ROUND 2 (5NR)

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



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.

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 has been finalised. All submissions were considered, and any design changes are currently being implemented. Road Safety Audit is imminent.

SRTS R2 BALLINDERREEN NS

Currently in Phase 3 Preliminary Design. A meeting was held with the school to reveal the Ph 3 design, and they were extremely satisfied with the proposals. Land dedication is currently progressing where three landowners are involved, 1 of which has been agreed and signed. The remaining 2 are progressing. 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.

SRTS R2 ST BRENDAN'S NS (LOUGHREA)

Currently in Phase 3 Preliminary Design. A meeting was held with the school to reveal the Ph 3 design, and they were extremely satisfied with the proposals. Road Safety Audits are imminent.

SRTS R2 GORT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Currently in Phase 3 Preliminary Design. A meeting was held with the school to reveal the Ph 3 design, and they were extremely satisfied with the proposals. Road Safety Audits will follow.

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 in the final stages of Preliminary Design.



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

We are currently at Phase 2 Options Selection for this project. Active Stakeholder Engagement is continuing with key parties along the proposed Active Travel route in Athenry, particularly with Irish Rail, GRET, 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.

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

Phase 3 Preliminary Design is progressing. Traffic modelling has been undertaken on junctions and design options are being assessed by Galway County Council. Non-statutory public consultation on Consult.Galway.ie commenced on 17th October and is running to 31st October. The feedback from the public consultation, where appropriate, will inform the preliminary design. Engagement commenced with the schools in the area and all report their support of the active travel project. Engagement has also been ongoing with the Tuam Education Campus project, as there is significant interface between the two projects.

An update on the project was given to the Tuam MD Elected Members on 20th October.

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. Land agreement will be required from the Diocesan for 1 proposed measure. Road Safety Auditors for stage 1-2 have been appointed. Report is due beginning of November 2025.

GLENBRACK ROAD, GORT

Land dedication with two landowners is required, with one having been agreed and signed. The second is dependent on exploratory works noted below.

Brendan Slevin Engineering has been engaged with to carry out a Preliminary Design with respect to one element of the scheme. Exploratory works to inform the design is scheduled for 3rd Nov '25.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT ST. JOSEPH'S ROAD PORTUMNA

A Section 38 has been prepared and duly signed by the Chief Executive. The tender assessment for the construction phase of the project has been completed, and the contract has been formally awarded. Construction is due to commence in November.



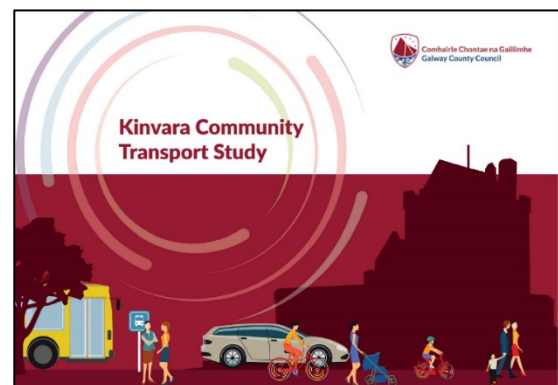
Fig 1- Location of Proposed Scheme

LOUGHREA ACTIVE TRAVEL DESIGN SCHEME

Tender assessment has been completed, and a preferred bidder has been identified. The successful design consultant has been notified.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING – COMMUNITY TRANSPORT STUDIES

An online public consultation was held to gather feedback on the proposed Kinvara Community Transport Study (CTS). The purpose of the study is to develop a strategy and implementation plan, enabling identified measures to be progressed by the relevant road authorities, including Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and GCC/National Transport Authority (NTA). The final Kinvara CTS is due to be published in November 2025.



Headford and Maigh Cuillin CTS: Work has commenced, with a Long List of Options identified for both locations. Draft studies are expected to be issued in November 2025.

Portumna, Clifden, and Oughterard CTS: Site visits were carried out in October 2025 as part of the initial assessment phase.

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

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Action Week took place from the October 13th to 19th, with Galway County Council hosting a vibrant series of events. Highlights included 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 hosted with GRETB.





COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION FUND

The week culminated in the launch of the Community Climate Action Programme at Brigit’s Garden on Saturday, October 18th, featuring a showcase of local climate projects funded by Galway County Council and a presentation and Q&A on the Community Climate Action Fund. The second round of the Community Climate Action Fund was officially opened 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.

Getting down to grassroots

Galway County Council launches €762,000 Community Climate Action Fund

GALWAY County Council has announced a €762,000 Community Climate Action Fund aimed at supporting grassroots efforts to implement climate action projects across the county.

Launched during Climate Action Week, the initiative offers full financial support to not-for-profit organisations, including community and voluntary groups such as Tidy Towns committees, development associations and sports clubs.

Eligible projects will align with one or more of five key climate themes: community en-

The 2024 round of funding backed 32 diverse initiatives across County Galway, from solar panel installations and energy-efficient lighting to cycling infrastructure, community gardens, and water refill stations.

County Council Cathaoirleach, Cllr David Collins, described the fund as “a major opportunity for local communities to make a real difference.”

“From small rural groups to larger organisations, everyone can play a part in building a more sustainable future for Gal-





UPCOMING CLIMATE ACTION EVENTS

The Climate Unit is involved in organising and / or presenting at a number of upcoming events to promote the Community Climate Action Fund including:



COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SCHEMES

GORT & ENVIRONS COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SCHEME

This group created a Labyrinth at Gort River Walk.



They also constructed a new path at the Gort River Walk which is a lovely amenity for the local community.



CLIFDEN/ ROUNDSTONE COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SCHEME

This group carry out invaluable projects in the Connemara Region.

At Clegann Car Park, the participants replaced the wooden fence. Before and after photos



BEFORE



AFTER

They also constructed a concrete base at Cleggan Pier and installed a bench for the locals and tourists to take in the lovely views.



RURAL WATER PROGRAMME

MARWP 2024-2026

The rural Water Programme are focusing our efforts on progressing all funded schemes through the project delivery process. This requires us to directly engage with the schemes to request their confirmation that they have procured a design engineer and appointed the firm as Project Supervisor for the Design Stage (PSDP).

As previously reported, 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

Project planning has been completed, and pipe-laying will commence on Monday November 10th, 2025.



Source Civil Contractors will upgrade 6.6 km of water mains to current industry (Uisce Éireann) standard. The project is scheduled to take four months and is scheduled to be completed by the end of March 2026.

CONTRACT SIGNING 6TH OCTOBER 2025

CARHEENLEA GWS (TURLOUGHMORE)

This scheme experienced an interruption to its supply on October 4th, 2025, when their source borehole became inundated with running sand which inhibited the pumping of water to the scheme. The scheme attempted to reinstate supply by have a replacement pump supplied but this proved unsuccessful.

The RWP were granted emergency funding on October 14th to allow the scheme to be connected to and be supplied by their neighbouring scheme Coolarne GWS. The water supply was reinstated on Friday October 17th.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

OPERATIONS

A new Incident Command Unit (ICU) was completed by Sidhean Teo in An Spidéal and was recently handed over to Galway Fire and Rescue Service. Training on the operation of the unit for trainers was completed on 11 September 2025. Training at watch and station level is scheduled to be completed by the end of November. Due to the nature of the electronics on board, the unit will have to be stored in Carnmore Airport as it cannot be left outside over the winter months.



NEW INCIDENT COMMAND UNIT

Construction of a new Hazmat Unit has also commenced in Sidhean Teo. Work is ongoing to review, and upgrade the equipment carried thereon.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

LOUGHREA FIRE STATION

Galway Fire & Rescue Service has received permission to tender for a Main Contractor for a three-bay station. Fire service staff are in the process of preparing tender documentation to issue via e-tenders for the procurement of a contractor to complete the build.

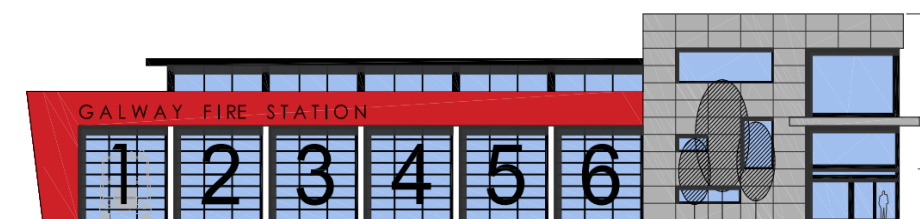


PROPOSED NEW FIRE STATION
LOUGHREA

HEADQUARTERS AND GALWAY CITY FIRE STATION

In October approval in principle was received from the NDFEM to proceed to Decision Gate 2, full design and cost plan stage for the new Fire Station and headquarters, subject to submission of a project design brief prior to tendering for design services. The project design brief is currently being drafted for submission to NDFEM, after which, once approval is received the tender process for a design team will commence.

To facilitate this and satisfy NDFEM project requirements, a City Development Plan variation workshop was conducted at City Hall on 17 October regarding the proposed site.



INDICATIVE ONLY

PROPOSED NEW HEADQUARTERS AND CENTRAL FIRE STATION GALWAY CITY

TRAINING

NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE (USAR) PROJECT

To date 9 personnel have undertaken the USAR 1 Technician Course at the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service Learning and Development College, Cookstown. A further 4 students are scheduled to attend this course in Cookstown in January 2026.

3 students have completed the USAR 2 Technician Course (2 weeks) in Merseyside FRS Learning and Development College, Liverpool on 6 - 17 October 2025. A further 4 students are scheduled to undergo this course in Liverpool on the 10 – 21 November 2025.

The national USAR training kit has been delivered and will be managed by Galway Fire and Rescue Service at Cranmore Airport. USAR Personal Protective Equipment deliveries have commenced and should be completed by end of November 2025. USAR specialist

equipment and vehicle deliveries are scheduled to commence in early 2026 with an anticipated go-live date on October 2026.



USAR 1 COURSE - COOKSTOWN, NORTHERN IRELAND

NATIONAL USAR TRAINING KIT ON MFU-01



MAJOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (MEM)

MEDC (MAJOR EMERGENCY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE)

On the 29 October 2025 Galway Fire and Resue Service presented at the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers International Symposium on Safety, Security and Rescue Robotics at ATU Galway. An equipment demonstration was also conducted and there was a high-level of interest among the 80 delegates. Several promising research contacts were made.



ROV DEMONSTRATING GFRS ROV CAPABILITY



GFRS DEMONSTRATING THEIR ROV CAPABILITY

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

The NUROP and SWEMS projects had placed Galway County Council / GFRS ahead of all other services in terms of demonstrating achievement of the NDFEM strategic objectives, particularly in terms of mobile data and community fire safety. The projects were also evidence of compliance with national digital and ICT strategies. The NDFEM has not continued funding for the GIS resource for the development of the NUROP/SWEMS development work and as such the resource has been lost and both platforms are no longer available to GFRS and the wider Council. Given the hard work by all to get these projects to their current stage, and the upcoming external validation group review of GFRS, this is very regrettable. The SWEMS project recently won the 'Best Local Government Authority Project Award' at the Business Post Public Sector Digital Transformation Awards 2025 at the Mansion House in Dublin. The award recognises exceptional innovation and collaboration in

delivering digital solutions that enhance local services and community safety, specifically the local authority response to severe weather events.



MS. MCKENZIE BOLAND (NUROP/SWEMS GIS ANALYST), MS. MICHELLE HENNELLY, A/SACFO AND MR. TED O SHEA, STATION OFFICER, AN CHEATHRÚ RUA, AT THE AWARD CEREMONY

PREVENTION

The information in the following is based on the October 2025 figures. The Fire Authority received 15 Fire Safety Certificate applications and issued decisions on 10 applications. 7 Disability Access Certificate applications were received, and decisions made on 9 applications. 6 new licences were issued in October, and 25 inspections were conducted.

CIVIL DEFENCE

ACTIVITIES

Regular duties were carried out across the county, including local community support at events such as the Croí Night Run, the Ballinasloe Fair, and the National Age Friendly Awards. The large Halloween Macnas Parade took place in the city, where members from across the county assisted the City Unit in providing medical cover for the event.

Boat and Drone crews, with assistance from Mayo and Clare Civil Defence Drone teams, participated in searches for two missing persons in Tuam and the Galway Bay area at the request of An Garda Síochána. These combined search operations extended over a three-week period.

A new search boat was collected by Galway Civil Defence for use by the Ballinasloe Unit. This craft was funded through the Dormant Accounts Fund via the Civil Defence Branch.

TRAINING

Boat crews attended Personnel Survival Techniques Training courses around the country. This is essential training for all boat crews.

Two Flood Water Responder Instructors completed recertification training in Co. Wicklow, and we will be rolling our recertification and full training to our members over the coming months.

SEVERE WEATHER REVIEW 2024–2025 & NATIONAL REVIEW OF STORM ÉOWYN

At the October plenary meeting, the elected members requested an update on the severe weather events experienced over the past winter period. We committed to providing this information in the Management Report for the next meeting. The following section outlines a summary of Galway County Council's response to last winter's severe weather events, the actions taken across the organisation and the coordinated approach adopted during multiple significant storms. It also highlights a number of actions arising from the recently published National Review of Storm Éowyn, which will inform ongoing preparedness and response planning in the period ahead.



Throughout late 2024 and into 2025, County Galway was impacted by a series of significant weather events, including prolonged rainfall, extensive flooding, high winds, coastal surges and wave overtopping. These events placed sustained pressure on the road network, water and wastewater operations, electricity and telecommunications systems and several vulnerable coastal

communities. The cumulative effect of these events required ongoing mobilisation of Council resources and inter-agency coordination.

In advance of each event, Galway County Council activated its Severe Weather Assessment Teams and convened both Local and Regional Coordination structures. This ensured that all relevant agencies had early awareness of the developing conditions and could prepare personnel and resources effectively. Depots and outdoor crews were placed on standby, with enhanced rostering arrangements introduced for Orange and Red level alerts. The Council also implemented its communication plans at an early stage through its Communications Unit within Corporate Services, ensuring that timely updates were issued to the media, local radio, elected members, and across social media platforms. This proactive approach helped to ensure that the organisation, partner agencies, and the wider public were well informed in advance of the worst weather conditions.

The Council's emergency response reflected the varied and significant impacts of each storm. In responding to Storm Bert, which affected Connemara and Clifden, Galway County Council worked closely with the Fire Service to undertake pumping operations to prevent properties in Clifden from flooding, while also managing substantial landslides that occurred in the surrounding area. During Storm Éowyn and Storm Darragh, the county experienced major tree falls that resulted in widespread disruption to the road transport network. In response, the Municipal District offices and outdoor crews carried tree out clearance operations, prioritising national primary roads, followed by national secondary and regional routes, and finally local roads, in order to restore access in the quickest possible time to ensure emergency services access and allow essential travel to resume after the passing of each storm event.

Following each severe weather event, the Council moved swiftly into the recovery phase by reopening roads, removing debris and carrying out temporary or permanent repairs as required. After Storm Éowyn, when prolonged and widespread power outages affected communities across the county, Galway County Council, supported by the Community Unit, worked with community centres to provide community hubs. Throughout the recovery period, Galway County Council maintained close coordination with ESB Networks. As part of this effort, the Council worked closely with elected members to gather details on hardship cases reported by residents who were without power for extended periods. This information was relayed to ESB Networks on a regional basis to support the prioritisation of power restoration for the most vulnerable and severely impacted households.

While the impacts of severe weather events are often unavoidable, an essential component of the Council's response is the provision of clear and timely communication to the public. Effective communication delivers key messages regarding weather forecasts, anticipated impacts and safety advice, enabling communities to take appropriate actions in advance of and during severe weather. Communication with elected members is equally important, as they are closely connected to local communities and play a vital role in relaying information and reassurance. Throughout each weather event, Galway County Council, through the Communications Unit within Corporate Services, issued regular updates to the media, local radio, and social media channels to keep the public informed of evolving conditions and potential impacts. Senior representatives of the Council also participated in live radio interviews to advise the public on storm impacts, the local authority's response measures and available supports.

The severe weather experienced during the winter of 2024 and into 2025, including three Red Weather Warning events, demonstrated the strength and resilience of Galway County Council's emergency management arrangements. Across each event, the Council's proactive preparation ensured that transport links could be reopened rapidly once the immediate hazards had passed, allowing communities and essential services to resume activity without undue delay. The response was characterised by strong internal coordination across multiple departments and units, including the Community Department, Corporate Services, Housing, the Fire Service, Rural Water Services, ICT, Roads and Transportation, and the Municipal District offices. This whole-of-Council response ensured that the full range of expertise and resources within the organisation was utilised effectively to support communities.

Galway County Council operated under the Western Regional MEM Steering Group including neighbouring local authorities, An Garda Síochána, the HSE's emergency management structures and in partnership with Uisce Éireann and ESB Networks. This integrated approach assisted coordinated public messaging and coordination of our operational response throughout each event.

As a further follow-up to the national response to Storm Éowyn, members should note that Community Support Centres – A Guide to Assisting Volunteer Groups in Response to an Emergency, has been developed in conjunction with the NDFEM and the OEP and adopted by the CCMA. It provides a structured framework for how local volunteer-led centres can be activated to support communities during severe weather events, offering heat, power, communications, basic welfare services and information where normal services are disrupted. The guidance outlines the criteria for designating suitable premises, the supports available from the Local Authority through the Humanitarian Sub-Group, and the activation pathways during emergencies. In parallel, a national procurement process, led by Carlow County Council on behalf of all local authorities, is currently underway for the supply of emergency generators. Under this contract, Galway County Council will receive three generators, including delivery, training, servicing and maintenance for a three-year period. These units will be held on standby to enable the rapid establishment of a Community Support Centre in circumstances where a severe weather incident results in an extended loss of power in affected communities.

BROADBAND OFFICE

PUBLIC SECTOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AWARDS 2025

On 16th October, the Public Sector Digital Transformation Awards took place at the Mansion House, Dublin. Led by the Healthy County Galway Co-Ordinator, the Women’s Health Programme 2025 was proudly shortlisted.

The Broadband Office supported this initiative by enabling Broadband Connection Points to participate. Through high-speed connectivity, individuals in remote and island communities could attend online sessions and consult with leading women’s health experts. Over five weeks, events

were hosted simultaneously across multiple county locations, improving service delivery and expanding access to vital health information where resources are often limited.



L-R: MS. DONNA BYRNE, BROADBAND SUPPORT OFFICER AND MR. NOEL MADDEN, BROADBAND OFFICER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL.

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL PLANNING DATA

KEY Statistics: 1st JANUARY – 31st October 2025

Applications Received/Valid 1902/1538 (81%)

Granted 1328

Grant Rate 91%

Refused 138

Breakdown of Decisions Granted Outline (8)

Permission (1039)

Retention (251)

Permission Consequent (7)

Extension of Duration (23)

Percentage of applications received via Portal/Hardcopy 84%

Stage 1LRD 4

Stage 2 LRD 1

Major Meetings 18 from 20 requests

SID Meetings 1

Red III Applications 4 (1 invalid, 3 valid applications). The completeness checklist is currently under review for 2 Red III applications.

COMMENCEMENTS AND COMPLETIONS 1st JANUARY – 31st October 2025

Submitted and Validated Commencement 666

Notices

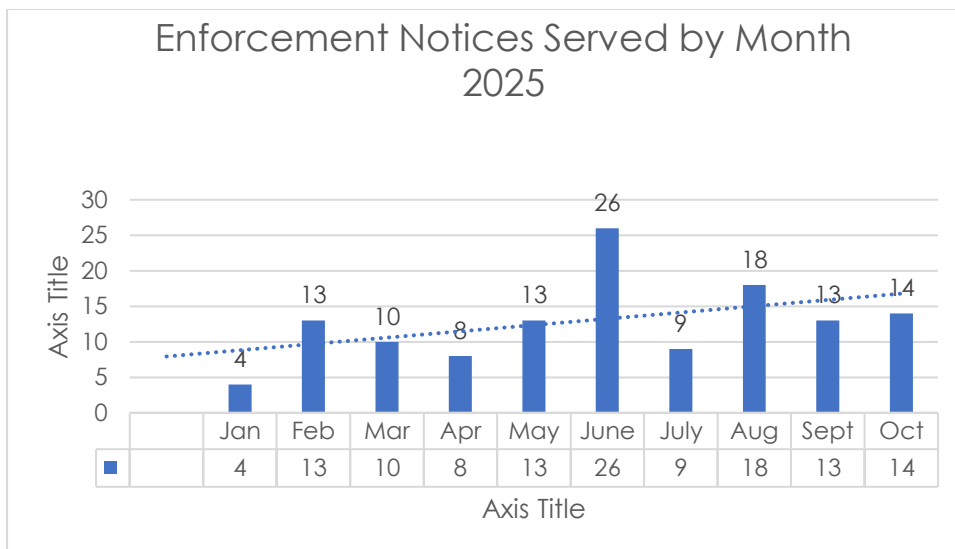
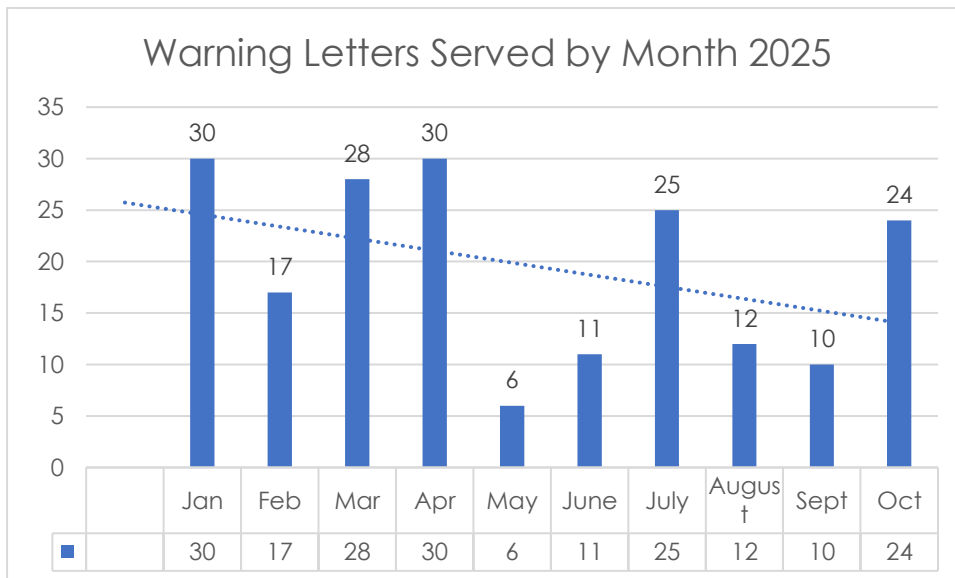
Submitted and Validated Certificates of Completion 102

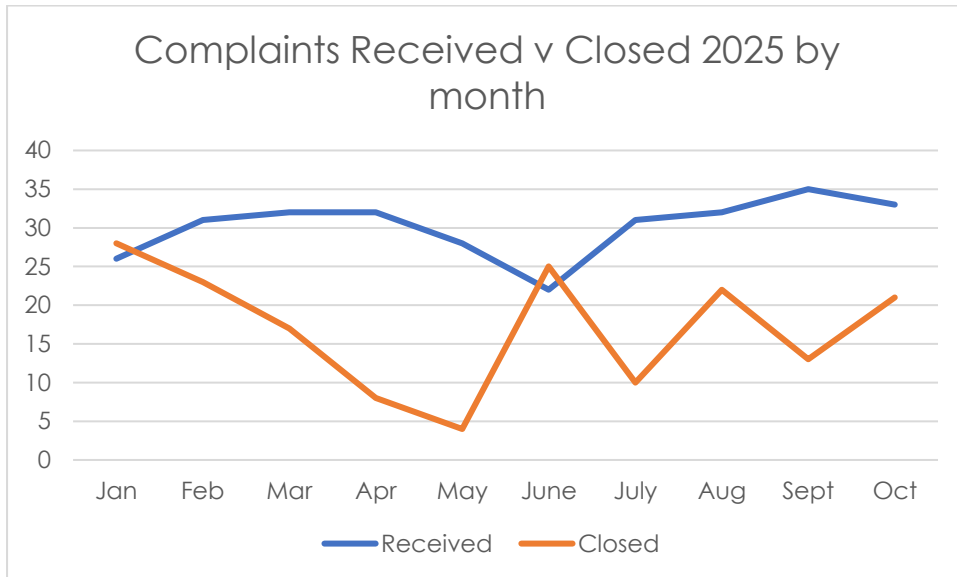
KEY STATISTICS 1 st JANUARY 2025 – 31 st October 2025.	
Exempted Development Applications (under Section 5)	130
Exempted	66
Not Exempted	48
FI	7
Withdrawn	0
Decision Pending	6
Appealed	3

PLANNING MEETINGS BY MONTH 2025

PPM per MD per Month	Januar	Februar	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
Athenry/Oranmore	3	7	5	5	7	3	5	0	7	3
Ballinasloe	2	2	5	6	2	2	6	1	2	3
Connemara N & S	3	4	6	7	3	0	7	2	4	7
Loughrea	8	9	9	5	2	6	2	6	5	3
Tuam	1	6	3	3	7	2	2	3	0	5
Total per month	17	28	28	26	21	13	22	12	18	21

ENFORCEMENT





KEY PLANNING UPDATES

COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN/DEVELOPMENT PLAN VARIATION

Variation No. 1 of County Development Plan (CDP) 2022-2028 will be published on 24th November 2025. Closing date for submissions is 12 noon on Tuesday, 23rd December 2025. Public Consultation Drop-In Session being held on Thursday 4th December in Áras an Chontae. Webinar being hosted on Wednesday 10th December 2025 at 6.00 p.m. CE Report for Variation No. 1 to be with Members in late January 2026.

Review and update of HNDA (Housing Need Demand Assessment) is being finalised.

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

MONITORING OF GALWAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028

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

VACANCY SURVEY

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

URDF

Design Documents for design of local centre, ecopark and density typology study at Garraun have been completed. Contracts to be signed for carpark design on 7th November 2025 to bring carpark design to planning application stage.



L-R: MR. BRIAN CORCORAN, SENIOR EXECUTIVE PLANNER, MS. VALERIE LOUGHNANE, SENIOR PLANNER, MR. LIAM HANRAHAN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, CLLR. DAVID COLLINS, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY, MR. IAN BYRNE, MR. ANDREW ARCHER, MR. MICHAEL CHAPMAN, SYSTRA IRELAND

Pedestrian and cycle underpass works at Oranmore Train Station was carried out on weekend of 10/10/2025.

Minister James Browne, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage of Ireland will be visiting Oranmore Train Station on 10th November re: URDF Call II Project.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Call for Tender for City/County Joint Economic Strategy was published on 26/09/2025. Tender responses currenting being evaluated.

BRIARHILL URBAN FRAMEWORK PLAN LANDS

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

JOINT RETAIL STRATEGY

Joint Retail Strategy currently being finalised.

DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Review of Development Contributions currently underway by the Forward Planning Team. Report/Working Draft was presented to Executive Team in October.

CAHEROYN URBAN FRAMEWORK PLAN (ATHENRY)

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

UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY/PRES ATHENRY AND GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

Annual project with University of Galway and the Pres Athenry took place on 4/5 November 2025. Planning site survey work was undertaken in Athenry on Day 1 with MA in Planning and Development students in UG and 5th year Pres students. The purpose of the project is to stimulate interest and engagement in Geography and Planning among the 5th year students in particular. Day 2 included students presenting their findings. UG students were tasked with formulating a policy objective related to the findings.

AGENTS FORUM/SEMINAR – 12TH NOVEMBER 2025

Agent's Forum is being held in Raheen Woods Hotel on Wednesday 12th November 2025. This provides an update to Agents on new planning legislation, Development Plan and negotiating the planning process.

CCMA/OPR TRAINING EVENT

CCMA/OPR Training Event took place on 21st October last on 2024 Planning Act – Part 3 Plans, Development Plans etc. Further OPR training to take place on 19th November 2025 on Development Management.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE GALWAY

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

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

TRAINING COURSES & PROGRAMMES

SHORT TRAINING COURSES

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

Our final short training course for this year was 'How to Create Christmas Themed Marketing Videos' and took place online via Zoom on the 4th & 11th November. Our short training courses will recommence in February 2026.

BUSINESS ADVISORY CLINIC

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

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

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

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



MENTORING

Our mentoring programme is designed to match up the knowledge, skills, insights, and entrepreneurial capability of experienced business practitioners with clients who need practical and strategic one-to-one advice and guidance. The mentor contributes independent, informed observation, and advice to aid decision making.

The Mentor Programme is open to both new and existing businesses located within the



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

START YOUR OWN BUSINESS PROGRAMME (SYOB)

LEO Galway organizes a SYOB programme monthly with up to 16 participants on each programme. The October SYOB evening programme commenced on the 29th of September 2025 and finished on the 22nd of October. The November SYOB programme commenced on the 3rd of November and finishes on the 26th of November.

IDEA TO IMPACT

LEO Galway is running an Idea to Impact programme (formally known as Lean launch) which started on 30th October. The programme is ideal if you are starting out with your business idea or just need that guidance to point you in the right direction to start making or increasing customers and sales. Our expert trainers will support you in carrying out real world sales and market research to see if there is a business in your business. Market research is key in any business and while this programme is very hands on, you will get to see if your idea is viable. The programme will run as follows:

IDEA TO IMPACT 2025

Thursday	30.10.25	9.30am – 4pm	Mod 1.	In person	Galway City Council (GCC)
Friday	21.11.25	9.30am-4pm	Mod.2	In person	GCC
Thursday	04.12.25	9.30am-4pm	Mod.3	In person	GCC
Monday	12.01.26	9.30am-4pm	Mod.4	In person	GCC
Tuesday	10.02.26	9.30am-4pm	Mod.5	In person	GCC
Tuesday	10.03.26	9.30am-4pm	Mod.6	In person	GCC
Tuesday	14.04.26	9.30am-4pm	Mod.7	In person	GCC

THE STRATEGIC GROWTH PROGRAMME FOR BUSINESS LEADERS

The Strategic Growth Programme is a dynamic 12-month programme designed for ambitious business leaders seeking to accelerate growth. Limited to 12 participants, it combines expert-led workshops, personalised strategy sessions, and practical implementation support. The first phase focuses on building strategic foundations, while the second drives execution through peer accountability and collaboration. By programme end, participants will have scaled their ventures, gained strategic confidence, and joined a powerful network of growth-focused leaders. This programme started on November 4th,



2025 at Galway County Council and is heavily subsidized at €150, with all applications reviewed and assessed by LEO.

PARTICIPANTS OF THE STRATEGIC GROWTH PROGRAMME

UPCOMING EVENTS

LOCAL FOOD & CRAFT FAIR

The popular Local Food and Craft Fair, organized by Local Enterprise Office Galway, returns to the Black Box Theatre this November with an extended time frame. The event showcases Galway designers, handcrafted goods and artisan produce, with up to 60 stands featuring the best in locally produced gifts.

The 2025 event takes place on Thursday 27th November to Tuesday 2nd December at the Blackbox Theatre, Dyke Road, Galway. The Local Food and Craft Fair charity partner this year is the Galway Sick Kids Foundation.

Since 2012, the Local Craft and Food Gift Fair has grown in popularity and reputation – featuring some of the best local crafts people and artisan food producers. This year’s event promises to be bigger and better than ever! This two-day fair is a great opportunity to find

unique locally made gifts before Christmas, along with a wide range of locally produced artisan food products.

This year, Barnardo the Magician will be keeping the kids entertained with balloon creations and magic shows over the course of the weekend– guaranteeing a great family day out!

Among the exhibitors this year are Michele Chambers Ceramics, Irish Sock Society, Elayor Jewelry, Sliabh Aughty Honey & Natural Irish Skincare and many more!

This year, LEO Galway is providing 14 free bus routes from all over the county to and from the Black Box Theatre. It is advised that shoppers book their seats early to avoid disappointment.

Shoppers from all across Co Galway can enjoy a hassle-free shopping experience at this year's Local Food and Craft Gift Fair. 14 free bus routes will operate from towns all over Galway, taking groups to the Christmas Fair at the Black Box Theatre. Coaches will serve Athenry, Ballinasloe, Carna, An Cheathrú Rua, Baile Chláir, Clifden, Cloonboo, Dunmore, Na Forbacha, Headford, Indreabhán, Loughrea, Maam Cross, Maigh Cuilinn, Oughterard, Oranmore, Rosmuc, Ros a' Mhíl, An Spidéal and Tuam. Shoppers will be able to spend a couple of hours at the Black Box, before being bussed back to the various collection points. Shoppers are advised to book their seats early to avoid disappointment. Bookings can be made by calling LEO on 091 509 090 or online at www.localenterprise.ie/Galway/.



DESIGN MINGLE

Join us in CREW for an inspirational talk from Sarah Heffernan on November 21st at 11.45m. An award-winning service designer, Sarah, is an empathetic and curious person with a keen eye for both the bigger picture and the finer detail throughout the life cycle of a service. With extensive experience across a variety of industries, Sarah maintains an active research-based and process-driven practice to deliver value and improve human experience. Sarah's work has most recently been focused on complex public sector environments where she collaborates with diverse stakeholders to foster innovation and embed inclusive design practices. Ongoing engagement with service users and people with lived experience is at the heart of this work.



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.

START YOUR OWN BUSINESS TRAINING

LEO Galway is organising a taster session of their Start Your Own Business course, a short-day session designed to give you a flavour of the full 4-week programme. This condensed programme provides a structured overview of the essential steps and considerations involved in launching a business.



There are two sessions scheduled for both Monday, 10th November in An Crompan, H91 X4WH, An Cheathrú Rua from 10:00am to 4:00pm and Monday, 17th November in the Omey Suite, Clifden Station House Hotel from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

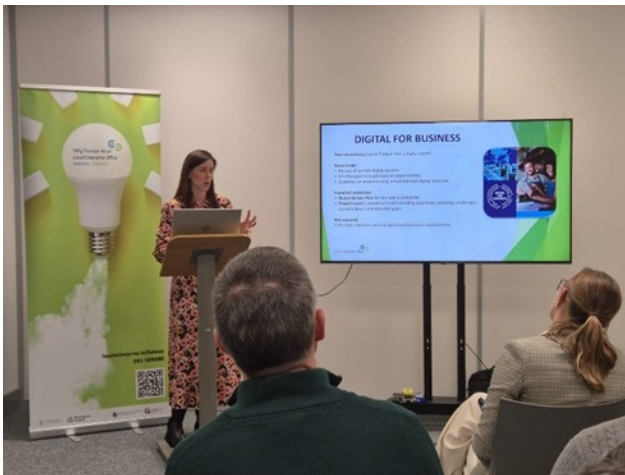
PAST EVENTS

LUNCH & LEARN IN PLATFORM94

Stephanie Colombani, Sandra Regan and Mairead Herlihy of LEO Galway attended a networking Lunch and learn in collaboration with Platform 94 on November 4th in Platform94. The session highlighted the full range of LEO Galway support available to entrepreneurs and small business owners across Galway from funding and mentoring to

digital, green, and lean programmes designed to help you scale smarter.

Whether you're starting out or scaling up, this was a great opportunity to connect, learn, and grow. As always, there was time to network with fellow founders over lunch, kindly sponsored by LEO Galway.



MS. STEPHANIE COLOMBANI, LEO GALWAY

MS. SANDRA REGAN, LEO GALWAY



DESIGN MINGLE

Chloe Gardiner from The Wonky Woolins spoke at Design Mingle on Friday October 24th 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.



MS. CHLOE GARDINER, THE WONKY WOOLINS

MS. NOREEN DONOHUE AND MS. SHARON MCNELIS, LEO GALWAY, ALONG WITH STUDENTS FROM ATU GALWAY



NATIONAL WOMEN'S ENTERPRISE DAY

National Women's Enterprise Day was 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. Keynote speakers on the day included Sarah Butler, Norah Casey, Emily Brady, Laura McDonald, Clare Frances Faissal, Elena Donea and MC Loretta Ni Ghabhain.



L-R: MS. MAIREAD HERLIHY, MS. STEPHANIE COLOMBANI, MS. CAIIOSA KEAVENEY AND MS. SHARON MCNELIS, LEO GALWAY

MS. EMILY BRADY, CEO, ELASCO NETWORK LIMITED, MS. CLARE FRANCES FAISSAL, CLARE FRANCES PHOTOGRAPHY, ELENA DONEA, CEO WHATSEXPOSED AND MS. LORETTA NI GHABHAIN, LORG MEDIA



MS. MARGARET CHARLETON, ENTERPRISE IRELAND, MS. LOUISE WARD, HEAD OF ENTERPRISE, ROSCOMMON CO.CO., MS. CAROLINE MCDONAGH, HEAD OF ENTERPRISE, GALWAY CO.CO., AND MR. JOHN MAGEE, HEAD OF ENTERPRISE, MAYO CO.CO.

FORUM CONNEMARA SOCIAL ENTERPRISE NETWORKING EVENT

Forum Connemara hosted a Social Enterprise Networking event in Oughterard Community Centre on October 22nd. Noreen Donohue & Arianna McDonagh, LEO Galway, hosted a stand on the day, providing LEO information and supports.



L-R: MS. NOREEN DONOHUE & MS. ARIANNA MCDONAGH OF LEO GALWAY

FOOD & CRAFT FAIR PREPARATION TRAINING

Food and Craft fair preparation training for stand holders took place on the 30th of September 7th, 10th, 14th and 21st of October online and in person in the Connacht Hotel.

LUNCH & LEARN PORTUMNA COURT HOUSE

Caroline McDonagh, Eoin Connaire and Mairead Herlihy of LEO Galway, attended a Growth and Networking Lunch and learn on October 23rd at the Portumna Court House. This Lunch & Learn session highlighted the LEO services & support 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 got the chance to meet our LEO Galway team to discuss their business needs and get their business questions answered.



L-R: MS. MAIREAD HERLIHY, LEO GALWAY, MS. CAROLINE MCDONAGH, HEAD OF ENTERPRISE, MS. KARAGH KELLY, URBAN AND RURAL REGENERATION, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND MR. EOIN CONNAIRE, LEO GALWAY

SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

FACEBOOK:

7.5 LIKES

REACH YEAR-TO-DATE: 25.7K

LINKEDIN:

1.5K FOLLOWERS

REACH YEAR-TO-DATE: 10.5K

INSTAGRAM:

3.5K FOLLOWERS

REACH YEAR-TO-DATE: 17.6K

X (TWITTER):

5880 FOLLOWERS

WEST REGIONAL ENTERPRISE PLAN

The Galway County Council Chamber hosted a meeting on the 29th October organised by Kenny Deery of the West Regional Enterprise Plan Lifesciences Working Group Meeting.

Dave McKernan of Aerogen chaired the session and co-presented with Majella Maher, Regional Manager at Enterprise Ireland.

The meeting was attended by:

Kenny Deery	West Regional Enterprise Plan-Manager
Dave McKernan	Aerogen- Programme Manager, Chair Lifesciences Working Group
Majella Maher	Enterprise Ireland, Regional Manager, West Region
Meabh Conaghan	Enterprise Ireland, Director West, North West and North East
Mary Rodgers	CEO Portershed
Des Foley	VP, Research, ATU
Kurt Reinhardt	Enterprise Ireland, Client Adviser, Lifesciences
Thomas Thompson	CEO, Rockfield Medical
Jamie Meehan	Manager, Medical Engineering Technology Gateway
Billy Donovan	Business Development Met Gateway
Marie Donnellan	CEO, Platform 94
Roseanna Loftus	Manager, MedLink Cluster
Fiona Neary	Innovation and Accelerator Manager, UoGalway
John Kilmartin	Adjunct Professor, Institute of Clinical Trials, University Of Galway, ex Director of Regulatory, Medtronic
Teresa Hooks	Regional Development Executive, Western Development Commission
Mirian Ni Neill	Enterprise and Employment Executive, Údarás
Turlough Rafferty	Turlough Rafferty-Innovation Centre Manager, IHubs ATU
Caroline McDonough	Head of Enterprise, LEO Galway
Cailaoisa Keaveney	LEO Galway



This meeting followed an industry workshop organised by Kenny Deery in June attended by a mixture of startup, scaling and mature companies in the lifesciences industry.

Outside of private industry the ecosystem in the region additionally comprises innovation hubs who provide space and a community for lifesciences start-ups. The Medical Engineering Technology Gateway (MET), the MedLink cluster, the Health Innovation hub, the Institute for Clinical Trials, by way of examples, provide a range sector specific services and supports. Enablers nationally and regionally include the business development agencies, WestBIC, the Western Development Commission, the Regional Skills Forum, the Irish Medtech association and the local authorities.

While there are lots of ecosystem resources/assets and entities, gaps exist in optimally meeting the needs of the lifesciences sector in the region and there is a lack of cohesion between the resources/assets, stakeholder/enablers and lifesciences companies.



PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

ESTABLISHING A LIFESCIENCES CAMPUS

Developing a centralised campus dedicated to lifesciences can provide multifaceted benefits. A state-of-the-art facility featuring co-working spaces, specialised labs, can significantly reduce startup costs while enhancing operational efficiency. There is a need for a campus that allows a company to grow from a start-up to a multinational on the same campus.

Access is needed to preclinical animal facilities within Ireland and a holistic and streamlined clinical research infrastructure.

Key infrastructural needs identified include:

- Community space
- Wet labs and clean-room facilities
- Testing and prototyping labs
- Shared resources and equipment to minimize overhead costs
- Flexible office spaces accommodating varying company sizes
- Pre-clinical Animal testing facilities
- Clinical Research Infrastructure
- Sterilisation facilities
- Transportation testing

Lack of housing is a significant issue and needs urgent attention. The campus will only be viable and sustainable if the housing issue can be resolved.

TAILORED SUPPORT PROGRAMS

The success of the hub will also depend on extensive support programs including:

- Regular training and networking events that cater to new technologies and frameworks
- Collaboration with established companies to provide advisory networks, including “MNC office hours” for startups to access expertise in niche areas (IP, sales, regulatory, etc.)
- Collaboration between SMEs and MNCs around procurement opportunities for SME Sub-supply into the MNCs
- Establishing acceleration programs that facilitate entry into international markets

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION

Encouraging the establishment of clusters of companies within the campus can promote collaboration among businesses with aligned interests. For instance, facilitating networking among startups in specific fields—such as wound care—will foster shared resources and knowledge.

LEARNING FROM INTERNATIONAL MODELS

Exploring successful lifesciences hubs around the world (e.g., Denmark, the Netherlands, and California) can provide valuable insights into best practices for infrastructure, funding facilitation, and talent acquisition. Tailoring these examples to meet the unique needs of Galway and the region will be crucial.

CONCLUSION

Galway and the West of Ireland has an established reputation in lifesciences being recognised as a global hub for Medtech, in particular. The opportunity to sustain and build on this exists, however, addressing several infrastructural operational challenges will be important to realising this. Establishing a dedicated lifesciences campus will provide essential resources for startups and scaling companies alike and strengthen the overall ecosystem through connectivity, shared knowledge, and operational efficiencies. By aligning the needs of the sector with strategic planning and industry engagement, Galway and the region can sustain and build on its position of strength.

There is considerable support for building and enhancing the community collaboration and learning that has been initiated by the lifesciences ecosystem and in particular in recent times through the MedLink cluster. The activities of the cluster need to be supported, enabled and set on a sustainable funding and resource pathway. The cluster is in a unique position to be the ‘go to place’, a central resource and connector for the sector facilitating and co-ordinating on many initiatives to support start-ups, SMEs and MNCs collaboratively.

Funding was identified as a challenge for start-ups and scaling companies There is a clear need to map the funding pathways, agencies and potential supports available. There is a need to lobby for an expanded pool of investors and improvements to the EIS.

The proposed recommendations and follow-on actions need to be considered by relevant stakeholders and a roadmap developed to timeline and progress these.



Space/Facilities	Talent	Specialist Services	Connection	Funding
1. Housing	1. Competing for skilled talent with MNCs	1. Preclinical Testing	1. Regional events for MNC and SMEs	1. Broader Investor Pool
2. Community Space	2. Commercial/Business Development	2. Streamlined Clinical Research System	2. Knowledge sharing Masterclasses/Office hours with MNCs	2. Streamlined EIS
3. Flexible-Modular space	3. Regulatory	3. List of Regional Assets	3. Mentoring	3. Increased R+D Tax Credit
4. Space for start-ups	4. Legal	4. List of Qualified specialist providers		4. Catalogue of existing available funding Supports
5. Space to scale in same location	5. Reimbursement	5. List of qualified sub-suppliers		
6. Co-location of same sub-sectors	6. Sales	6. Training in New Technologies		
7. Wet labs	7. Overseas Recruitment			
8. Prototyping labs	8. Sales Professionals with Language skills			
9. Testing labs				
10. Cleanrooms				
11. Specialist Equipment Access				
12. Sterilisation Facilities				

The next steps for this group are to submit a funding application to begin the process of framing this centre of excellence in the context of locations, size, scale, partnerships and a governance structure.

TOWN CENTRE FIRST (TCF) PROGRAMME

ATHENRY



The Athenry Town team have worked closely with the TRO and Consultants LUC in completing the TCF plan. The official launch event for the Plan will take place in early 2026.

BALLINASLOE

The Ballinasloe Town Team have worked closely with the TRO and the Paul Hogarth Company in the development of the Town Centre First Plan. The process of drafting the final Town Centre First Plan has been completed with the official launch expected to take place in early 2026 once the accompanying video has been completed.



AN CHEATHRÚ RUA

The Town Centre First Plan for an Cheathrú Rua is being led by Údaras and supported by Galway County Council. Allies and Morrison have been appointed to develop the plan. The Town Regeneration Officer, Brent Mostert will continue to liaise on behalf of Galway County Council. The final community engagement session will be held in An Cheathru Rua on 19 November.

ORANMORE

The Town Regeneration Officer, Brent Mostert, has continued to meet with the Town Team to discuss the development of TCF Plans being driven by them in the absence of funding. The TRO has requested an update from the National Town Centre First Office on the status on funding for TCF Plans in 2026.

HEADFORD

The Town Regeneration Officer, Brent Mostert, has continued to meet with the Town Team to discuss the development of TCF Plans being driven by them in the absence of funding. The TRO has requested an update from the National Town Centre First Office on the status on funding for TCF Plans in 2026.

PORTUMNA

PORTUMNA COURTHOUSE

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 30th. 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.



PORTUMNA PUBLIC REALM

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

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

PORTUMNA TOWN TRAIL

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

ABBEY STREET BUILDINGS



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

LOUGHREA

RRDF PROJECT – LOUGHREA TOWN HALL

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

ORIS PROJECT – LONG POINT

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

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

ATHENRY

RRDF PROJECT – PUBLIC REALM ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

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

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

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

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

RRDF PROJECT – COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE HUB



O’C & C Architects have been appointed to deliver the process through detailed design, tender and construction phases. The detailed design process has commenced with a publication date for Tender set as Q1 2026

TUAM

TUAM TOWN HALL

OC&C architects have been appointed as the design team that will deliver the process through detailed design, tender and construction phases. The detailed design process has commenced. It is expected that the Tender will be published at Q2 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.



TUAM STATION QUARTER MASTERPLAN (THRIVE FUNDING)

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

CLIFDEN

Part 10 planning permission has been **GRANTED** by An Coimisiun 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> .

GORT

GORT PUBLIC REALM

The Gort Public Realm scheme Part 10 planning application has been submitted to An Coimisiun 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. Observations have been received by ACP and the Regeneration Team have issued their responses to these.



SISTERS OF MERCY CONVENT

Funding under Category 2 of the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund to purchase the former Convent property has been received.

ORANMORE

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

IRISH WALLED TOWN NETWORK ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN KILKENNY CASTLE

Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, attended the Annual General Meeting of the Irish Walled Towns Network held in Kilkenny Castle, representing the member towns of Athenry and Loughrea. The AGM provided a valuable opportunity to engage with fellow heritage professionals, share updates on local initiatives, and contribute to the strategic direction of the network as it continues to support best practice in the management of Ireland's walled towns.

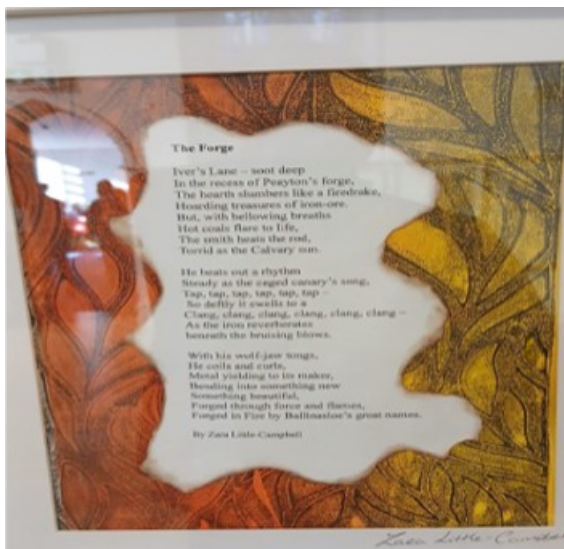


ATTENDING THE LAUNCH OF *PERSPECTIVES ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HISTORIC TOWN WALLS* WERE EIMEAR O'CONNELL, MANAGER IWTN, PETER CAREY, IWTN CHAIR, DR MARTINA MOLONEY, CHAIRPERSON, THE HERITAGE COUNCIL, MARIE MANNION, HERITAGE OFFICER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND IAN DOYLE, HEAD OF CONSERVATION, THE HERITAGE COUNCIL. PHOTO CREDIT: HERITAGE OFFICE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

In addition to this the publication, *Perspectives on the Conservation and Management of Historic Town Walls* was launched at the AGM and the publication contains ten different perspectives on issues relating to the conservation and management of historic town walls including aspects of history, archaeology, conservation, ecology, interpretation and urban design, marks twenty years since the founding of the network.

FORGED IN FIRE ART EXHIBITION LAUNCH – BALLINASLOE LIBRARY

On Saturday, 4th November 2025, Ballinasloe Library hosted the official launch of the



Forged in Fire Art Exhibition, a vibrant celebration of the town's rich heritage in iron and metalwork. The exhibition forms part of a wider initiative under the Creative Ireland Programme, aimed at uncovering and showcasing Ballinasloe's historical relationship with metalworking crafts.

POEM BY ZARA LITTLE-CAMPBELL. PHOTO CREDIT: HERITAGE OFFICE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



The project brought together artists, historians, heritage professionals, and members of the local community to explore the legacy of blacksmiths, forges, and ironwork that have shaped the architectural and cultural identity of Ballinasloe. The exhibition featured a diverse range of artworks.

FORGED IN FIRE ART EXHIBITION BY GROUP 8 LAUNCH 4 OCT 2025 IN BALLINASLOE LIBRARY. PHOTO CREDIT HERITAGE OFFICE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

The project is a collaborative effort between the Galway County Heritage Office, Ballinasloe & District Heritage Society, and the artist collective Group 8. It was spearheaded by a dedicated steering group including Zara Little-Campbell (Chairperson of Group 8), and Conor Johnston (Chairperson of Ballinasloe & District Heritage Society), Marie Mannion (Galway County Heritage Officer) among others.



FORGED IN FIRE ART EXHIBITION. PHOTO CREDIT: CONNACHT TRIBUNE

The exhibition not only highlighted the craftsmanship of past generations but also showcased Group 8's contemporary artistic interpretations of Ballinasloe's ironworking legacy.



CLLR ALAN HARNEY WITH MEMBERS OF GROUP 8 INCLUDING LIBRARIAN ZARA LITTLE-CAMPBELL

Funded by Creative Ireland, the initiative also includes a citizen science component, inviting locals to contribute stories, photographs, and knowledge about ironwork in the area. This participatory approach aims to build a comprehensive archive of Ballinasloe’s metalworking history.

FORGED IN FIRE: CELEBRATING BALLINASLOE’S IRON AND METALWORK HERITAGE



FORGED IN FIRE EXHIBITION LAUNCH, EMERALD SUPPER ROOM BALLINASLOE. PHOTO CREDIT: HERITAGE OFFICE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

The Emerald Supper Room hosted the launch of the Forged in Fire Heritage Exhibition and Podcast Documentary on Saturday 18th October, a captivating celebration of Ballinasloe’s rich history of iron and metalwork. This community heritage project, a collaboration between Galway County Heritage Office, Ballinasloe & District Heritage Society, and Group 8, was proudly funded by Creative Ireland and supported by Galway County Council Heritage Office and The Heritage Council.

The exhibition brought to life centuries of craftsmanship—from prehistoric copper tools to the industrial legacy of coach smiths, blacksmiths, and tinsmiths—through engaging displays, historical artefacts, and creative storytelling. The accompanying podcast documentary, produced by Sally-Ann Barrett, offers listeners an immersive audio journey into the lives and legacies of Ballinasloe’s metalworking families. It is available to stream

here: https://www.podomatic.com/podcasts/beogalway/episodes/2025-10-17T05_52_43-07_00

The project was officially launched by blacksmith Reece Foster, whose presence symbolised the enduring spirit of the craft. The event was attended and supported by Cllr Alan Harney, Cllr Dr Evelyn Parsons, and members of the Ballinasloe community.



CONOR JOHNSTONE AT THE FORGED IN FIRE EXHIBITION LAUNCH, EMERALD SUPPER ROOM BALLINASLOE. PHOTO CREDIT: HERITAGE OFFICE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

Special thanks are extended to the Forged in Fire Steering Group for their dedication and vision they include Conor Johnston (Chairperson, Ballinasloe & District Heritage Group), Padraic Kilduff, Cathal Lucas, Evelyn Donnellan, Oliver Donnellan, Joyce Little, Zara Little-Campbell, Dr Christy Cunniffe, Bernie Doherty, Galway Community Archaeologist, Emma Laffey and Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Galway County Council.

FORGED IN FIRE EXHIBITION LAUNCH, EMERALD SUPPER ROOM BALLINASLOE. PHOTO CREDIT: HERITAGE OFFICE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



The invaluable contributions of Sally-Ann Barrett for podcast production, Dr Damian Mac Con Uladh for his research, Kelly Print Works, Ballinasloe for exhibition materials and postcards, Padraic Kilduff for replica signage, Johnny Johnston for all his calligraphy work, John Boland for reciting the poems, Liam Loughery for his music and song and Irish Rail – Ballinasloe for their support was also acknowledged.



CLLR DR EVELYN PARSONS IN CONVERSATION WITH DR CHRISTY CUNIFFE AT THE FORGED IN FIRE LAUNCH. PHOTO CREDIT: BERNIE DOHERTY

Winners of the photography competition were given their prizes on the day with Vincent Ward being the overall winner, Iarlaith Hurley winning the Bright Spark Award and Michael Smyth Junior winning the Flame Keeper award.

Speaking at the launch, Conor Johnston, Chairperson of Ballinasloe & District Heritage Group, said: “Forged in Fire is more than an exhibition—it’s a tribute to the generations of craftspeople who shaped our town’s identity. Their legacy is forged into the very fabric of Ballinasloe.”

Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Galway County Council, added: “This project exemplifies the power of community heritage. Through research, creativity, and collaboration, we’ve brought Ballinasloe’s metalworking history to life for future generations.”



ZARA LITTLE CAMPBELL AND JOYCE LITTLE AT THE FORGED IN FIRE LAUNCH. PHOTO CREDIT: BERNIE DOHERTY

The exhibition and podcast stand as a testament to the enduring legacy of Ballinasloe’s iron and metalwork traditions, and the community’s commitment to preserving and celebrating its heritage.

This exhibition and Group 8 Art exhibition will be on display in Ballinasloe Library library until November 7th. The exhibition display panels will also be on display at the Hostings V2 launch in Gullanes on November 14th at 8pm.

For more information, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/BallinasloeHeritageSociety/> and www.heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org

GALWAY EVENT WINS NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK AWARD 2025



ACCEPTING THE NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK AWARD WERE JOSIE DILLON, MARIE MANNION, HERITAGE OFFICER, CAOIMHE NÍ CHUALÁIN, MÁIRTÍN DAVY O'COISDEALBHA, JACINTA FLAHERTY, SÍLE SEOIGHE, DR MARTINA MOLONEY, CHAIRPERSON, THE HERITAGE COUNCIL & VIRGINIA TEEHAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE HERITAGE COUNCIL. PHOTO CREDIT: HERITAGE OFFICE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL.

The winners of the National Heritage Week Awards 2025 were announced at a ceremony on 17th October at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin.

The Awards, run by the National Heritage Council, celebrate the passion and commitment shown by individuals and communities across the country in protecting, sharing, and showcasing Ireland's rich heritage. It was a wonderful occasion that highlighted the deep sense of care and pride people have for our cultural, built, and natural heritage. This year's National Heritage Week was the biggest and best yet, with over 2,500 events registered and 400,000 people taking part in family-friendly activities that celebrate Ireland's built, cultural, and natural heritage. Co Galway hosted 192 events during National Heritage Week, highlighting the county's major role in this year's celebrations.

Galway County Council is proud to announce that the 'Toibreacha Beannaithe' Exhibition and accompanying short film 'Toibreacha agus Bád Cholmcille' have been awarded the prestigious Irish Language Award as part of National Heritage Week. This award celebrates events that were conducted through the Irish language and/or actively encouraged participation in the language.



HOLY WELLS EXHIBITION LAUNCH. PHOTO CREDIT: SEÁN LYDON.

The bilingual exhibition, developed as part of the Audit of the Holy Wells of County Galway, showcases the rich cultural and spiritual heritage of the holy wells of South Connemara. Many of these wells are tidal “pothole” formations located along the shoreline, and a significant number are dedicated to St Colmcille. The exhibition documents the locations, conditions, associated practices, and oral traditions of these sacred sites, many of which are only accessible at low tide.

As part of the Audit of the Holy Wells of County Galway, a bilingual short film titled *Toibreacha Beannaithe Cholm Cille* (St Colmcille’s Holy Wells) was filmed on location at An Chloich Mhór Theas (Cloghmore South) on June 9th, 2025, to mark St Colmcille’s Feast Day. In the film, Máirtín Davey, local media presenter, interviews Joseph Dillon, local historian, about the site’s significance, traditions, and the pilgrimage patterns associated with St Colmcille. The film offers an engaging insight into the spiritual and cultural heritage of this coastal location.

Toibreacha Beannaithe Cholm Cille was officially launched as part of the Heritage Week event in Leitir Mealláin and is available to view online at: <https://youtu.be/cGt6QYqtba4>

The film is simple, respectful, and informative offering a glimpse into a unique part of Ireland’s heritage. It complements the *Toibreacha Beannaithe* exhibition and is a valuable resource for anyone interested in folklore or the Irish language. Eilín Peircín, Bainisteoir, Comhar Chuigeal Teo, said “Is iontach an t-aitheantas é seo dúinne i gComhar Chuigeal, do phobal Cheantar na nOileán agus dár nOidhreacht” Zena Hoctor, Project Consultant, said: “I am absolutely delighted that the *Toibreacha Beannaithe* bi-lingual photographic exhibition and film have won this award. It is a great tribute to all the team who worked hard to bring it to fruition and to all the local people who contributed their knowledge and time in the collection of information about the unique tidal holy wells of South Conemara.”

Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer with Galway County Council, added: “We are honoured to receive the Irish Language Award. This project was a true collaboration with the people of Leitir Mealláin and South Conemara, and it was a privilege to work with them to document and celebrate the sacred traditions of the holy wells. The Irish language was central to every aspect of the work, and this award acknowledges the importance of keeping that connection alive.”

Galway County Council extends heartfelt thanks to the local community of Leitir Mealláin, whose generous support and contributions were vital to the success of this project. Special thanks go to:

Zena Hctor, Heritage Consultant, for her extensive research and for compiling the text and photographs for the exhibition.

Eilín Peircín, Bainisteoir, Comhar Chuigeal Teo., Leitir Mealláin, for her leadership and support.

Pádraig Dunworth, Jacinta Flaherty, Julie Breathnach and Caoimhe Ní Chualáin for their invaluable assistance.

Damien Burke and Garry Kelly of GK Media, Josie Dillon, and Máirtín Davy Ó Coistdealbha for their work on the short film.

Damien Goodfellow, Graphic Designer, and Paddy Galvin of Signsahead for their roles in the exhibition's design and production.

Martina Creaven, Gina O'Shaughnessy, Ita Gordon, and Anne Power, staff of Galway County Council, and Bernie Doherty, Galway Community Archaeologist for their ongoing support.

This award is a testament to the power of community collaboration and the importance of preserving and promoting our intangible cultural heritage through the Irish language.

For further information please see:

<https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/holy-wells-of-the-county-of-galway>

PLANNING

BIODIVERSITY

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT TRAINING



MEMBERS OF STAFF FROM GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL JOINED THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL FOR TRAINING ON APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

On 16 October, twelve members of Galway County Council's Planning Department joined colleagues from Mayo County Council for Appropriate Assessment (AA) training delivered by DTA Ecology. This initiative, organised by the Biodiversity Offices of Galway County Council

and Mayo County Council, focused on strengthening understanding of AA requirements under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives and the Planning and Development Act. This collaborative training supports Galway County Council’s commitment to sustainable development and biodiversity protection, ensuring that plans and projects are assessed in line with best scientific knowledge and statutory requirements.

CORRIB ISLAND SURVEY 2005

The 2005 Corrib Island Survey funded through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund from the NPWS has now been completed. This project set out to document the flora of 15 islands in Lough Corrib and compare findings with previous surveys from 1974 and 1992. Islands were selected based on minimal human interference and historical data availability. Fieldwork involved 20 visits over eight days, recording all flowering plants and ferns, supported by photographic documentation of habitats and geomorphology. Data were compiled into a comprehensive database for analysis. A total of 149 species were recorded across 13 fully surveyed islands. Preliminary analysis revealed that tree and shrub species have expanded their range, while species of open habitats have declined. Severe impacts from Ash Dieback and Storm Éowyn were observed, particularly on large limestone islands where fallen timber and dense bramble growth made surveys challenging. The repeated surveys of many islands on Lough Corrib has allowed rarely acquired data on extinction and colonization over a 50-year period to be assembled.

The project’s legacy lies in its contribution to understanding vegetation change over five decades and its enhancement of the conservation value of Lough Corrib’s islands. These islands serve as important reference sites in County Galway for natural woodland and fen communities, offering opportunities for further studies on fungi, invertebrates, and habitat classification.



UNGRAZED
LIMESTONE
ISLAND
SHORELINES HAVE
A RICH AND
COLOURFUL
FLORA

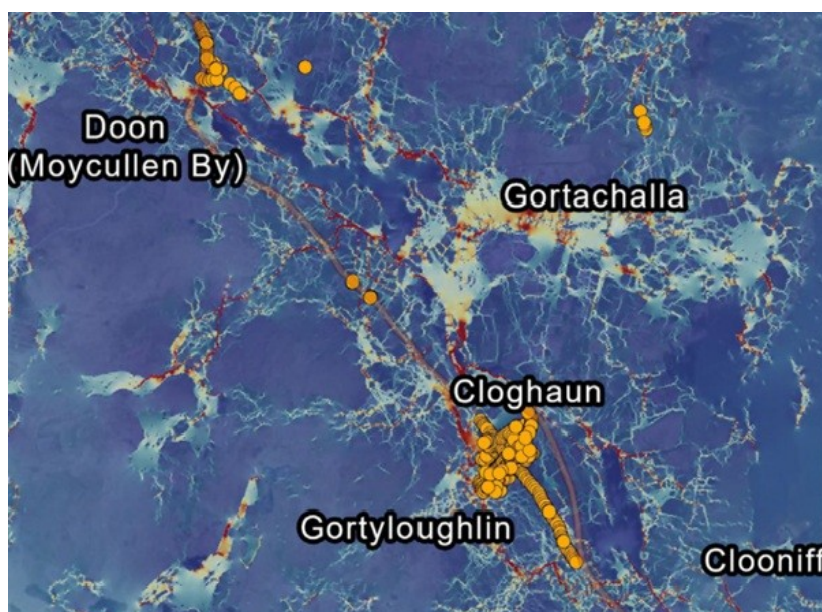
CONNECTING LANDSCAPES FOR WILDLIFE: A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON THE LESSER HORSESHOE BAT IN COUNTY GALWAY

Biodiversity in Ireland is under pressure, and County Galway is no exception. Habitat loss and fragmentation—caused by changing land use—leave wildlife struggling to survive in small, isolated patches of woodland and hedgerows. This isolation reduces genetic diversity, making species less resilient to change.

To tackle this, Galway County Council partnered with the Vincent Wildlife Trust to study habitat connectivity for the lesser horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*), an Annex II species of the Habitats Directive. These bats rely on linear features like hedgerows and treelines to move safely across the landscape.

Using advanced modelling tools, the study mapped potential movement routes and identified “pinch points” where connectivity is most at risk. Results show that bat movement is concentrated along narrow corridors near the N59, with critical areas around Ross Lake and Cloghaun. Artificial lighting emerged as a major threat—adding streetlights creates barriers, while reducing lighting dramatically improves connectivity.

This work directly supports actions in the Lesser Horseshoe Bat Species Action Plan, guiding Galway County Council to protect ecological corridors, apply best-practice lighting standards, and integrate connectivity into planning decisions. These measures are essential to prevent further fragmentation and secure a healthy, connected landscape for future generations. This study was supported through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund 2025 from the NPWS.



HEATMAP SHOWING THE CONNECTIVITY OF THE LANDSCAPE AROUND MOYCULLEN USING CIRCUITSCAPE MODELLING WHERE RED IS HIGH CONNECTIVITY AND BLUE IS LOW AND ORANGE CIRCLES INDICATING THE PUBLIC STREET LIGHTING

ATHENRY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

Works on the Annual Roads programme is progressing well as we are now entering into the final phases of completion. This will be accomplished through the efforts of both the MD staff & appointed contractors. Below is an overview of grant allocated projects:

PAVEMENT WORKS

- Restoration Maintenance (Surface Dressing) - 100% Complete (15 sites)
- Restoration Improvement (Overlay/inlay works) – 100% Complete (20 sites)
 - Additional allocation in September for 3 sites – (33% complete)
- Slurry Sealing – 100% complete (10 sites) – Pre Restoration Maintenance.

SAFETY IMPROVEMENT WORKS

3 Sites included in programme.

- Site 1 & 2 at Carnmore Cross & on the R339 adjacent to Galway Airport entrance. Contractor has been appointed to carry out works which will involve stud (cat's eyes) replacement, replenishment of existing road markings, introduction of additional signage & micro-texturing works to pavement. Works are currently ongoing.
- Site 3 – Derrydonnell Cross – 100% Complete.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE

3 sites included in programme.

- Carrowmoneash storm upgrade works - 100% complete
- Aucloggeen Drainage – Landowner issues resolved; Contractor appointed to carry out works - Ongoing
- Coolarne Retaining Wall– 80% complete by direct labour crew.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEMES (CIS)

5 sites included in Programme.

- New Line Junction, Athenry 90% complete. Awaiting ESB connection to power up Pedestrian lights.
- Clocmaol – Setting back boundary wall – 40 % complete – Ongoing
- Footpath Replacement Works to Old Church St, Court Lane, McDonald Lane in Athenry. Contractor commenced Mid-October. 70% complete. Ongoing
- Footpath Replacement works to Cuillaurlaun, Athenry 100% complete by Direct labour Crew

- Lydican – Ongoing. Contractor appointed for resurfacing works.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES (LIS)

- 3 sites included in round 1 allocation – 100% complete
- 3 sites included in Round 2 allocation (Sept) - 90% complete.

HEDGE CUTTING PROGRAMME

- Local road hedgecutting programme – 70% complete
- National & Regional Road hedgecutting programme – Commencing Early November.
- N67/R446 Dual Carriageway maintenance programme – Ongoing - 5 litter picks/Grass cuts carried out to date. Hedgecutting to commence Dec/Jan.

SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

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

PHOTOS OF RECENT WORKS



COURT LANE, ATHENRY –
FOOTPATH REPLACEMENT
DRAINAGE WORKS –
RYEHILL



MCDONALDS LANE,
ATHENRY – FOOTPATH
REPLACEMENT
DRAINAGE WORKS –
GORTROE, COR AN
DOLA



RETAINING WALL - COOLARNE

DERRYDONNELL CROSS IMPROVEMENT WORK





SAFETY IMPROVEMENT @ CARNMORE
ONGONG MAINTENANCE OF CLARIN
RIVER – MULPIT



IMPROVEMENT WORKS - STATION ROAD



SAFETY IMPROVEMENT WORKS –
CASEY'S CROSS

BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

A successful October Fair took place in Ballinasloe from 5th to 12th October with MD staff at the event providing management of the casual trading, car park management, traffic management and street cleaning.

Ballinasloe MD staff and contractors on its behalf continued the delivery of the remaining projects on the 2025 roadworks programme throughout the MD during October.

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/Ecclesiastical Remains.

Direct labour crews completed Local Improvement Schemes, including LIS at Easterfield, Cloonatloukaun-New Inn and the Big road Derrymullen-Ballinasloe.

During Octobers, works were ongoing for the improvement of graveyards at Creagh, Ballinasloe with the construction of Urn Plots and at Glenamaddy with improvements at the main entrance to mitigate flooding.

PHOTOS OF WORKS/ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN THE BALLINASLOE MD DURING OCTOBER 2025



BALLINASLOE OCTOBER FAIR 2025

COUNCIL STAFF AT THE BALLINASLOE OCTOBER FAIR 2025



COUNCIL STAFF AT THE BALLINASLOE OCTOBER FAIR 2025



LIS DERRYMULLEN BOG ROAD UNDER CONSTRUCTION



COMPLETED LIS AT CLOONATLOUKAUN-NEW INN

WORKS TO UPGRADE CULVERT AT CLOONAMEERAGAUN, AUGHRIM (CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE PROJECT)





CONSTRUCTION WORKS FOR THE URN PLOTS AT CREAGH CEMETERY

CONAMARA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

DEALING WITH AFTERMATH OF STORM AMY ON 3RD OCTOBER

Intense rainfall led to a number of landslides and flash floods in the Maum Valley/Partry Mountains area after heavy rainfall during the 2nd and 3rd of October. The L-1301 Local Primary Road to Finny in the townland of Na Gringeacha suffered when a flash flood resulted in a section of road-retaining rock armour and parapet wall being severely damaged. This same location suffered extensive damage during Storm Bert in November 2024, and although the damage wasn't as severe on this occasion, with the road remaining passable, there is significant stabilization works required to try and contain the damage and prevent further degradation over the upcoming winter period.

Another landslide occurred during the night of the 2nd November further to the north along the same road, but Council workers worked through extremely poor conditions to reopen this road by the afternoon of the 3rd November.



VIEW FROM THE RIVER OF THE DAMAGED ROCK ARMOUR - NA GRINGEACHA

VIEW FROM THE ROAD SHOWING THE DAMAGE CAUSED TO THE ROAD STRUCTURE AND PARAPET WALL



PHOTO WHICH SHOWS THE EXTENT OF THE UNDERMINING OF THE ROAD STRUCTURE - NA GRINGEACHA

DAMAGE TO CULVERT AND ROAD EDGE - R336, MUINTIR EOGHAIN AREA

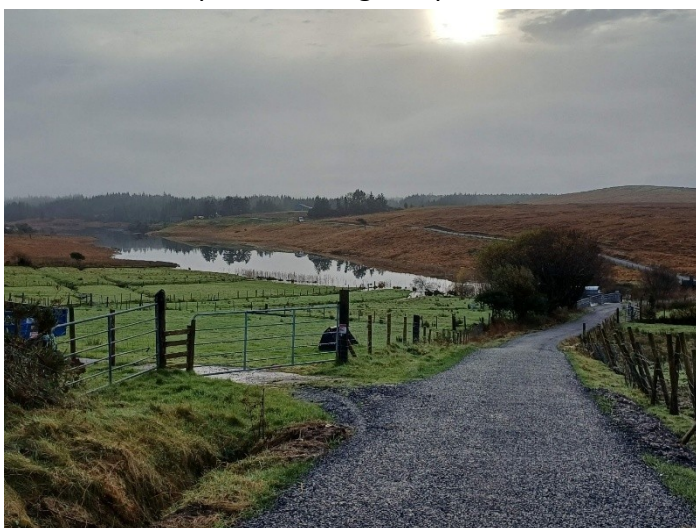




PHOTO TAKEN FROM MUINTIR
EOGHAIN BRIDGE, WHICH GIVES AN
INDICATION OF THE FORCE OF THE
RUSHING WATERS DURING TIMES OF
HIGH FLOOD

WORKS CONTINUED ON LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES DURING OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

5 roads in the Conamara North Engineering Area and 3 in the Conamara South Engineering area were completed during this period.



RECENTLY SURFACE LIS ROAD IN
THE TOWNLAND OF AN
CHATHAIR/CEAPACH CHUAIS

LOUGHREA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

PRIMARY FOCUS OF ACTIVITY

Works on the Roads Programme are nearing completion but there remains a small number of Restoration Improvement projects to complete. Surface dressing is now complete and the bound overlay projects are over 88% complete. A high-level overview is as follows:

- Restoration Improvement Grant projects – 51No. Complete (96%)
- Restoration Maintenance Grant (RMG) projects – 27No. Complete (100%)
- Local Tertiary Roads – 13No. Complete (93%)
- Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Schemes – 5No. Complete (100%)

- Low-Cost Safety Improvement Works – 3No. Complete (100%)
- Former National Schemes – 1No. complete and 1No. to commence shortly.
- LIS and CIS Schemes – All complete (100%).

AN OVERVIEW OF OTHER WORKS ON-GOING IS AS FOLLOWS



OVERLAY WORKS AT THE R380/R351 JUNCTION
IN LOUGHREA TOWN

REINSTATEMENT OF
HIGH FRICTION
SURFACING AT
PEDESTRIAN
CROSSING ON R380



CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE SCHEME ADDRESSING A LONG-
STANDING SURFACE WATER ISSUE ON THE DUBLIN RD., LOUGHREA



NOTICE OF MOTION
FUNDED FOOTPATH
IMPROVEMENT
WORKS AT
BEECHGROVE,
ORANMORE

TREE REMOVAL AND
MAINTENANCE,
KINVARA



LOW-COST SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
ADDRESSING ROAD SAFETY CONCERNS IN
CRAUGHWELL





LOW-COST SAFETY
IMPROVEMENT
PROJECT ADDRESSING
ROAD SAFETY
CONCERNS AT THE
PEDESTRIAN
CROSSING, GORT

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME (LIS)
CARROWMANEEN



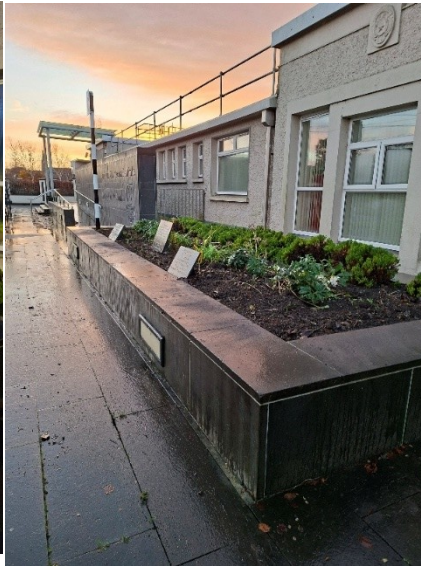
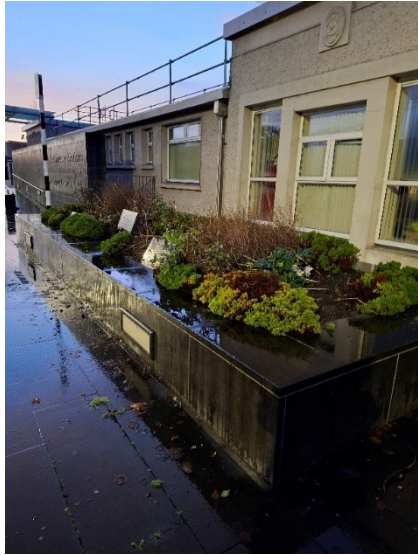
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
SCHEME (CIS) AT KILREEKIL



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
SCHEME (CIS) AT BLACKWEIR



DRAINAGE WORKS –
KILLEENADEEMA NATIONAL
SCHOOL



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

TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

WORKS CARRIED DURING THE MONTH IN TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

GATEWAY TO THE CORRIB

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Gateway to the Corrib initiative is linked to a cycling and tourism route around Lough Corrib, primarily focused on Headford and surrounding areas. It aims to connect communities on both sides of the lake and promote outdoor recreation and tourism.



Funding of €18,000 was secured under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme for signage along the Headford–Kilbeg cycle loop through Claran. This includes interpretive and directional signs for cyclists and visitors.



SIGNAGE LOCATIONS

- Headford town: Entry point with existing brown “Gateway to the Corrib” welcome signs.
- Claran route: Linking Headford to Kilbeg Pier.
- Kilbeg Pier & Knockferry Pier: Potential seasonal ferry connection for cyclists, which signage will support.
- Additional interpretive boards are planned along scenic and heritage points near Lough Corrib.



LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) – Tuam Municipal District 2025

During October 2025, a total of 15 Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) were successfully completed within the Tuam Municipal District. These works represent a significant investment in rural infrastructure, improving access for residents, farmers, and local businesses. The completed schemes focused on upgrading non-public roads that serve multiple homes and agricultural holdings, ensuring safer and more reliable connectivity. This achievement reflects ongoing collaboration between Galway County Council, local communities, and the Department of Rural and Community Development, and contributes to the broader goal of enhancing rural mobility and supporting economic activity in the region.



SAFETY WORKS

Significant progress was achieved in 2025 on road safety improvements within the Tuam Municipal District. Key projects included traffic signal upgrades at critical junctions in Tuam, aimed at improving traffic flow and reducing collision risk. In addition, safety schemes were completed on Weir Road, Milltown Road, and Gilmartin Road, addressing identified collision trends and enhancing pedestrian and cyclist safety. These works form part of Galway County Council's commitment to the Regional Road Network Safety Analysis (RR NSA) objectives and the national Vision Zero strategy, targeting zero fatalities on Irish roads by 2050. Measures implemented include improved signal phasing, enhanced signage, and junction layout adjustments to mitigate turning conflicts and improve visibility for all road users.



HEDGE CUTTING – TUAM MD 2025

Galway County Council is continuing its 2025 hedge cutting programme across the Tuam Municipal District. The works are focused on improving road safety and visibility along regional and local routes, ensuring compliance with statutory requirements and enhancing the overall driving environment. The programme remains ongoing, with priority given to high-traffic areas and locations where overgrown vegetation poses a risk to road users.



NATIONAL ROADS

The Tuam Municipal District Office has completed the delivery of several Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)-funded HD28 and emergency pavement schemes across Galway County. These works have strengthened road safety, improved surface quality, and enhanced long-term durability on key national routes.

COMPLETED SCHEMES



N83 Parkmore – Pavement renewal combined with safety upgrades at a high-risk junction.

N63 Briarfield – Pavement improvement works completed, providing a smoother and safer travel experience for all road users.



Mise, le meas,

Chief Executive
Galway County Council

19th November 2025