



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

# TURASCÁIL BAINISTÍOCHTA MANAGEMENT REPORT



Aibreán 2026  
April 2026

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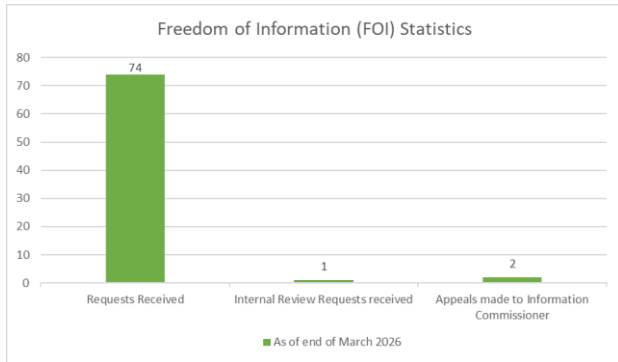
Galway County Council, in partnership with Galway City Council, hosted a very successful LGIU Chief Executive Knowledge Exchange from 8–10 April 2026. The event brought together Chief Executives from local authorities across Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland and England, providing a valuable forum for peer learning and strategic discussion. The programme focused on shared local government priorities, including economic development, climate action, renewable energy, sustainable tourism, urban and rural regeneration, and cross-border collaboration, while also strengthening professional relationships across jurisdictions.

A key element of the visit was a site visit to Inis Mór in the Aran Islands, which showcased place-based and community-led approaches to development in an island context. The visit included engagement with Comharchumann Forbartha Árann Teo, presentations on climate action and community energy initiatives, and a guided visit to Dún Aonghasa. This element of the programme provided practical insights into delivering policy objectives in rural and island settings while highlighting the cultural, heritage and tourism assets of the Aran Islands.



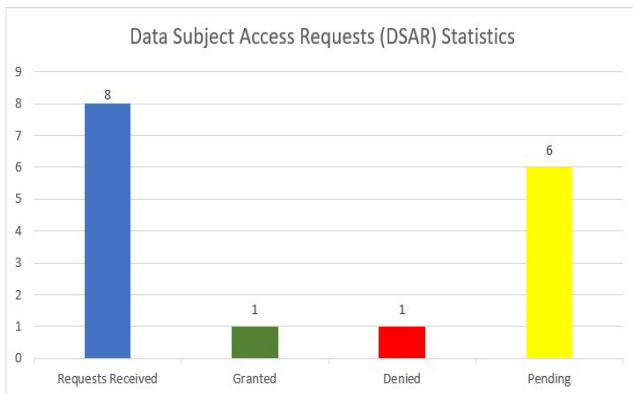
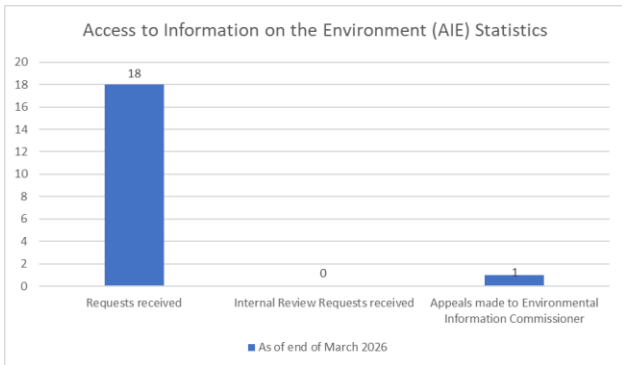
# FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION & DATA PROTECTION

## 2026 YEAR TO DATE STATISTICS TO 31.03.2026



### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

### ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

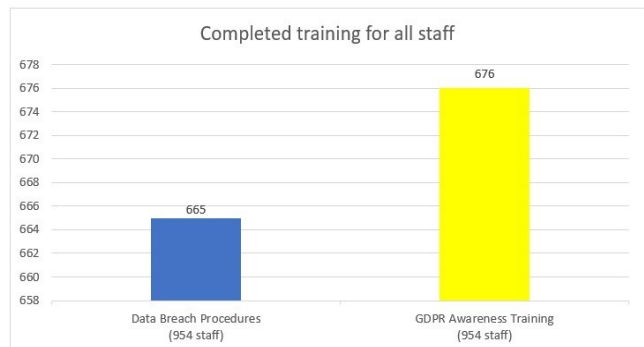


### DATA PROTECTION

- 8 Requests received:
- 8 Subject Access Requests
- 1 granted, 1 denied, 6 pending decisions.

### GDPR/DATA PROTECTION TRAINING:

- All staff are required to complete mandatory data protection training throughout the year covering GDPR awareness and data breach procedures. Additionally, two
- unit-specific courses have been developed for HR and IT teams.



## RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Renewal of Casual Trading applications has been circulated for completion as the new Casual Trading year commences 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

## FACILITIES

### FACILITIES TEAM UPDATES

#### BUILDING LIAISON OFFICER INITIATIVE

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Facilities team launched a new Building Liaison Officers initiative.

Galway County Council as an organisation, has a very diverse property portfolio of around 60 buildings.

We depend on our people to ensure each space remains safe, functional, welcoming, and aligned with the needs of staff, visitors, and stakeholders. Our new Building Liaison Officer initiative will be central to this — each Officer being the *eyes and ears* of their respective building.



Some of the responsibilities are activities many of these persons already carry out naturally, including:

- Maintaining tidy and well-organised work areas in their respective building of work
- Reporting operational or maintenance issues
- Facilitating access for contractors and staff
- Supporting a positive safety culture
- Assisting with fire & emergency procedures including fire drill
- Ensuring that the AED and First Aid equipment within the building is checked in accordance with our Health & Safety Management System.
- Encouraging staff to train as fire wardens and first aiders in an effort to ensure there are first aiders and fire wardens present in the office
- Directing any day-to-day operational issues to the Facilities section via., the new **Facilities Register** located on the Galway County Council intranet portal.

This initiative aims to bring greater clarity, consistency, and recognition to this work already being done or to be done, effective March 23<sup>rd</sup> by those who are newly appointed Officers.

Our Facilities team will support our Building Liaison Officers to ensure they feel confident in this role.

This initiative was formally approved by our Chief Executive and Directors of Services at the end of 2025 and marks an important step forward in how we care for our buildings and the people who use them.

The role of the Building Liaison Officers will support our organisational objectives and make a positive difference - building by building.



## OFFICE ACCOMMODATION PROJECT UPDATE

The Office Accommodation Project continues to progress as a strategic priority for Galway County Council, aimed at consolidating staff currently dispersed across multiple leased sites into a single, modern, energy-efficient headquarters at County Hall.

Business continuity, service quality and staff well-being remain central to planning as the Council prepares for a complex, multi-year construction and transition period, with the build expected to commence in 2028.

Staff engagement is a core component of the project. A dedicated Staff Working Group has been established to ensure two-way communication, support staff input into building design, and help maintain service standards throughout all phases of transition. Town hall sessions for all staff will be held later in 2026, and union engagement is ongoing.

An Independent Project Management and Quantity Surveying Consultant will be appointed to the Office Accommodation Project.

In addition, an Integrated Design Team will be engaged to support the delivery of this project. Requests for Tenders have been published on the e-Tenders platform, with a tender response date of March 30<sup>th</sup> 2026 with all appointments expected to be finalised by the end of Q 2 2026.

Future considerations—including customer service improvements, elected member facilities, canteen capacity, sustainability, and transport planning— will be actively explored as part of the overall redesign.

The Council remains committed to transparency and regular updates as this transformational project moves forward.

# SOCIAL MEDIA

## OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY


Followers	New followers	Posts	Post impressions																																
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>SOCIAL NETWORK</th> <th>#</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Facebook Page</td> <td>22,851</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LinkedIn Page</td> <td>3,297</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Instagram Business</td> <td>3,214</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	SOCIAL NETWORK	#	Facebook Page	22,851	LinkedIn Page	3,297	Instagram Business	3,214	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>SOCIAL NETWORK</th> <th>#</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Facebook Page</td> <td>160</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LinkedIn Page</td> <td>45</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Instagram Business</td> <td>44</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	SOCIAL NETWORK	#	Facebook Page	160	LinkedIn Page	45	Instagram Business	44	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>SOCIAL NETWORK</th> <th>#</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Facebook Page</td> <td>148</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Instagram Business</td> <td>139</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LinkedIn Page</td> <td>17</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	SOCIAL NETWORK	#	Facebook Page	148	Instagram Business	139	LinkedIn Page	17	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>SOCIAL NETWORK</th> <th>#</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Facebook Page</td> <td>349,789</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Instagram Business</td> <td>38,699</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LinkedIn Page</td> <td>2,363</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	SOCIAL NETWORK	#	Facebook Page	349,789	Instagram Business	38,699	LinkedIn Page	2,363
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Total posts on all Social Media Platforms for March was 278, 77% of which were also posted in Irish. Our Customer Services team, part of Corporate Services, continue to diligently 11 monitor and update the Council's social media content daily towards enhancing our engagement with the Public.

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

## FACEBOOK TOP THREE POSTS


**Top posts**



**Galway County Council**  
Mar 11, 11:02

Gaelscoil de hÍde ag cur tús lenár searmanais bronnadh na scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta anseo in Árás an Chontae 🎉  
Gaelscoil de hÍde kicking off our Gaeltacht Scholarship awarding ceremony here in Árás an Chontae!


**11,661** follower views



**Galway County Council**  
Mar 01, 18:00

Please be advised that John Madden & Sons Ltd, on behalf of Galway County Council, will commence road surfacing works at Kiniska, Baile Chláir, Co. Galway on Monday 2nd March. The works are expected to continue for

**8,755** follower views




**Galway County Council**  
Mar 03, 17:01

Meet the Maker Heilleó! Is mise Áine agus is Flós Farm Flowers mó ghnó beag. Flós is another word for bláth (flower). I'm based in An Spidéal, Co. Galway and I started my flower farm three years ago. It's an exciting venture

**6,133** follower views

## INSTAGRAM TOP THREE POSTS


**Top posts**



**galwaycountycouncil**  
Mar 07, 10:30

Dúshlán na seachtaine! Ordaigh do chaife trí Ghaeilge inniu. Order your coffee in as Gaeilge Ba mhaith liom \_\_\_\_\_ le do thoil.


**1,666** views



**galwaycountycouncil**  
Mar 12, 13:47

Stádas Buí - Rabhadh Sneachta/Oighir do: Chorcaigh, Chiarraí, Luimneach, Thiobraid Árann, Phort Láirge, Dhún na nGall, Ghaillimh, Liatrom, Mhaigh Eo, Shligeach, Chill Mhantáin Rabhadh Aimsire ó Met Éireann D'fhéadfadh go

**1,249** views



**galwaycountycouncil**  
Mar 11, 17:30

Scéalta Beaga ar Turas Mór ✨ Is togra Sheachtain na Gaeilge ar leith é Scéalta Beaga ar Turas Mór ina dtugtar lúcháir na léitheoireachta agus scéalaíochta Ghaeilge díreach go scoileanna ar fud Ghaeltacht Chonamara.

**1,107** views

## LINKEDIN TOP THREE POSTS

### Top posts



Galway County LCSP Coordinator and Administrator were delighted to attend the Road Safety Conference in Killarney last week. This national event brought together experts, agencies, and local authorities committed to

**387** impressions



Vacancy/Folúntais: <https://lnkd.in/eACDBiY>

**255** impressions



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

**202** impressions

## COMMUNITY, RURAL & TOURISM DEVELOPMENT & INTEGRATION

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

#### AGE FRIENDLY

The next meeting of the Older Persons Council (OPC) is scheduled to take place on April 15<sup>th</sup> 2026. The national convention is taking place May 6<sup>th</sup> to May 8<sup>th</sup> in Westmeath. The theme of the convention is *Thriving Together Age Friendly Sustainable Communities*. With the implementation of the adopted Age Friendly Strategy ongoing meetings of the interdepartmental team and Age Friendly Alliance will take place in late April and early May respectively.

#### COMMUNITY SUPPORT CENTRES

There are currently 68 community support centres registered through expression of interest process initiated in recent months. These are listed on the Galway County Council website and registration remains open.

The requirements sought for a community support centre are as follows:

- An established volunteer group that has control of the use of the proposed premises
- A Child Protection Policy for the group owning / staffing the premises
- Large hall / room to allow people to gather
- Tables and Chairs
- An adequate heating system
- A serviced kitchen or kitchen area with facilities to provide basic refreshments
- Toilet facilities
- First Aid kit
- Accessible WiFi services
- Facilities to enable device charging
- A private space or additional room that can be utilised when necessary

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## CATHAOIRLEACH AWARDS

The upcoming Cathaoirleach awards for 2026 closed for nominations on April 15<sup>th</sup>. This was extended from the original date by a few days.

The categories are as follows:

- Arts & Culture Award
- Best Contribution to Heritage Award
- Best Contribution to the Irish Language
- Environment & Climate Action Award
- Heritage Publication Award
- Social Inclusion Award
- Sports Award
- Schools Contribution to Heritage Award

The awards event will take place on the evening of Friday May 8<sup>th</sup> 2026 in the Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry.

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## PPN


Galway County PPN are supporting the event noted below which has been organised by the Irish Environmental Network and CELT.


Rethinking Systems - Growing Local Strength for People and Planet Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 10am - 4pm at The Burren Nature Sanctuary, Kinvara H91 PTK7


The Irish Environmental Network, along with CELT will explore community wealth and capacity building.

THIS IS A FREE EVENT, BUT YOU MUST REGISTER on the link below.

 Learn about the Wellbeing Economy with Roisin Markum of FEASTA

 Explore how we can become good ancestors with Dr Peter Doran

 Discover how to reach new audiences

 Hear about the Nature Restoration Law (NRL) from Niamh Roche of Bat Conservation Ireland

 Hear about local food policy with Fergal Anderson of Talamh Beo

For more information and to Register, please go to: [tinyurl.com/systemrethink](https://tinyurl.com/systemrethink)

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## LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The LCDC committee met on the 21<sup>st</sup> April and received a number of presentations including Empowering Communities, Clar Funding, Town & Village Renewal, Local Enhancement Fund 2026 and Men's Health Week.

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## LOCAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME 2026

Galway County LCDC approved funding of €213,600 under the Local Enhancement Programme 2026. The LCDC recommended list will be submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development and Gaeltacht. Notification of successful applicants will issue following formal announcement by the Minister in May/June 2026.

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## OPEN CALL FOR THE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMME

Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Jerry Buttimer TD announced an Open Call for Applications under the Community Services Programme (CSP). The CSP Programme currently supports over 420 community-based organisations.

The overarching vision of the CSP Programme is to support community organisations that operate to deliver a social purpose, to offer services that meet identified needs and provide employment locally contributing to sustainable, inclusive and empowered communities.

Fulfilling a commitment made in the Programme for Government, this successful programme is now being opened to new entrants. It will provide community-based organisations with an opportunity to access funding to support the employment of staff, in line with the programme's objectives and principles.

Pobal will provide support to organisations interested in making a preliminary application to join the CSP Programme from today until the closing date for applications on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

Following submission of a preliminary application that meets all eligible criteria, shortlisted applicants will then be invited to submit a full application to Pobal by 28<sup>th</sup> August 2026.

Information Events will be held for successful applicants applying for the programme on the week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> July 2026. This will ensure those applying to the CSP Programme are fully equipped with the information that they need to apply for this funding. Details will be shared on the Pobal CSP webpage and on the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht's website and social media channels.

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## COMMUNITY CENTRE INVESTMENT FUND 2026 – REFURBISHMENT GRANT

This capital fund of €25 million is providing funding for the improvement and refurbishment of existing community centres in both urban and rural areas.

Funding is being made available under 2 Categories, with grants of between €10,000 and €100,000 available:

Category 1: Small scale projects and improvements to facilities - €10,000 to €25,000





Feedback highlighted the value of accessible, expert-led information and the strong sense of community created throughout the programme. The initiative represents an effective collaboration between Healthy Galway, the HSE, Solas Family Resource Centre, Galway County Council and wider partners, and continues to demonstrate the impact of targeted, community-based women's health supports across the county.

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## UNDERSTAND TOGETHER CAMPAIGN – CLIFDEN AWARENESS EVENT

In conjunction with the Dementia Café initiative in Connemara, an Understand Together campaign event will be hosted in Clifden on Monday, 28 April, from 11:00am to 1:00pm, to raise awareness of dementia. The event aims to support people living with dementia, their families, and the wider community by increasing understanding and awareness across Connemara.



The session is delivered in partnership with the Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI), Age Friendly, Forum Connemara CLG, the HSE, and the Healthy Galway Programme. Representatives for dementia awareness will be available on the day to share information, answer questions, and signpost attendees to local dementia supports and community resources.

Participants will have the opportunity to learn about local Memory Cafés, activity programmes, health and training supports, and practical ways to create a more dementia-inclusive community. The event will also offer guidance for carers and community members, as well as for local businesses and groups wishing to become more supportive and accessible.

This Clifden event forms part of a wider commitment to reducing stigma, improving understanding, and strengthening community inclusion for people living with dementia across County Galway.

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## HEALTHY IRELAND FRAMEWORK PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Department of Health is currently undertaking a public consultation on the new Healthy Ireland Framework. We are inviting organisations and their networks to share their views and help shape the future direction of health and wellbeing policy in Ireland. The consultation is open until 22nd of April and submissions can be made online via the following link:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-health/consultations/healthy-ireland-framework-public-consultation/>

To support engagement, we have attached a digital poster containing a QR code that links directly to the survey below. We would greatly appreciate if you could circulate this within your organisation, networks, staff, students, and stakeholders as appropriate. The new framework will help guide national policy and action to improve health outcomes and reduce health inequalities over the coming years. Ensuring diverse input at this stage is critical to its success.



## DEMENTIA CAFÉ INITIATIVE

The Memory Café initiative continues to strengthen community-based support for people living with dementia and their carers across Connemara.

Monthly cafés currently operate in Clifden, Oughterard,

Roundstone and Letterfrack, offering informal, welcoming spaces that reduce isolation and encourage meaningful social connection.

Attendance remains consistently strong, demonstrating sustained community need and positive engagement.



A diverse programme of activities has been planned for 2026, offering a balance of creative, physical, sensory, and wellbeing focused sessions tailored to the needs of participants. Activities include arts and crafts projects such as making St. Brigid's crosses, felt craft workshops, Jenga and aqua-painting, Easter bonnet decorating, bird feeder and birdbox painting, reminiscence teas, musical memories, gardening, and Qigong chair exercises. Additional specialist inputs include talks from community physiotherapists on the importance of movement, HSE talks on 5 Ways to Wellbeing, Carers Ireland information sessions, and dementia resources available at your local library from Galway Library. This varied schedule ensures that cafés remain engaging throughout the year while supporting cognitive stimulation, dexterity, mood, and social participation.

TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME

Project Development Measures completed at the end of March 2026 included final recoupments for projects Ashascragh, Eyrecourt and Casla.

Final Recoupment Claims were submitted for the **Ahascragh Area Enhancement Group** Project Development Measure for 36k. This measure funded under the Town Centre Suite of Supports enabled the group to prepare reports and preliminary designs to achieve full planning permission |(Ref:2461581) for a new Build Community Centre bringing the proposal to a ‘shovel-ready’ stage. The Group are now in a strong position to apply for future capital funding and are continuing to fundraise for matching funding. While the Centre was once a vibrant community space, it has been an eyesore for over 30 years having fallen into dereliction. The old Centre has been demolished and safely removed from the site.



IMAGE: PICTURE OF AHASCRAUGH COMMUNITY CENTRE BEFORE AND AFTER BEEN DEMOLISHED

**Eyrecourt Development Group** completed its project development phase in March 2026 with expenditure of just over 48k. Funded under the TCF Suite of Supports 2024, expenditure covered initial concept design, community consultation, carrying out environmental surveys and reports, obtaining planning permission and carrying out detailed design and producing construction drawings and a bill of quantities for a new Community Park and Playground. The site is between the National School and Community Centre on lands purchased by the community over 20 years ago. In April-May 2026 the

Group will be launching its next phase of fundraising campaign to help build capital, for matching funding for a future capital funding bid to develop the Park.



IMAGE: SITE OF PROPOSED NEW PLAYGROUND – GREENFIELD SITE VILLAGE CENTRE BESIDE NATIONAL SCHOOL.



IMAGE: EYRECOURT DEVELOPMENT GROUP: COMMUNITY CONSULTATION EVENT ON DESIGNS FOR NEW PLAYGROUND/PARK HELD DURING THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PHASE.

A final recoupment for project development funding by **Comhairle Ceantar na nOileán Teo.** was completed in March 2026. Comhairle Ceantar na nOileán Teo. is a community co-operative serving the Leitir Móir region in the Connemara Gaeltacht. The Low Carbon and Sustainability Centre of Excellence Project ('Green Hub') was devised to address issues arising from this work and to scale the ambition in the Connemara area around just transition and skills needed to adapt to climate change. The project to create the Centre is to have a place that can provide skills, training, information and opportunities to repair and reuse. The Centre will be located in a disused building on the Údarás na Gaeltachta Industrial Estate in Casla. Beidh an tIonad ina áit ina mbeidh scileanna, oiliúint, faisnéis agus deiseanna deisiúcháin agus athúsáide ar fáil don phobal. Tógfar é i bhfoirgnimh thréigthe ar Eastát Tionsclaíoch Údarás na Gaeltachta i gCasla. Leissin, tabharfar spás marbh ar ais chun beatha — áit a bhféadfaidh pobail foghlaim agus oibríthe oiliúint a fháil sna scileanna a bheidh riachtanach don todhchaí.

The creation of the Centre will revitalise a vacant and disused space to provide both a space and a pathway for communities to learn about and workers to train in the skills required for adaptation to climate change. A total of €32,516 was recouped, contributing towards Specifications, Waste Licences, Governance and Management Reports.

## CLÁR

The Rural Team is currently supporting three concurrent CLÁR Measure 1 Programmes in April 2026. The 2024 programme draws to a close at the end of May (15) ; the 2025 programme (10 Projects) is ongoing with projects progressing to tender and the 2026 programme was **launched in March 2026 (€12m nationally)**

Galway County Council administers **Measure 1 Community Amenities & Facilities**, and we will be accepting applications from CLÁR areas on **the SUBMIT platform [Galway County Council](#) from March 31st to May 15th 2026**. A total of 16 projects can go forward from the County. Funding is at 90% to a maximum of 65k however, two projects can be included for up to 100k.

A Webinars on the 2026 CLÁR scheme in association with the Galway County Public Participation Network (PPN) were held on the 24th of March at 11am and 7pm. Both sessions were very well attended by Community Groups, Schools, sporting clubs etc. with overall number of 50 attendees. The Department of Community Rural Development and the Gaeltacht also held an information event for Council Officials during March to clarify and confirm aspects of the Scheme.

Further Webinars are being held by Galway County Council on the 14<sup>th</sup> April at 11am and 7pm with promotion via County Galway PPN and in local media. Interested Organisations can contact [clar@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:clar@galwaycoco.ie). To date 13 applications have commenced through the Council's On-Line Application Platform for Measure 1.

The CLÁR 2024 programme is due for completion by the end of May 2026 and the Rural Team are active in engaging with local applicants in regard to final implementation and claims.

Leenane Community Park – Installation of Sensory Equipment and upgrade to Equipment in Woodford Community Playground were substantially completed in March 2026, with final recoupments to be submitted in April 2026. A further 6 Projects will be completed in May 2026, and an extension of time is granted for Killimor Daly, to consider options as initial works proposed cannot be completed due to significant damage impacting on overall structure as a result of Storm Eowyn. The Centre remains closed to the community since.



IMAGE: WOODFORD PLAYGROUND  
DEVELOPED UNDER CLÁR 2024





IMAGE: LEENANE COMMUNITY PARK DEVELOPED UNDER CLÁR 2024

## STREETSCAPE ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

Galway County Council has announced a **Streetscape Enhancement Scheme for Killimor and Ahascragh**. This activity is funded by the Department of Rural & Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRCDG) under the 2025 Town & Village Renewal Scheme and as part of the roll-out of Our Rural Future.

The Scheme is to encourage residents, tenants and shop owners to engage in best practice in restoring shopfronts, painting and in the presentation of properties. In order to create a strong visual impact over a defined period of time, the Scheme has a focus on village centres, quality materials to enhance the identity and aesthetic of the village.

### KILLIMOR

An open evening was held on the 26th of February in Killimor Community Centre to launch the scheme. Following from that we held an all day Advisory Clinic on the 25<sup>th</sup> March in Killimor Old School. This was in order to assist applicants to complete their forms online and to deal with any other queries they may have.

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IMAGE: KILLIMOR STREETSCAPE  
ENHANCEMENT SCHEME LAUNCH

We have also provided a Colour Platte for all properties within the zone conducted by a Colour Consultant.

Closing date for this Scheme is 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026.



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AHASCRAUGH

An open evening was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> March in Clan Colla from 4pm until 7.30pm in order to launch the scheme. This event was well attended.



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IMAGE: CLLR ALAN HARNEY, JIM STEPHENS (AHASCRAUGH AREA ENHANCEMENT) , CLLR EVELYN PARSONS AND MEMBERS OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL ATTEND LAUNCH OF AHASCRAUGH STREETSCAPE ENHANCEMENT SCHEME.

We will be holding an advisory clinic in Ahascragh on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2026

Closing date for the Ahascragh scheme is Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026

ARTS OFFICE

TINY MUTINY 2026

Tiny Mutiny, a creative call to Galway’s young artists is now open. Award-winning programme returns, inviting teenagers to develop and showcase original creative work.

Now in its third year, Galway County Council Arts Office, in partnership with Sparkcatchers! has launched Tiny Mutiny 2026, an artist development programme for young people.

Tiny Mutiny gives teenagers across County Galway the chance to create their own work from the ground up. Selected participants will receive mentorship from professional artists, a production budget, and practical support to bring their ideas to life over the summer.

The programme welcomes all art forms. Previous projects have included music, animation, writing, graffiti, illustration, manga, film, dance and stop-motion- with an emphasis on creativity, experimentation and personal expression.

Applications are now open to young people aged 13-17 living in County Galway. Participants will receive mentorship from a professional artist, financial support for materials, travel and production, ongoing guidance from Sparkcatchers! and a public platform to present their work.



This year’s participants will showcase their completed work at The Mall Theatre, Tuam, on Friday, 18 September 2026 as part of Culture Night.

Last year’s participants described the programme as “inspiring”, “eye-opening” and “a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity”, highlighting the confidence gained and the experience of sharing their work with an audience. Tiny Mutiny continues to support young artists in developing their ideas and connecting with their communities through creativity.

TINY MUTINY 2026 OPEN CALL. ARTWORK BY TINY MUTINY ALUMNI MICHELLE JENNINGS.

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## ÁRAS ÉANNA 2026 RESIDENCY

Open call for Galway County artists to apply for September residency at Áras Éanna, Inis Oírr. Áras Éanna and Galway County Arts Office are delighted to announce an open call for Galway County artists to apply for a residency in September 2026.

Áras Éanna is the most westerly arts centre in Europe, located on the small Gaeltacht island of Inis Oírr in Co.

Galway. The centre supports artists

through its Artist in Residence programme. We offer artists the time and space to develop their practice and show new work in the unique environment of this island, which has a population of just under 300 people.

Galway County Council is the leading agency engaged in local arts development in County Galway. The Arts Office is dedicated to supporting artists with their career and development. We fund residency opportunities like this so artists can carve out time to think, research or make work.

Deadline for applications: **4:00 p.m. Thursday 30 April 2026.**

Click here to apply: <https://submit.link/4MK>



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## CREATIVE PLACES TUAM

The interim programme for Creative Places Tuam continues to deliver a wide range of programmes and March continued to be a busy month with the following activities:

- 5 Soundboard 121 sessions supporting 4 local artists and 1 international artist
- 2 Community network events (AMDAF, Action Tuam)
- 1 Creative Places national network meeting
- 1 Panel conversation with Creative Places Edenderry
- 1 Radio interview with Eden FM
- 1 Loop Session

**Soundboard 121** offers supportive one-to-one sessions tailored for artists and creatives, whether seeking feedback, advice on a funding application, guidance on concept development, or just space to figure out the next step. Creative Places Tuam offers 30-minute sessions between 10 AM - 1 PM every third Wednesday of the month. The sessions take place on Zoom. Bookings are now open for Soundboard 121 on Wednesday 15th April: <https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/dL12nvAe>

The next **Loop Session** takes place on Thursday 16th April 2026 at Brownes, The Square, Tuam, 7 - 9 PM. Loop Sessions are informal monthly gatherings organised by Creative Places Tuam, where local artists and creatives can connect, share ideas, and spark collaborations - all in a relaxed, welcoming setting. Artists from all artforms and stages in their career are welcome. Bring an instrument, a poem, something you are working on or simply bring yourself.

The Creative Places Tuam Team recently had the pleasure of visiting **Creative Places Edenderry**, where we saw first-hand the impact of its creative work within the local community. The visit provided valuable insight into how artists, community groups, and partners collaborate to support participation in the arts, celebrate local identity, and create welcoming spaces for creativity.

The day was centred around a panel discussion chaired by Seonáid Murray, CP Edenderry Programme Coordinator with Carolann Courtney, CPT Programme Coordinator 2020 - 2025, Joanna McGlynn, CPT Artist Support and Network Development Coordinator, Edenderry artists Jenny Bergin and Audrey Rossa. This was an opportunity for sharing experiences of creative placemaking. The visit reaffirmed the importance of Creative Places Tuam within the national network of 19 Creative Places and the role of Creative Places funding in creating a vibrant hub for artistic engagement, community-led cultural development and leaders in creative placemaking.

Creative Places Tuam invited to attend 9th **AMDAF Women Round Table** which took place on Saturday 14th March 2026 at The Ardilaun Hotel, Galway bringing together women from diverse backgrounds to engage in meaningful dialogue, build strong networks, and explore practical solutions to the challenges affecting women in our communities.

Creative Places Tuam attended the **Action Tuam Digital Futures** event on 6 March 2026 for National Enterprise Week which brought together local stakeholders to discuss digital innovation and community development. The event included the official launch of the Action Tuam Strategy 2030, outlining priorities for economic, social, and digital growth in the area. Presentations and discussions highlighted the role of digital skills and infrastructure in supporting Tuam's future development.

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## ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

During March, a focused programme of research and development was undertaken to support the establishment of a formal organisational structure for Creative Places Tuam.

Key actions included an in-depth review of existing clubs and non-profit organisations with comparable aims and governance models. This research informed the development of a draft constitution for a proposed non-profit arts organisation. The draft constitution has now been completed and submitted for review.

In parallel, a bridging budget was developed to support continuity between funding phases. This budget has been submitted to the Local Authority for consideration and approval.

Preparatory work was also undertaken to support the next phase of programme delivery. This included the development of an open call for participation in a new Arts Action Group,



which will be launched in alignment with the confirmation of the next round of Creative Places Tuam funding.

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JOANNA MCGLYNN AT PANEL CONVERSATION, CREATIVE PLACES EDENDERRY

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## GALWAY THEATRE FESTIVAL 2026

We are delighted to continue our support of theatre artists based in Galway County in partnership with Galway Theatre Festival again this year. The Arts Office is directly supporting CUISLE and 4 shows by Galway County theatre artists in this year's Galway Theatre Festival programme.

CUISLE is a year-round artist development programme supporting Galway-based theatre makers to develop new work and strengthen the independent theatre ecology of the West of Ireland. Two bursaries for Galway County artists have been awarded so far this year: Lorraine Stack – *NASC*, a heartwarming Irish language drama for young audiences. Rosa Makela – *TWINNY*, following two girls from a rural Irish childhood to estrangement in adulthood.

Galway County theatre artists supported by the Arts Office in the Galway Theatre Festival Programme 2026:

Ari Bhatti – [SWEAT](#)

Jenni Nikinmaa – [SHEEP!](#)

Lorraine Stack – [NASC](#)

Rena Bryson – [IS THIS BATHROOM HAUNTED](#)

Click here for the full Galway Theatre Festival 2026 programme:

<https://galwaytheatrefestival.com/collections/gtf-5-for-50>

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## ARTS IN CARE SETTINGS

Congratulations to artist Joanna McGlynn and participants of arts workshops at Greenpark Nursing Home on the launch of their exhibition *Highways to Somewhere* on 27 March. Participants have been working with Joanna since November 2025 with funding from the Arts Office to support projects with older people in care settings.

# Exhibition celebrates creative journeys at Tuam nursing home

GREENPARK Nursing Home in Tuam hosted the launch of Highways to Somewhere, a collaborative exhibition developed with residents of the nursing home and artist Joanna McGlynn.

The exhibition documents a slow and sensitive creative process rooted in walking, gathering, and shared sensory experience. Guests at the launch had the opportunity to engage closely with artworks created by 35 different residents since November 2025.

While the exhibition presents a series of finished works, Highways to Somewhere also reflects the shared journey that informed their making. During the process,

McGlynn collected small natural materials – fallen leaves, dried seed heads, fragments shaped by weather and erosion – which were brought back each week to Greenpark Nursing Home. There, they were carefully laid out on a table and became the focus of shared attention, conversation, and memory.

These tactile encounters invited residents to touch, smell, and observe, often prompting recollections of places they had known, work they had once done, and routes they had travelled. For many participants, the process opened up quiet, deeply personal journeys shaped by memory and imagination rather than physical

movement.

"The project created moments of real connection for our residents," said Ian McNamara, Director at Greenpark Nursing Home. "It encouraged conversation, reflection and a sense of shared experience, which was wonderful to see."

By valuing discovery, repetition, and presence, the exhibition highlights how meaningful journeys can unfold through everyday materials and moments of shared noticing.

The project was funded by Galway County Council, with support from the Arts Office, and developed with the assistance of staff at Greenpark Nursing Home.



ARTIST Joanna McGlynn and Anna Marie Egan at the exhibition opening at Greenpark Nursing Home, Tuam.



MARY Meehan, Bridie Higgins and Margaret Mary McDonnell with their paintings at the exhibition opening at Greenpark Nursing Home, Tuam.



NORA Donoherty with her painting at the exhibition opening in Greenpark Nursing Home.



LIAM, Sean and Mary Martin at the exhibition opening.



EUG and Sabine Anderson at the exhibition opening.



BRIAN, Jane and Ian McNamara of Greenpark Nursing Home, Tuam at the exhibition opening.



TERESA Barber and Mary McGrath at the exhibition opening.



AT the opening were Thelma McNamara, Helen McKeown and Doreen Boyle Nora Donoherty

TUAM HERALD - HIGHWAYS TO SOMEWHERE EXHIBITION LAUNCH AT GREENPARK NURSING HOME

## UNESCO GALWAY CITY OF FILM – SHORT DOCUMENTARY BURSARY 2026

Ardán and Galway City of Film are delighted to announce that applications are now open for the Ceantar Scannán Short Documentary Bursary 2026, the annual documentary funding and mentorship scheme for filmmakers in Galway City and County or making a film about Galway City or County funded by Galway County and City Arts Office.

Up-and-coming filmmakers can apply for this bursary to help them make one of their first steps in their filmmaking career. Successful applicants will receive a bursary of €3,000 to help them make a short documentary of between five and fifteen minutes in duration. Previous recipients of this bursary have gone on to have their films screened at the Galway Film Fleadh, as well as other local, national and international film festivals.

**Information Day:** Ardán will be hosting an Information Day in April for applicants to guide them through the application process. This will take place on Thursday April 30th at 2:00pm in the Training Room in the new CREW Building at CCAM, ATU, Wellpark Road. H91 8K85.

Deadline for applications is Monday 11 May at 14:00. [Click here for more information](#)

This bursary is made possible by support from Galway City Council Arts Office, Galway County Council Arts Office, Fís Éireann/ Screen Ireland and the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport.



UNESCO GALWAY CITY  
OF FILM SHORT  
DOCUMENTARY BURSARY  
2026

## CREATIVE IRELAND PROGRAMME

### CRUINIÚ NA NÓG 2026

There was a great response to the Cruinniú na nÓg Open Call with 18 external applications coming in for small grant amounts of up to €750 each. We are gathering details about the programme in our Library services currently but it is shaping up to be a broad programme reaching from Inishbofin to Ballinasloe and everywhere in between.

We have also secured €10,000 in additional funding to run a full programme of free events through Irish on all three of the Aran Islands. Planning for this is currently underway with a minimum of 3 events set to take place on each island.

Cruinniú na nÓg, Ireland's Free National Day of Creativity for Children and Young People, will take place on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> of June.

More details to follow soon!

### LIVE MUSIC IN RESIDENTIAL HEALTHCARE

2026 marks the 4<sup>th</sup> year of our Live Music in Residential Healthcare programme, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> which we have received the additional funding from the Creative Health & Wellbeing pillar of Creative Ireland. We were successful in our application for €25,000 of additional funding to run this incredibly popular programme where we bring singers, bands, and string quartets into Nursing Homes to perform for the residents and staff. As per previous years the programme is managed by Music Connects (formerly Galway Music Residency) who work in

consultation with the residents of the nursing homes to determine which music style will suit them best. We are also running this as a joint project with Galway City Council for the second year in a row. The programme is due to commence in the coming weeks, and the locations chosen for 2026 are as follows;

- Inis Mór
- An Spideál
- An Ceathrú Rua
- Carna

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## CULTURE AND CREATIVITY TEAM PROJECTS

As part of the Creative Ireland programme at Galway County Council, we support projects through the Culture and Creativity Team. This team represents a broad range of areas within the Council. This year we are supporting a wide range of projects to a total value of €40,000. Some examples of 2026 Culture Team projects already underway or complete are below;

- **Feamainn agus Sliogáin Inis Meáin ( Biodiversity Office)**

Feamainn agus Sliogáin Inis Meáin is a community-based heritage and biodiversity project that will explore, document and share local knowledge of seaweeds and seashell on Inis Meáin, embedding ecological understanding within Irish-language tradition, folklore and lived island experience.

The project builds on established collaboration between the Inis Meáin community and Galway County Council, demonstrated through the successful delivery of the Pabhsaer Inis Meáin / Wildflowers of Inis Meáin booklet and associated public talks and guided walks.

Focusing on the island's shoreline, Feamainn agus Sliogáin Inis Meáin will examine the ecological importance of seaweed and shells while recording traditional and contemporary uses, terminology, place-based knowledge and stories associated with these coastal resources. Seaweed and shells have long played a role in food, fertiliser, craft and everyday life on Inis Meáin, and the project will ensure that this knowledge is captured alongside ecological information.

- **Scéalta Beaga ar Turas Mór (Library Services)**

Scéalta Beaga ar Turas Mór was a highly successful Seachtain na Gaeilge initiative that brought Irish language storytelling to schools across the Conamara Gaeltacht. Pupils and teachers welcomed engaging sessions with authors Patricia Forde and Fearghas Mac Lochlainn, whose lively readings were greatly enjoyed. Younger classes particularly valued the unique storytelling experience aboard the Schools Library Van. Visits included schools in Leitir Mealláin, Trá Bhán, Leitir Móir, Muigh Inis and Aird Thiar. The project promoted Irish language reading, strengthened partnerships with the Schools Library Service, and was supported by Creative Ireland and Oifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge

- **Girls Off Grid (Galway Sports Partnership)**

This project addresses the rising mental health pressures and digital fatigue facing adolescent girls in County Galway.

The project redefines traditional sport by blending physical activity with learning the art of photography. It targets girls aged 11–16, particularly those from disadvantaged or minority backgrounds, moving them from passive digital consumption to active, confident creation.

The 12-week (2 x 6 weeks) pilot operates with small cohorts (10 participants each 6 week block) to ensure psychological safety and high-quality instruction.

Key features include: The Off-Grid Protocol: A mandatory "device-free" environment to eliminate social anxiety.

Physical Activity: Facilitated hikes across County Galway, from Athenry to Connemara.

Skill Acquisition: Technical DSLR photography workshops.

Collaborative Sustainability: The project leverages a high-level network of local partners, including Photo One Studios (technical instruction), West of the River Gallery (exhibition space), and the Presentation College Athenry (Post primary school).

To ensure longevity, the initiative employs a circular financial model. Artworks created by the participants will be exhibited and available for public contribution. All proceeds are reinvested into future workshops, transforming the project into a self-sustaining community asset for the youth of Galway.

## SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

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### INCLUSIVE CYCLING EASTER CAMP

Galway Sports Partnership delivered an Inclusive Cycling Easter Camp in Ballinasloe from 31 March to 2 April. Approximately 30 children aged 3–15 years from HSE disability services participated across the three days.

The camp was delivered through a multi-agency partnership involving the Ballinasloe Community Sports Hub (funders), Roscommon Sports Partnership, and the HSE Children's Disability Network.

The programme provided a safe, supportive environment for children with disabilities to develop cycling skills, confidence, and independence.

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### ACTIVE ISLANDS - PEIL SHÓISIALTA (SOCIAL FOOTBALL)

Social football sessions will commence across all three Aran Islands in April, delivered in collaboration with CLG Oileáin Árann.

A coach based on each island will lead weekly sessions designed to create a fun, non-competitive and sociable environment for adults to engage in Gaelic football.

The programme aims to increase community participation, encourage new members to engage with the club, and promote physical activity for adults of all fitness levels and playing experience.

## WOMEN IN SPORT

Women in Sport (WIS) programme delivery in April continued to advance Sport Ireland's strategic priorities of increasing female participation, reducing gender disparities, and providing inclusive opportunities across all life stages. Delivery emphasised community engagement, collaboration with National Governing Bodies (NGBs), and targeted supports for underrepresented groups.

CLG Oileáin Árann  
Traenáil Peile Shóisialta

Fáilte roimh chách  
D'Fhir & do Mhná | 18+ | Spreaúil & Sóisialta  
Bigí linn do sheisiúin pheile chairdiúla, shuaimhneacha.

Seisiúin sheachtainiúla ar na trí oileán

Dáta Tosaigh: Seachtain an 13ú Aibreáin  
Fad: 6 seachtaine  
Roinntear an am agus lá níos gaire don dáta tosaíthe

Tóg cairde leat agus bain sult as peil i dtimpeallacht spraiúil, shóisialta.

Caithear clárú leis an nasc a cuireadh ar fáil nó an cód QR a scanadh

Le haghaidh tuilleadh eolais:  
coordinator@activeislands.ie

Comhpháirtíocht Spóirt Na Gaillimhe  
Galway Sports Partnership

SPÓRT ÉIREANN  
SPORT IRELAND

Údarás na Gaeltachta

## HER TIMEOUT (BASKETBALL IRELAND)

The HER Timeout programme, delivered in partnership with Basketball Ireland, is entering its final three weeks.

Fifteen women are registered, reflecting strong demand for recreational, female-only basketball opportunities.

The programme continues to support confidence-building, social connection and sustained participation, with clear pathways to community and club engagement.



Women's Social Basketball

**HER  
TIMEOUT**

Six week programme  
Beginning March 6th at 8pm  
O'LEC Youthclub, Sas Rd., Galway

- Beginners Welcome
- Women Age 18+

Celebrate Women in Sport Week  
by trying something new!

Basketball Ireland

Comhpháirtíocht Spóirt Na Gaillimhe  
Galway Sports Partnership

SPÓRT ÉIREANN  
SPORT IRELAND

## BUGGY BUDDIES (SALTHILL, DOUGHISKA & TUAM)

Buggy Buddies sessions are ongoing across three locations, with 25–30 women registered per site.

Delivered by qualified postnatal exercise tutors, the programme supports women with young children to re-engage in physical activity in an accessible, supportive environment. Special acknowledgement is extended to tutors Helen Daly, Airike Monahan and Sinéad McKiernan for their leadership and delivery.

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## HELEN DALY TUTOR AT BUGGY BUDDIES PROGRAMME IN TUAM STARS



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## TRAVELLER WOMEN'S SWIM & AQUA AEROBICS (BRU BHRÍDE, TUAM)

A six-week block of swimming lessons and aqua aerobics has been completed with 10–14 women from the Traveller Women's Group at Bru Bhríde.

The programme focused on water confidence, skill development and sustained engagement in physical activity.

Support Worker Arianna Ward played a key role in facilitating access and supporting programme delivery.

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## INTRODUCTION TO BADMINTON (BADMINTON IRELAND)

A four-week Introduction to Badminton programme is underway at Ballinfoile Castlegar Neighbourhood Centre, delivered in partnership with Badminton Ireland Development Officers Deborah Sherlock and Ciara O'Flynn. The programme provides an accessible entry point for women to engage in a community-based, NGB-supported sport.



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## HOT & COLD IMMERSIVE WELLBEING EXPERIENCE (AN SPIDÉAL)

A Hot & Cold Immersive Wellbeing Experience for women will take place on 19 April in An Spidéal.



Returning due to strong demand, the programme offers an accessible introduction to holistic wellbeing practices, supporting stress management, recovery and overall physical and mental health.

The experience is particularly beneficial for women in midlife, a group that often faces increased barriers to ongoing participation.

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## WOMEN'S SWIM PROGRAMMES

Targeted women-specific swim programmes are being finalised in partnership with Galway City Partnership, with delivery planned for April and May at Kingfisher and/or Leisureland.

These programmes aim to increase access to aquatic activity for women from marginalised and underrepresented communities.



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## HER MOVES X GALWAY COMMUNITY CIRCUS (SCHOOLS)

One six-week HER Moves x Galway Community Circus programme was delivered from January to March at Archbishop McHale Secondary School, Tuam.

A second programme is currently underway at Coláiste Mhuire Máthair, with delivery planned for three additional DEIS post-primary schools by the end of 2026.

The programme targets teenage girls who are disengaged or at risk of dropping out of sport,



offering a creative, non-traditional movement experience that prioritises fun, confidence, and sustained engagement.

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## TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

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### CAITN NETWORKING EVENT 2026

The annual Connemara and Islands Tourism networking event, co-hosted with Costa Gaelach Connemara & Arainn, took place in Wildlands Maigh Cuilinn. This year's event, "Stronger Together" – Ní neart go cur le Chéile" brought tourism businesses from Connemara, the Aran Islands and Inishbofin together to connect, share ideas, and explore opportunities for collaboration.

Over 130 businesses attended from visionary hoteliers and accommodation providers to culinary creators who provide the finest food & drink all with a goal to provide the highest standards in hospitality. John Neary, Tourism Officer, presented on the day sharing insights and opportunities to help your business and the wider tourism sector thrive.



MICHAEL OWENS, DIRECTOR, JOHN NEARY, TOURISM OFFICER PICTURED WITH MEMBERS OF ÚDARÁS NA GAELTACHTA AND FAILTE IRELAND.

### INTERCOUNTY NETWORKING EVENT – FROM PRODUCT TO BOOKINGS

The JTF Activator facilitated a collaborative training workshop that supports learning from tailored training and shared experiences. From Products to Bookings, the intercounty Business Development Workshop in which the tourism trade came from the counties of East Galway, Offaly and Tipperary.

Capacity building is a key part of the work Tourism Activators carry out across the Just



Transition Region as it supports trade through strengthening skillsets across key areas of business development. This workshop was another great success, attracting strong attendance and generating a very positive atmosphere throughout.

L-R: JUST TRANSITION ACTIVATORS FROM TIPPERARY, EAST GALWAY AND OFFALY



A PACKED ROOM OF IDEAS, CONNECTIONS AND COLLABORATION.

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## DESTINATION EXPERIENCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR EAST GALWAY

The East Galway Destination and Experience Development Plan (DEDP) is a five-year sustainable tourism development plan being developed by Failte Ireland for the area. It captures proposed tourism development projects within one plan to maximise their potential over the next five years. These projects and destination development activities are organised into a 5-year action plan and will align with existing tourism plans and projects.

The key objectives are to motivate visitors to visit, stay and spend, extend the season, and disperse visitors through a sustainable tourism development approach.

Have your say and help shape a stronger, more sustainable future for tourism in East Galway!

Please click on the links below to complete the surveys:-

### **Tourism Industry Survey:**

<https://RepuconConsulting.welcomesyourfeedback.net/EastGalwayTourismIndustry>

### **Community Survey:**

<https://RepuconConsulting.welcomesyourfeedback.net/EastGalwayCommunityTourism>

The tourism team will continue to work with the other key partners to realise our shared vision for tourism development.

## INTEGRATION

International Protection Applicants and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection Applicants, with support from the Integration Team, celebrated St Patrick's Day in style in An Cheathrú Rua:



**Seachtain na dTeifeach**  
15–21 Meitheamh 2026  
**Iarratais ar Mhaoiniú Oscalte Anois**

Cuirtear an ciste seo deontais suas le €1,000 ar fáil chun cabhrú le grúpaí agus eagraíochtaí pobail gníomhaíochtaí Sheachtain na dTeifeach a óstáil ar fud Chontae na Gaillimhe.

**Spríodhata: Deardaoin 30 Aibreán**  
Chun iarratas a dhéanamh ar an deontas, tabhair cuairt ar [galwaycoco.submit.com](http://galwaycoco.submit.com) no scan an cod QR thíos.

Le haghaidh tuilleadh eolais, déan teagmháil le [refugeeweek@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:refugeeweek@galwaycoco.ie)



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

LAIT Galway County  
Local Authority Integration Team

**Refugee Week**  
15-21 June 2026

**Funding Applications Now Open**

This fund offers grants of up to €1,000 to help community groups and organisations host Refugee Week activities across Galway County.

**Deadline: Thursday 30th April**  
To apply for the grant, please visit [galwaycoco.submit.com](http://galwaycoco.submit.com) or scan the QR below.

For more information, contact [refugeeweek@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:refugeeweek@galwaycoco.ie)



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

LAIT Galway County  
Local Authority Integration Team

We also have an open call for applications for funding for Refugee Week activities, which should take place during Refugee Week in June 15 – 21 2026.

Work continued the Galway County Africa Day event which will be held in Tuam Palace Grounds on Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> from 2pm-5pm.

صبح تدرستی برای زنان  
نکات و توصیه‌هایی درباره تدرستی ویژه زنان

تاریخ: دوشنبه 30 مارس  
زمان: 10:00 صبح تا 12:00 ظهر  
مکان: مرکز منابع لوریا

**Happy Women's Day**

Loughrea Resource Centre, Piggott's St

integration@galwaycoco.ie  
تماس بگیرید برای اطلاعات بیشتر لطفاً با



**Galway County**  
**AFRICA DAY 2026**

A FREE, fun-packed afternoon with live music, multicultural performances, delicious food, kids activities, and more.

For more information:  


**Tuam Palace Grounds**  
**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May**  
**2pm-5pm**

[integration@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:integration@galwaycoco.ie)



Work has commenced on the new Galway County Migrant Integration Strategy with Lucy Michael Research, Training and Consultancy Ltd. Stakeholder consultations will be taking place in May and June.



In addition to our regular County wide information clinics, we also held some Health, Beauty and Wellbeing events in Tuam, Loughrea and Gort.

### **Applications for the 2026 Community Safety Fund now open**

**Date announced: 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

The Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, Jim O’Callaghan, has officially opened applications for the 2026 Community Safety Fund (CSF). The fund, first introduced in 2022, redirects the proceeds of crime seized by An Garda Síochána and the Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB) into community-based projects that support and enhance local safety.

This year’s fund totalling €4.75 million is a significant increase since the initial allocation of €2 million in 2022. Applications are now open until 5pm on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

The Community Safety Fund is managed by the National Office of Community Safety, within the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration.

Minister O’Callaghan said:

“It is important to recognise that community safety is not just about policing, it is a wider effort that involves the whole community. The fund supports innovative projects that can reduce the fear of crime, improve community safety and decrease reoffending.”

“It is also important to recognise that community safety is not just about policing, it is a wider effort that involves the whole community. The fund supports innovative projects that can reduce the fear of crime, improve community safety and decrease reoffending.”

The Community Safety Fund:

- allows proceeds of crime to be directed into projects to support and enhance community safety
- ensures that the most appropriate proposals to improve community safety will access the funding they need
- allows best practice on community safety and youth justice to be shared with other partnerships and communities nationally as new proposals are developed
- benefits from the success of An Garda Síochána and the Criminal Assets Bureau in seizing the proceeds of criminal activity

Projects that previously benefited from the fund included initiatives that:

- reduce the fear of crime, improve community safety and feelings of safety
- support the creation of safe and resilient communities
- reduce reoffending
- divert vulnerable individuals away from engagement in criminal behaviour

Since the Fund launched in 2022, a total of 127 projects has received funding nationally.

**For information on how to apply, visit**  
[www.gov.ie/communitysafety](http://www.gov.ie/communitysafety)



## LIBRARY SERVICES

### SCÉALTA BEAGA AR TURAS MÓR LE SEIRBHÍS LEABHARLAINNE SCOILEANNA

Bhí Scéalta Beaga ar Turas Mór ina thionscnamh thar a bheith rathúil do Sheachtain na Gaeilge, a thug scéalaíocht Ghaeilge chuig scoileanna ar fud Ghaeltacht Chonamara. Chuir daltaí agus múinteoirí fáilte roimh na seisiúin spreagúla le húdair Patricia Forde agus Fearghas Mac Lochlainn, agus bhain siad an-sult astu. Ghlac na ranganna níos óige go háirithe leis an eispéireas scéalaíochta uathúil ar bord Fheithicil Leabharlainne na Scoileanna. Áiríodh ar na cuairteanna scoileanna i Leitir Mealláin, Trá Bhán, Leitir Móir, Muigh Inis agus Aird Thiar. Chuir an tionscadal chun cinn léitheoireacht na Gaeilge, neartaigh sé comhpháirtíochtaí leis an tSeirbhís Leabharlainne Scoileanna, agus fuair sé tacaíocht ó Éire Ildánach agus Oifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge.

### SCÉALTA BEAGA AR TURAS MÓR WITH THE SCHOOLS LIBRARY SERVICE

Scéalta Beaga ar Turas Mór was a highly successful Seachtain na Gaeilge initiative that brought Irish-language storytelling to schools across the Conamara Gaeltacht. Pupils and teachers welcomed engaging sessions with authors Patricia Forde and Fearghas Mac Lochlainn, whose lively readings were greatly enjoyed. Younger classes particularly valued the unique storytelling experience aboard the Schools' Library



Van. Visits included schools in Leitir Mealláin, Trá Bhán, Leitir Móir, Muigh Inis and Aird Thiar.

The project promoted

Irish-language reading, strengthened partnerships with the Schools' Library Service, and was supported by Creative Ireland and Oifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge.



AN T-ÚDAR PATRICIA FORDE AG LÉAMH SCÉALAÍOCHTA LE DALTAÍ ÓGA

AN TÚDAR FEARGHAS MAC LOCHLAINN AG BUAILEADH LE DALTAÍ ÓGA



## RADON MONITORS LOAN SCHEME

### GALWAY PUBLIC LIBRARIES LAUNCHES RADON MONITOR LOAN SCHEME TO SUPPORT PUBLIC HEALTH

From late April, Galway Public Libraries will offer a new Radon Monitor Loan Scheme, enabling members of the public to borrow digital radon monitors to check radon levels in their homes. The initiative was launched in Oranmore Library on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, by the Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council, Cllr. David Collins.

The radon monitors will be available in 10 branch libraries: Galway City, Ballybane, Westside, Oranmore, Loughrea, Tuam, Ballinasloe, Portumna, Clifden and Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua. This is a Healthy Ireland at Your Library initiative, supported by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to raise awareness of radon and promote proactive health measures.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that can accumulate indoors. It is the second leading cause of lung cancer in Ireland after smoking. Through the scheme, library users can borrow a digital radon monitor just like a book, gaining a snapshot of radon levels in their homes. While not a replacement for the recommended three-month test, the monitors



offer a valuable first step in identifying potential radon issues.

CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, CLLR. DAVID COLLINS, COUNTY & CITY LIBRARIAN, LIZ KEANE AND SENIOR EXECUTIVE LIBRARIAN, SIOBHÁN ARKINS AT THE LAUNCH OF THE DIGITAL RADON MONITORS LOAN SCHEME, IN ORANMORE LIBRARY

## BALLYBANE LIBRARY

March at Ballybane library has been lively and busy as we strive to host as many local groups and events as possible. Seachtain na Gaeilge was celebrated with a lively children's craft session depicting Irish myths and legends. Staff led two story times as Gaeilge on consecutive Saturdays which were well attended. Our Ciorcal Comhrá continues in a lively and fun manner, with numbers growing each week. To celebrate Mothers' Day, Ballybane children were delighted to make special art dedicated to their mothers with the help of enthusiastic library staff.

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## ART TO CELEBRATE MOTHERS' DAY



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## AM SCÉALAÍOCHTA DO SHEACHTAIN NA GAELIGE

We were delighted to be chosen to host the last interactive performance of Monica Monez as she completed her term of Artist in Residence at ATU. Her movement and dance sessions were well attended by local childminders, parents, and children. The second session was attended by a preschool who travelled from Corrandulla.



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## ARTIST IN RESIDENCE AT ATU, MONICA MONEZ WITH A LIVELY AUDIENCE



Family Literacy was to the fore when the Galway Astronomy Club held a talk in the Library on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> of March concerning the Night Sky. This was much appreciated and well attended.

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## GALWAY ASTRONOMY CLUB TALK ON THE 'NIGHT SKY'

## ATHENRY LIBRARY

March was a wonderfully busy and rewarding month in Athenry Library, filled with a wide range of activities that brought people of all ages through our doors. We were delighted to see such strong attendance at our podiatrist's talk on foot health, with the community showing great interest and appreciation for the practical advice shared. This was followed by another well-received event with Sarah Fahy, who delivered an engaging and uplifting talk on *"Five Ways to Wellbeing"* in partnership with Healthy Ireland. Both events generated



positive feedback and lively discussion, highlighting the appetite locally for health and wellbeing initiatives.

SARAH FAHY, DEVELOPMENT OFFICER WITH MENTAL HEALTH IRELAND SPEAKING ABOUT THE 5 WAYS TO WELLBEING, A HEALTHY IRELAND AT YOUR LIBRARY EVENT

Throughout the month, our Digital Skills programme, delivered by an instructor from GRETB, continued to attract a committed group of learners, with attendees participating each Thursday. These sessions provided valuable support and confidence-building opportunities for those developing their digital skills, and the programme was very much appreciated by those who took part.

We also had the pleasure of welcoming a local preschool class for a delightful visit to the library. The children spent a relaxed and enjoyable couple of hours with us, taking part in a lively storytime session followed by puzzles and games, filling the space with energy, curiosity and laughter. These early years visits are always a highlight and help to foster a love of books and libraries from a young age.

Rounding off the month, our book club met on the second Wednesday as usual, continuing its tradition of engaging discussion and shared enjoyment of reading. It was another successful meeting and a reminder of the strong sense of community that our book club continues to nurture.

Overall, March was a vibrant month in Athenry Library, with a rich mix of educational, cultural and social activities that reflect the diverse interests of our community.

## LEABHARLANN NA CEATHRÚN RUA

### AN CEART CHUN LÉITHEOIREACHT

#### CLUB LEABHAR

Bhí an Club Leabhar againn ar 26 Márta. Bhí "An Saol Sona" le David Foenkinos á phlé acu, úrscéal Francaise a d'aistigh Máirín Ní Mhárta go Gaeilge. Cheap siad gur sár-aistriúchán a rinneadh, agus gur b'fhiú an úrscéal a léamh. Bhí neart plé déanta ar an aistriúchán mar cheird chomh maith!

Beidh an chéad cruinniú eile acu ag deireadh mí Aibreán.

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## CUAIRTEANNA EILE Ó SCOILEANNA & GRÚPAÍ ÁITIÚLA

Bhí cuairteanna againn arís an mhí seo ón mbunscoil áitiúil, ón gClub Suaimhneas, ó na scoileanna speisialta agus na heagraíochtaí cúraim.

Tháinig neart cuairteoirí isteach chugainn ar Lá Domhanda na Leabhar. Thug go leor gasúir c uairt ar an leabharlann tar éis na scoile chun leabhar a phiocadh dóibh féin. Nár laga Dia iad!

Tháinig go leor ealaíontóirí óga isteach chugainn chomh maith, agus neart dathú á dhéanam h acu.

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## SCILEANNA DON SAOL

### *CÚNAMH LEIS AN TEICNEOLAÍOCHT*

Tháinig deireadh leis na séisiúin “buail isteach” teicneolaíochta an mhí seo. Bhain an phobal tairbhe astu agus fuair siad a lán cúnamh uaibh.

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## RIGHT TO READ

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### BOOK CLUB

We had our monthly Irish language book club on March 26. They discussed “An Saol Sona” by David Foenkinos, a French novel translated to Irish by Máirín Ní Mháirta. They thought that it was brilliantly translated and that it was a novel worth reading. They also had much to discuss about translation as a craft!

They will have their next meeting at the end of April.

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## VISITS FROM SCHOOLS AND OTHER GROUPS

We had visits again this month from the local primary school, from Club Suaimhneas, from the special schools and care groups.

We had many visitors on World Book Day. Lots of children visited the library after school specifically to get a book.

We had a lot of young artists in the library as well, and they did a lot of colouring.

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## SKILLS FOR LIFE

### ***Help with Technology***

The “drop-in” technology sessions came to an end this month. The public found them to be useful and helpful.



TAISPEÁNTAS BEAG DO NA PÁISTÍ LE HAGHAIDH LÁ FHÉILE PÁDRAIG (ÁR MBUIÓCHAS LE KAREN AS UCHT NA LEATHNAIGH DATHÚCHÁIN ÁLAINNE!) / A SMALL DISPLAY FOR THE CHILDREN FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY (THANK YOU TO KAREN FOR THE LOVELY COLOURING PAGES!)

#### LEABHAIR DO SHEACHTAIN NA CÁISCE



TAISPEÁNTAIS DON CHÁISC. / DISPLAYS FOR EASTER.



#### LEABHAIR I GCOMHAIR SEACHTAIN NA GAELGE



### BALLINASLOE LIBRARY

#### EUROPE DIRECT @ BALLINASLOE LIBRARY

During the month, Ballinasloe Library delivered a wide-ranging and well-attended programme of events, including wellbeing initiatives, creative arts exhibitions and workshops, sustainability activities, family-focused sessions, and Europe Direct engagement. These activities highlighted Ballinasloe Library's continued role as a welcoming community space that supports learning, creativity, and wellbeing for all ages.

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## THE FIVE WAYS TO WELLBEING – MARCH 18TH

Ballinasloe Library hosted a highly engaging session on *The Five Ways to Wellbeing* in partnership with Mental Health Ireland. Participants gained practical, accessible insights into how small everyday actions can strengthen resilience, improve mood, and support long-term wellbeing.

Sincere thanks to Sarah Fahy, Development Officer with Mental Health Ireland, for delivering an informative and inspiring presentation that was very well received.

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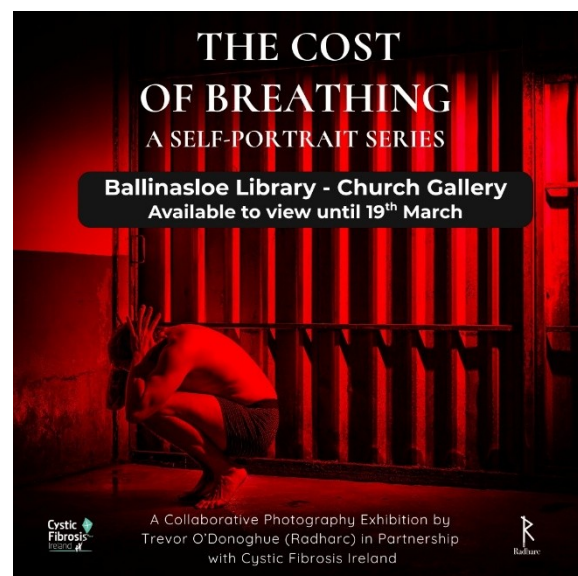
SARAH FAHY, DEVELOPMENT OFFICER WITH MENTAL HEALTH IRELAND WHO DELIVERED A PRESENTATION ON THE 5 WAYS TO WELLBEING IN BALLINASLOE LIBRARY



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## EXHIBITION: “THE COST OF BREATHING: A SELF-PORTRAIT SERIES”

Cystic Fibrosis Ireland, in collaboration with Trevor O’Donoghue of Radharc, proudly brought *The Cost of Breathing: A Self-Portrait Series* to Ballinasloe Library. Through powerful self-portrait photography, Trevor—a professional photographer living with cystic fibrosis—shares a deeply personal exploration of life with a lifelong condition. The exhibition offers a compelling reflection on survival, visibility, and the often-unseen cost of simply breathing, inviting audiences to engage with the lived realities of cystic fibrosis.



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## EUROPE DIRECT GENERAL MEETING – BRUSSELS

Europe Direct Ballinasloe and Library Manager Joe Jennings attended the Europe Direct General Meeting in Brussels from 11–13 March. The meeting provided a valuable opportunity to learn from EU updates and share experiences, best practice, and ideas with colleagues from Europe Direct Centres across Europe, strengthening collaboration and future engagement initiatives.



GENERAL MEETING OF  
EUROPE DIRECT  
MANAGERS IN BRUSSELS

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### GLASS PAINTING WORKSHOP – MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup>

We hosted a lively and enjoyable Glass Painting Workshop on Friday March 6th, with enthusiastic participation from our young artists. The session was filled with creativity, and it was wonderful to see the imaginative designs produced, making the event a great success for all involved.



EXHIBITS  
FROM  
GLASS  
PAINTING  
WORKSHOP

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### SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE WORKSHOPS – MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup>

Europe Direct Ballinasloe and Library hosted a highly successful Sustainable Lifestyle event featuring two engaging workshops delivered by Understory. Through hands-on activities and thought-provoking discussions, participants explored how small, everyday choices can have a positive impact on the environment. The workshops were marked by strong engagement, curiosity, and enthusiasm, contributing to an inspiring and informative day focused on sustainability and eco-friendly living.

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SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE WORKSHOPS  
PRESENTED BY UNDERSTORY



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## WEEKLY BABY RHYME TIME

Ballinasloe Library continued its popular Baby Rhyme Time sessions with another enjoyable and well-attended gathering. These sessions are facilitated by Music Generation County Galway. Families and little ones took part in music, movement, and colourful activities, creating a fun and welcoming atmosphere on the mat. It remains a joyful weekly opportunity for families to share songs, rhythm, and early literacy experiences together.

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## TOPE EXHIBITION LAUNCH – MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup>

The TOPE exhibition was officially launched at Ballinasloe Library with a wonderful event celebrating the work of talented local artists. Cllr. Alan Harney launched the event with some thoughtful and complimentary words. The vibrant portrait collection was warmly received, with each piece accompanied by a personal card offering insight into the artist behind the work, adding a meaningful and engaging dimension to the exhibition. The colourful and uplifting display will remain on view until Tuesday, 14 April.

LAUNCH OF TOPE ART  
EXHIBITION IN BALLINASLOE  
LIBRARY



## GALWAY CITY LIBRARY

24 March - As part of Irish Astronomy Week, astrophotographer, Adrian Nolan presented a talk on his astrophotography journey. Adrian was the prize winner of the national Teagasc Forestry Development Forest Photography Competition, and last year he was shortlisted in the prestigious DIAS astrophotography competition Reach for the Stars with his striking image of the aurora over Pine Island in Connemara.

28 March - Rab Fulton launched his latest book, *The Wicked Woman*, written under the pseudonym Letham R. McPaiké. Rab read from his new book, as well as from some of his other works.

Two new art exhibitions were on display in the City Library in March:

From 2-14 March, Artist Tracy Gaughan exhibited a series of images made in Knockma Wood, Belclare. The series was titled “Inversions”.



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ARTIST TRACY GAUGHAN WITH HER EXHIBITION  
"INVERSIONS"

From 16-28 March, the Western Branch of the Irish Patchwork Society exhibited a series of textile art pieces, created by several of their members. Featuring contemporary and traditional textile art the exhibition highlighted the incredible versatility of the craft. From intricate hand-stitched details to bold, modern geometric designs, the display celebrated the high level of skill and artistry thriving in the local quilting community.

## LOUGHREA LIBRARY

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### EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES AT LOUGHREA LIBRARY

Loughrea Library was a hive of activity throughout the month, welcoming people of all ages and interests through its doors and reaffirming its role as a vibrant community space. From language and literacy to creativity, wellbeing, astronomy, and social connection, the library hosted a wonderfully diverse programme of events.

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### CELEBRATING SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE

The library proudly took part in Seachtain na Gaeilge by hosting lively Irish conversation circles in partnership with Gaeilge Locha Riach. These sessions brought together Irish speakers and learners for relaxed, informal chats, with plenty of laughter and encouragement. Whether brushing up on cúpla focal or enjoying fluent exchanges, participants valued the friendly atmosphere and the opportunity to use Irish in a welcoming, social setting.

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### CIORCAL GAEILGE LE GAEILGE LOCHA RIACH



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## RIGHT TO READ: WELCOMING YOUNG READERS

As part of the Right to Read initiative, the library was delighted to welcome multiple class groups from St. Ita's National School. The children explored the library space, learned how it works, and discovered the joy of choosing books for themselves. These visits sparked great curiosity, with thoughtful questions, enthusiastic browsing, and lively discussions about favourite stories and characters. The encounters helped strengthen the relationship between school and library while fostering a love of reading from an early age.

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## MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

The library's book club continued to be a space for thoughtful conversation and shared enjoyment of reading. Members gathered to exchange opinions, reflect on themes, and connect over a shared love of books. The relaxed discussion encouraged different perspectives and highlighted how reading can generate meaningful dialogue and friendship.

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## FAMILY TIME AT THE LIBRARY

Families enjoyed several engaging activities designed especially for younger library users. Toddler storytime created a warm and inviting environment, filled with stories, songs, and playful interaction, followed by colourful LEGO Duplo fun that encouraged creativity and cooperation.

To mark World Book Day, a character-themed colouring table invited children to bring beloved literary figures to life with crayons and imagination. Later, a special craft session combining St Patrick's Day and Mother's Day themes added a festive buzz, with families creating cards and artwork together and enjoying shared creative time.

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## BOARD GAME SATURDAY

A relaxed Saturday afternoon was dedicated to board games, bringing people together across generations. Tables filled with classic and modern games, sparking friendly competition, laughter, and conversation. The event showcased the library as a social space where people can meet, unwind, and connect beyond books.

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## ASTRONOMY IRELAND WEEK

As part of Astronomy Ireland Week, the library hosted an engaging talk exploring planets, asteroids, and the wider universe. The speaker brought space science to life with fascinating insights, making complex ideas accessible and igniting curiosity about the night sky. The event was especially popular with those eager to learn more about astronomy from an Expert.



DAVE MCDONALD AT HIS TALK ON PLANETS AND ASTEROIDS, WITH LIBRARIAN ANNE CALLANAN

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## HEALTHY IRELAND AT YOUR LIBRARY

Health and wellbeing were at the forefront during a series of informative talks delivered by experienced professionals. One session focused on foot health, offering practical advice and encouraging preventative care, while another explored simple, everyday approaches to supporting mental health and wellbeing. Both talks were well received, offering valuable information in a supportive, community-based setting.



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## HEALTHY IRELAND AT YOUR LIBRARY TALKS ON FOOT HEALTH AND ON THE 5 WAYS TO WELLBEING

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## TIDY TOWNS: TALES FROM LOUGHREA

The library was proud to host a special evening celebrating the stories and heritage of Loughrea. Organised in collaboration with Tidy Towns, the event drew a large audience interested in local history and shared memories. Storytelling, reflection, and community pride were at the heart of the evening, reinforcing the library's role as a keeper and sharer of local stories. The event was very popular with an audience of approximately 60 people.

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## STORIES AND FOLKLORE EVENT IN COLLABORATION WITH TIDY TOWNS, LOUGHREA



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## AGE FRIENDLY INITIATIVES

Loughrea Library continued to support older library users through age-friendly initiatives. Digital skills drop-in clinics offered one-to-one help in a relaxed and reassuring environment, building confidence with technology and everyday digital tasks.

The weekly adult craft group provided a calm, welcoming space for creativity and conversation. Participants worked on individual projects while enjoying companionship and mutual encouragement.

A community social morning further strengthened connections, inviting people to drop in for tea or coffee, read the newspapers, play games, solve crosswords, or simply enjoy a chat. These initiatives highlighted the library as a warm, inclusive space where people can connect and feel welcome.

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## COMMUNITY SOCIAL MORNING

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### COMMUNITY NETWORKING REPRESENTATION



Library staff also represented Galway Public Library services at a major networking event organised by Galway Rural Development. This provided an opportunity to engage with a wide range of community groups and organisations, promote library services, and strengthen partnerships across the region. There were over 200 individuals in attendance.

LIBRARIAN ANNE CALLANAN  
ATTENDING A MAKE THE LINK  
EVENT

Overall, the month showcased Loughrea Library as a lively, inclusive hub—supporting learning, creativity, wellbeing, and community connection across all ages.



ORANMORE LIBRARY

Oranmore Library and Galway County Council Biodiversity Office were delighted to welcome Cathaoirleach David Collins, author Susan O'Donohue, County Librarian Elizabeth Keane, Biodiversity Officer Rosina Joyce and pupils from Scoil Íosa to Oranmore Library on March 6th to celebrate World Book Day. Susan read from her book "Golden Wings: a tale about an Irish barn-owl", played games with the children and displayed props of stuffed owls which enhanced the learning experience. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thank you to Rosina Joyce, Galway County Biodiversity Officer, for organizing this event.



CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY  
COUNCIL, CLLR. DAVID COLLINS SPEAKING AT  
ORANMORE LIBRARY ON WORLD BOOK DAY

SUSAN O' DONOGHUE, AUTHOR OF  
'GOLDEN WINGS: A TALE ABOUT AN IRISH  
BARN OWL



Lots of fun was had at the Arts & Crafts session celebrating St. Patrick's Day and Seachtain na Gaeilge at Oranmore Library on Saturday, March 14th. Some wonderful shamrock wreaths were created.



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#### ARTS AND CRAFTS CELEBRATING ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Thug Gaelscoil de hÍde cuairt ar Leabharlann Órán Mór I rith Seachtain na Gaeilge. Bhí an-spraoi acu ag eisteacht le scéalta, ag léamh leabhar agus ag dathú phictiúir lus an chromchínn. Chruith muid na phictiúir ar an mballa chun "host of golden daffodils" a chruthú.



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#### STORYTIME AT ORANMORE LIBRARY



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#### DALTAÍ Ó GAELSCOIL DE HÍDE

Oranmore Library were delighted to welcome Sarah Fahy, Development Officer with Healthy Ireland to present a talk entitled "Connect to the Five Ways to Wellbeing" on Wednesday, March 25th at 11am.



SARAH FAHY, DEVELOPMENT OFFICER WITH MENTAL HEALTH IRELAND SPEAKING ABOUT THE 5 WAYS TO WELLBEING, A HEALTHY IRELAND AT YOUR LIBRARY EVENT

Oranmore Library was pleased to host a talk on astrophotography by Brendan Spellman entitled "Gathering Ancient Light: A journey into the Deep Sky" on Saturday, March 28th at 2.30pm.



BRENDAN SPELLMAN SPEAKING ON ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY



Oranmore Library had our first event of two weeks planned events for Easter on March 31<sup>st</sup>, an Easter Arts & Crafts Session. There was great interest and loads of enjoyment creating easter bunnies and colouring easter eggs.



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## EASTER ARTS AND CRAFTS AT ORANMORE LIBRARY

### PORTUMNA LIBRARY

March was a wonderfully busy and celebratory month at Portumna Library, as we marked **World Book Day**, **St Patrick's Day**, and **Seachtain na Gaeilge** with a fantastic mix of events and activities.

Our much-loved **Ciorcal Comhrá** continued to take place every second Tuesday, offering over an hour of *craic, chat agus tae*. These sessions are enjoyed by all, are age-friendly, and welcome Irish speakers of every level. To celebrate **Seachtain na Gaeilge**, we hosted a special Ciorcal Comhrá with the added joy of ceol, making it an especially memorable occasion.

Our **Adult Book Club** met for its monthly gathering and read *Not the Same Sky* by Evelyn Conlon. This book generated great interest, particularly because its story explores the history of the Portumna Workhouse and the lives of its occupants. Given its strong local connections, it was easy to recommend to borrowers with an interest in Portumna's past.

**Scrabble for Adults** continued on Thursday afternoons, providing a relaxed and sociable space for friendly competition.

Our **Community Jigsaw Table**, featuring a 1,000-piece puzzle, has proven a huge hit, inviting people to sit down, add a few pieces, and enjoy a shared activity.

Fridays are dedicated to **Freeplay LEGO and DUPLO**, along with **Storytime**, depending on staffing levels on the day. In addition, puzzles, word searches, colouring sheets, and a wide range of activities are available every day for all ages.

The **Games Shelf** is constantly in use and remains a great way for borrowers to connect with one another in the library.

Learners from the **L.C.A. programme at the local Youthreach Centre** regularly visit the library to use our facilities while researching current projects.

We also always look forward to the weekly visits from the members and staff of the **Portumna Hub branch of Ability West**, which are a valued part of our routine.

To celebrate **World Book Day 2026**, we worked with the local National School to welcome over 120 pupils from all ages and classes into the library throughout the week. This is especially important, as some children may not have the opportunity to visit the library. We also hosted an adult **Books & Buns Quiz**, in collaboration with Shorelands Arts Festival. With over 30 adults attending, it was another resounding success — complete with tea, coffee, and, of course, buns!

To mark **St Patrick's Day**, we hosted a pop-up *Design Your Own Bookmark* workshop, which proved extremely popular with participants of all ages.

Our **Print Service** continues to be very busy, bringing a whole new group of people through the library doors who may not otherwise have ventured in.

It is wonderful to have a **free community space** that everyone can call their own — somewhere to drop into with no appointment needed. A place to chill, recharge yourself, or your device!

## TUAM LIBRARY

Tuam Library was buzzing with activity throughout March! Our much-loved weekly events kept regular visitors smiling — from lively Rhyme Times and relaxed Saturday Free-Play Lego sessions to the ever-creative Thursday morning craft group. Two book clubs gathered for their monthly chats, and our breastfeeding support group met on March 12th for another warm, welcoming session.

Music filled the library on March 26th as *Soundbites* returned, drawing an enthusiastic audience of 20. Each Friday, our digital skills classes attracted steady attendance right through to their final session on March 27th. Meanwhile, Margaret Garvey continued her invaluable book deliveries to housebound members, completing four drops during the month.

As part of the *Healthy Ireland at Your Library* initiative, we hosted an inspiring workshop on March 4th. Sarah Fahy, Development Officer with Mental Health Ireland, guided attendees through "The 5 Ways to Wellbeing", leaving the group informed and energised.

School engagement remained strong, with five primary and two secondary school visits, plus a special TY class visit on March 2nd. Ability West joined us for several small-group visits, and children got hands-on with creativity during four Friday coding workshops delivered by Corrib Coding.

The library foyer also saw great activity: a colourful preschool exhibition brightened the space, and COPE Galway brought valuable community information through their “Meals for Health” pop-up stand on March 19th.



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## EASTER DECORATIONS IN THE FOYER AT TUAM LIBRARY

## WESTSIDE LIBRARY

Westside Library experienced consistently strong footfall throughout March, supported by an extensive schedule of regular programmes and special events. In addition to sixteen ongoing weekly and monthly activities facilitated by staff and community partners, the library introduced a new initiative— the **Empathy Café**, delivered by the Galway Volunteer Centre. March was a highly productive and engaging month for Westside Library, characterised by strong participation, successful community partnerships, and the introduction of new programming.

During this reporting period, the library hosted **57 events**, attracting a total of **758 participants**.

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## EMPATHY CAFÉ

A new weekly programme, the Empathy Café is grounded in the principles of non-violent communication and aims to enhance participants’ skills in connection, communication, and conflict resolution. Sessions incorporate guided discussion and reflective practice. The programme is open to all community members and will continue at Westside Library in the coming months.

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## SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE

To celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge, Westside Library delivered a series of Irish language and cultural activities, including:

- **Weekly Ciorcal Comhrá:** An informal conversation circle open to learners of all levels, providing an opportunity to practice spoken Irish in a relaxed setting over tea and refreshments.
- **Children’s Art Competition:** The library organised a successful art competition for children aged 6–9 and 10–12 years. Participants were invited to create artwork

inspired by their favourite *seanfhocail*. The competition received **over 60 entries**, requiring careful deliberation by the judging panel.

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## COMÓRTAS EALAÍNE DO PHÁISTÍ LE HAGHAIDH SEACHTAIN NA GAELGE



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## “MAKING THE POEM” SERIES

In partnership with Poetry Ireland, Westside Library hosted “**Making the Poem,**” a three-part poetry reading and discussion series facilitated by Rachel Coventry. Each session featured a single poet—Mary O’Malley, Patrick Chapman, and Rosamund Taylor—who delivered a reading followed by an in-depth interview exploring their creative process, writing practice, and recent work. A Q&A session with the audience concluded each event. The series drew strong attendance and positive feedback throughout.



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POET MARY O' MALLEY READING TO AN ENGAGED AUDIENCE

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POET MARY O MALLEY AND EVENT FACILITATOR RACHEL COVENTRY



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## EASTER CRAFT WORKSHOP

A staff-led Easter Craft workshop engaged **65 participants**, who created vibrant paper flower bouquets. The event contributed positively to the library's seasonal programming and fostered a lively, creative atmosphere.



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## EASTER CRAFTS AT WESTSIDE LIBRARY

## ENVIRONMENT

### BURIAL GROUNDS

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#### PART 8 PLANNING PERMISSION

Part 8 planning permission was submitted on 10th April for the proposed extension of the burial ground at Kilconieron. The development will extend the existing burial ground onto adjoining lands providing 180 new double grave plots and 10 urn plots for cremated remains. The proposed works will expand burial capacity while enhancing accessibility, environmental value, and visual integration with the surrounding landscape.

### DOG CONTROL

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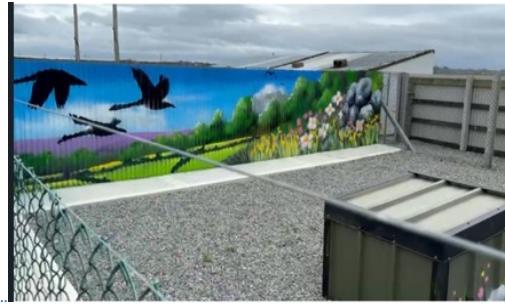
#### PROMOTION OF RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

773 dog licences were purchased during the month of March, 497 of which were purchased at the local post office. Licencing compliance remains higher in 2026 than at the same stage in 2025, with a 4% increase in licences purchased year to date. Licencing campaigns were carried out by our dog warden and community warden service in An Forbacha, Kinvara village, Cregmore, Knockdoemore, and Cahergowan/Cloon areas of the county during the month of February.

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#### DOG SHELTER

15 dogs came through the Council's dog warden shelter during the month of March. Some mural work was carried out by the Council's dog shelter keeper, see pictures below. These murals featuring calm colours and nature imagery helps to create a more soothing environment for the dogs in our care and can help with anxiety and stress.



MURALS AT DOG SHELTER

## ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING & ENFORCEMENT

### AIR POLLUTION MONITORING & ENFORCEMENT

Inspections of 3 premises were conducted in March for compliance with the Air Pollution Act (Solid Fuels) Regulations 2022 - all 3 were found to be compliant in only selling approved solid fuels. Over 100 retailers were written to in January outlining the regulations and reminding them of their obligations regarding the retailing of solid fuels. Four renewal Certificates of Compliance were issued to Operators under the Deco Paint Regulations in March.

### AGRICULTURE MONITORING & ENFORCEMENT

A Section 12 Notice under the Water Pollution Act was issued to a landowner in relation to illegal dumping of factory organic waste in a field near Creggs as wastewater from this waste is polluting nearby streams. A number of meetings were held with the DAFM (Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine) and the EPA to identify the source site and to carry out the necessary inspections and investigations are on-going.

Council staff attended a national agricultural working group in relation to the national inspection programme. The planned farm inspections for Q2 2026 are being finalised at present.

### LITTER ENFORCEMENT

20 fines were issued by our community warden service for litter offences during the month of March. For the year to date, 36 fines have been issued with 10 paid in full, 1 being paid in instalments, and 3 referred for legal proceedings. The remainder of fines issued are being processed through the system.

### WASTE ENFORCEMENT

A number of staff attended the EPA Waste Case Studies event in Portlaoise held over 2 days where GCC made a presentation on Farm plastics and the outcome of a multiagency investigation of a contractor purchasing plastics in NI ex VAT. Staff also began the annual inspections under the RMCEI Plan beginning with inspections of premises under the Producer Responsibility Initiatives and carried out a number of inspections for compliance with the WEEE and Battery Regulations and the Plastic Bag Levy. There were also 70

Households and 2 commercial premises inspected for waste management and segregation compliance during March. A total of 9 Waste Facility permitted sites are due to expire in 2026 so review applications are being submitted and are being processed.

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#### WATER POLLUTION MONITORING & ENFORCEMENT

An unauthorised garage operating in the county was prosecuted following a court case during the month - the garage owner pleaded guilty to offences under the Water Pollution Act and was fined by the court and a Court order was issued which the garage must comply with.

Nine Section 12 Notices under the Water Pollution Act were issued during the month. One was in relation to a septic tank for a domestic property, one for pollution being caused by the septic tank of a large residential facility, three in relation to submission of a Discharge Licence application and four in relation to a non-compliant Discharge Licence.

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#### CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

A Draft Local Authority Water Action Plan has been developed by LAWPRO and several Local Authorities and has been distributed nationally for comment so that a final format can be agreed. Each Local Authority will be required to produce an Annual Plan going forward, outlining what actions are proposed for the year ahead to protect or improve water quality in various waterbodies. A meeting also took place with the EPA to update data on waterbodies where the ecological status changed over the last two monitoring periods. Input from local authorities on possible reasons for this change was being sought. This characterisation process will feed into the 4th Water Action Plan which will be adopted when the current Plan expires at the end of 2027.

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#### TRAINING

Staff attended Green Procurement training in Roscrea for a one-day event. Tenders received during a procurement process can be given a scoring percentage of between 5 and 20% for green initiatives. Examples of green initiatives are reduced greenhouse gas emissions associated with a product or service, improved energy efficiency, circular economy, water conservation, or improved biodiversity.

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### BATHING WATERS & WATER SAFETY

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#### MONITORING OF BATHING WATERS

A number of tasks need to be completed in relation to the 2026 bathing season - these include review of bathing water profiles, finalising monitoring calendars, confirming testing procedures and commencing work on update of posters and maps for each beach.

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#### BEACH LIFEGUARD RECRUITMENT

A large number of candidates met the required competency standards in the pool test and will proceed to interview stage. Following interview, successful candidates will progress to

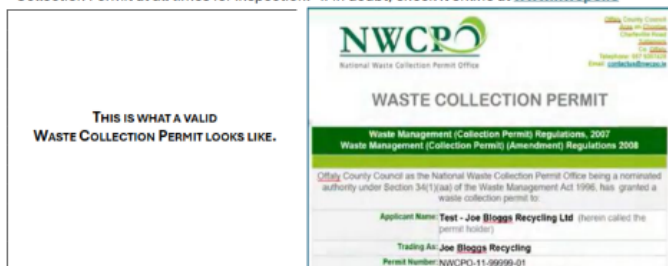
induction and onboarding, ensuring readiness for deployment during the bathing season. All First Aid equipment and supplies required for the bathing season have been fully ordered which ensures compliance with safety standards, appropriate resourcing for lifeguards and support personnel, and readiness for emergency response throughout the season.

## ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS & EDUCATION

### ILLEGAL WASTE COLLECTORS

**1. Always ask to see their Waste Collection Permit before engaging their services.**

Authorised or Licensed Waste Collectors are obliged to carry and display a copy of their Waste Collection Permit at all times for inspection. If in doubt, check it online at [www.nwcpc.ie](http://www.nwcpc.ie)



**2. Always check their Waste Collection Vehicle is clearly marked with their trading name and Waste Permit Number.**

Every Waste Collector is obliged by law to have their Waste Collection Vehicles clearly marked with their Trading Name and Permit Number. An example of this is as follows:



**3. Always check advertisements submitted to community websites include the Waste Permit No. of the Waste Collector.**

Every Waste Collector is legally required to include their Waste Collection Permit No. in all their promotional materials and advertisements. Please check all adverts for waste collection or removal and decline to promote them if they do not have a valid Waste Permit Number - if in doubt about any quoted Waste Permit No. please check its validity online at [www.nwcpc.ie](http://www.nwcpc.ie).

A flyer issued to all Member Groups of the PPN in April setting out the legal requirements for Waste Collectors and asking them to highlight these on community social media platforms and refuse to promote any advertisements for waste removal which do not comply with these legal requirements. The flyer sets out the steps for individuals and communities to follow before engaging or promoting any waste removal services as follows.

### GREEN SCHOOLS

Green school visits were conducted at Kiltullagh NS, Menlough NS, Gardenfield NS, Gaelscoil Iarfhlaith, Carnmore NS, Ballaghlea NS, Seamount Secondary School, St. Jarlaths Secondary school, Cahergal NS, Killeeneen NS and Scoil Iosa Naofa.



## NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN 2026

Galway County Council and An Taisce are aiming to make the 27th annual National Spring Clean campaign the most successful to date. National Spring Clean is a key part of our Anti-Litter Programme and Litter Management Plan. In 2025, an estimated 2,700 tonnes of litter was collected nationally from roadsides, parks and coastlines with more than 170 groups and volunteers in County Galway taking part. Clean-up kits are available for all registered groups in Galway, and every effort helps to keep the county clean. Registrations are being accepted on [www.nationalspringclean.org](http://www.nationalspringclean.org) and further information is available from the Environment Section of Galway County Council on 091-509510 / [environment@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:environment@galwaycoco.ie).



## MOBILE WEEE COLLECTIONS

WEEE Ireland, the Irish compliance scheme for electrical and battery recycling, will hold a series of WEEE collections throughout County Galway starting Saturday April 25th 2026. These collections will allow people from towns and villages across the county to dispose of any household electrical equipment and batteries in a safe and environmentally friendly manner.

Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Oranmore: The City Bin Co. Recycling Centre, Oranmore, H91 EVW3	10am - 4pm
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2026	Oughterard: Oughterard GAA Car Park, Pier Road, Oughterard, H91 EVW3	10am - 4pm
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Loughrea: Loughrea Mart, Station Road, Loughrea, H62 AV97	10am - 4pm
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Mountbellew: Mountbellew- Moylough GAA Club, Mountbellew, H53 X251	10am - 4pm
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2026	Portumna: Co-Operative Mart, Dominic Street, Portumna, H53X867	10am - 4pm
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Gort: Gort Co - Operative Mart, Ballybawn, Gort, H91 V256	10am - 4pm

For further information, visit <https://www.weeireland.ie/contact/> or telephone 01 2999 320.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE DELIVERY OF SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING VIA ADVANCE PURCHASE AGREEMENTS



Galway County Council issued a call for Expressions of Interest for the delivery of social and affordable housing through Advance (Turnkey) Purchase Agreements. This initiative seeks to engage suitable delivery partners to support the timely provision of new homes in line with identified housing needs across the county. The closing date for receipt of proposals was 2nd April 2026 and a number of submissions were received, they will be assessed in accordance with the published criteria. Successful applications will support the delivery of social and affordable housing in line with the Government’s plan – Delivering Homes, Building Communities programme.

VACANT HOMES

EXPANSION OF CROÍ CÓNATHE TOWNS FUND SCHEME MARCH 2026

The Croí Cónaithe Towns Fund supports the regeneration of towns, villages and cities by incentivising the reuse of vacant and underutilised residential and commercial buildings. The grants form a key component of national housing policy under *Delivering Homes, Building Communities 2025–2030*.

The following grants are now available to individual vacant property owners:

The **Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant (VPRG)** provides financial support to individuals to refurbish vacant residential properties or former commercial/public use buildings for use as homes. Grant support of up to €50,000 is available, with a further top-up of up to €20,000 where a property is confirmed as derelict, subject to scheme conditions.

From 31 March 2026, the VPRG has been **enhanced for former commercial or public use buildings** being converted in their entirety into two or more residential units. Additional top-up funding is available in such cases, reflecting the scale and complexity of these conversions, while maintaining a single-grant-per-building approach.

The **Vacant Above the Shop Grant** supports the conversion or refurbishment of long-term vacant space above ground-floor commercial premises where the commercial use is retained. Grant support of up to €135,000 is available, depending on the number of residential units created, and applies to both principal private residences and private rental accommodation, subject to a 10-year clawback period.

The **Expert Advice Grant** is a pre-development support measure providing up to €5,000 to property owners considering either a Vacant Above the Shop conversion or the conversion of a former commercial/public use building into multiple residential units. The grant funds professional feasibility and advisory input and may be accessed independently of a subsequent capital grant application.

Documents including Application Forms, Scheme Outlines and FAQs are available at [www.gov.ie/vacancy](http://www.gov.ie/vacancy)

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### AHASCRAUGH STREETSCAPE SCHEME LAUNCH

The Vacant Homes Officer (VHO) attended the Ahascragh Streetscape Scheme Launch in the Clan Colla, Main St., Ahascragh and an information event in the Courthouse, Main St., Oughterard on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> of March. The VHO provided information on the Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL), Housing Grants, and the Vacant Homes Schemes including the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grants (Croí Cónaithe Scheme) at both events.



L-R: ANTOINETTE LYDON OUGHTERARD CULTURE & HERITAGE GROUP, CLLR. TOM WELBY, MICHELLE CONNELLAN VACANT HOMES OFFICER, GREG FORDE JOYCE COUNTRY & WESTERN LAKES GEOPARK PROJECT, PARAIC BARRETT WESTERN ENERGY AGENCY, AVRIL NÍ SHEARCAIGH COMHARCHUMANN FUINNIMH OILEÁIN ÁRANN TEO (ARAN ISLANDS ENERGY COOP)

L-R: MICHELLE CONNELLAN VACANT HOMES OFFICER, CLLR. EVELYN PARSONS, NICOLA WALSH GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL.





L-R: NICOLA WALSH GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, JIM STEPHENS AHASCRAUGH AREA ENHANCEMENT GROUP, MAJELLA MOYLAN GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, CLLR. ALAN HARNEY

### VACANT PROPERTY REFURBISHMENT GRANTS (CROÍ CÓNAITHE SCHEME)

There continues to be a high level of interest in the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grants (Croí Cónaithe Scheme). Galway County Council has received 711 applications since the beginning of the scheme with 510 applications approved to a value in excess of 29 million euros, a further 45 applications are in progress with the balance having been withdrawn or rejected due to ineligibility for the scheme. 133 Vacant Property Refurbishment Grants, with a total value of €7,258,001.90 have been paid to applicants to date, representing a significant investment in local communities.

### SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK

#### SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK – VACANCY POSITION (LA & NON-LA) Q1 2026

**Galway County Council Social Housing Stock (LA & Non LA) Q1 2026**

Social Housing Stock Q1 2026		PROP STATUS		Total		
Social Housing Type	LETTING STATUS	Occupied	Vacant			
<b>LA</b>	Available For Letting		32	32	1.02%	
	Awaiting Minor Repairs		29	29	0.93%	
	Derelict		31	31	0.99%	
	Major Refurbishment		6	6	0.19%	
	Occupied		3032	3032	96.87%	
<b>LA Total</b>		<b>3032</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>3130</b>	100%	
<b>AHB</b>	Available For Letting		13	13	1.38%	
	Major Refurbishment		10	10	1.06%	
	Occupied		918	918	97.56%	
<b>AHB Total</b>		<b>918</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>941</b>	100%	
<b>Leasing</b>	Available For Letting		1	1	1.47%	
	Occupied		67	67	98.53%	
<b>Leasing Total</b>		<b>67</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>68</b>	100%	
<b>MTR</b>	Occupied		65	65		
<b>MTR Total</b>			<b>65</b>	<b>65</b>	100%	
<b>HAP</b>	Occupied		1264	1264		
<b>HAP Total</b>			<b>1264</b>	<b>1264</b>	100%	
<b>RAS</b>	Available For Letting		1	1	1.19%	
	Occupied		84	84	98.82%	
<b>RAS Total</b>			<b>84</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>85</b>	100%
<b>Total</b>			<b>5430</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>5553</b>	
			97.78%	2.22%		

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## OVERVIEW

As at Q1 2026, Galway County Council's total social housing stock (LA & Non-LA) comprised 5,553 units, of which 5,430 units were occupied (97.78%) and 123 units were vacant (2.22%).

Further analysis of the vacant stock distinguishes between:

- New units, newly delivered to stock but not yet occupied, and
- Casual Vacancies (CV), arising from tenancy turnover, damage, or works on existing stock.

This additional breakdown provides improved clarity on the underlying causes, duration and management context of vacancy across the system.

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## VACANCY BY SOCIAL HOUSING TYPE

Of the 123 vacant units recorded in Q1 2026:

- Local Authority (LA): 98 units (79.67% of all vacancies)
- Approved Housing Bodies (AHB): 23 units (18.70%)
- Leasing: 1 unit (0.81%)
- RAS: 1 unit (0.81%)
- HAP and MTR: no vacancies recorded

Vacancy therefore remains predominantly concentrated within LA stock, with AHB stock forming the secondary component.

### 3) New Units and Casual Vacancies – Overall Context

Across the vacant stock:

- Casual Vacancies represent the majority of units, particularly within LA stock, and are typically associated with re-letting processes, repairs, damage, or enforcement-related issues.
- New units account for a smaller proportion and reflect the period between delivery, handover, and first occupation.

This distinction is important when interpreting both vacancy levels and average weeks vacant, as the operational characteristics differ significantly between the two.

### 4) Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) – Vacancy Profile

Total AHB vacant units: 23

- Overall average weeks vacant: 7.10 weeks

#### 4.1 Available for Letting (13 units)

- Casual Vacancies: 11 units (average 10.82 weeks vacant)
- New units: 2 units (average 22.14 weeks vacant) (Multiple refusals)

While most AHB “available for letting” vacancies are casual in nature, the data shows that new AHB units remain vacant for longer on average, reflecting the time required to complete nomination and initial letting processes.

## 4.2 Major Refurbishment (10 units)

All 10 AHB units classified as Major Refurbishment:

- Are located within a single estate, and
- Are currently under consideration as part of a regeneration project.

The weeks-vacant metric is recorded as 0.00 for this category, reflecting that these units are not currently in the active re-letting cycle and are being considered within a wider regeneration framework rather than as standard voids.

## 5) Local Authority (LA) – Vacancy Profile

Total LA vacant units: 98

- Overall average weeks vacant: 12.08 weeks

### 5.1 Available for Letting (32 units)

- Casual Vacancies: 8 units
  - Average weeks vacant: 24.34 weeks
- New units: 24 units
  - Average weeks vacant: 3.29 weeks

This indicates that new LA units transition relatively quickly once classified as available for letting, while a smaller number of casual vacancies experience significantly longer turnaround times.

### 5.2 Awaiting Minor Repairs (29 units)

- Casual Vacancies: 28 units
- New units: 1 unit
- Average weeks vacant: 19.04 weeks

This category is almost entirely driven by casual vacancies, with durations reflecting the cumulative impact of inspections, works scheduling, and completion prior to re-letting.

## 6) Major Refurbishment – Detailed Context (LA)

There are 6 LA units classified as Major Refurbishment, all of which are casual vacancies, with an average vacancy duration of 59.64 weeks.

The specific circumstances of these units are as follows:

- 2 units: fire-damaged properties
- 2 units: affected by illegal occupation
- 1 unit: storm-damaged property
- 1 unit: long-term void requiring substantial works

These properties are not representative of routine turnaround cases and require complex resolution pathways, contributing to the extended average duration recorded for this category.

## 7) Derelict LA Stock – Detailed Context

The LA Derelict category comprises 32 units, representing a significant portion of LA vacancy by volume.

- 15 units form part of identified regeneration projects.
- The remaining units are under investigation for potential sale, due to:
  - the requirement for substantial capital investment, and/or
  - location within difficult-to-let areas.

As presented, the weeks-vacant metric is recorded as 0.00 for derelict units, reflecting that these properties are outside the normal void re-letting cycle and are being assessed within a strategic regeneration or asset management context.

## 8) Leasing and RAS

- Leasing: 1 vacant unit (Casual Vacancy)
  - Average weeks vacant: 4.00 weeks
- RAS: 1 vacant unit (Casual Vacancy)
  - Average weeks vacant: 6.71 weeks

Vacancy within these categories remains minimal and short-term.

## 9) Key Observations for Members

- Overall occupancy remains very strong at 97.78%, with vacancy at 2.22% of stock.
- LA stock accounts for the majority of vacancies, particularly within categories associated with repairs, damage, enforcement issues, and regeneration.
- The New vs Casual Vacancy analysis demonstrates that:
  - New units, particularly LA units, generally move to occupation within short timeframes once available for letting.
  - Casual vacancies are the primary contributor to longer vacancy durations.
- Major refurbishment and derelict units, while smaller in number, reflect structural and regeneration-related issues rather than routine re-letting delays and must be interpreted in that context when reviewing vacancy figures and average weeks vacant.

## HOUSING MAINTENANCE

Galway County Council, in collaboration with the Department of Housing is aiming to transition from a response-based approach to housing stock maintenance, to a strategic and informed Planned Maintenance approach.

This strategy will be informed by comprehensive Stock Condition Surveys. Galway County Council recently initiated the surveying of its' housing stock of 3,130 properties. To enable the relevant drawdown of funding from the Department of Housing, the Council is required to achieve a minimum survey completion rate of 15% of its total stock by the end of 2026, ie

497. A target has been established to complete surveys on 600 properties in this calendar year.

## SOCIAL HOUSING DEMAND

### Social Housing Demand – Approved Housing List Q1 2026

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

AREA OF CHOICE	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4 Bed	5 Bed	6 Bed	Total
	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Athenry and Environs	235	59	157	25	5	0	481
Ballinasloe North	82	22	81	14	0	0	199
Ballinasloe South	92	42	60	13	2	3	212
Connemara	2	0	1	0	0	0	3
Connemara Central	94	32	72	7	0	0	205
Connemara Islands	7	2	8	0	0	0	17
Connemara North-West	32	8	40	4	0	0	84
Connemara South-East	55	19	17	2	0	0	93
Connemara South-West	35	10	24	2	2	0	73
Galway North	37	8	35	2	1	0	83
Galway North-East	27	9	26	5	1	0	68
Gort and Environs	89	26	77	11	2	0	205
Headford	47	12	32	9	0	0	100
Loughrea and Environs	125	28	84	7	6	0	250
Oranmore/Claregalway	204	54	156	22	2	0	438
Portumna and Environs	59	14	44	11	1	0	129
Tuam	133	33	154	31	5	1	357
<b>Total</b>	<b>1357</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>1068</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2999</b>

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

BASIS_OF_NEED	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4 Bed	5 Bed	6 Bed	Total
Concluded that Mortgage is uns	15	7	16	0	0	0	38
Disability - unspecified	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Disability requirement - intel	92	30	23	8	2	0	155
Disability requirement - menta	168	36	42	4	3	0	253
Disability requirement - physi	144	70	55	17	3	0	289
Disability requirement - senso	6	0	9	0	1	0	16
Exceptional Medical or Compass	44	23	32	9	1	0	109
Homeless, Institution, Emergen	85	8	54	9	5	0	161
Involuntary Sharing	161	24	113	1	0	0	299
Overcrowded	2	3	12	20	4	4	45
Requires Rent Supplement to pr	606	149	691	92	8	0	1546
Unfit	25	14	16	3	0	0	58
Unsuitable - Particular Househ	9	13	5	2	0	0	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>1357</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>1068</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2999</b>

## APPROVED HOUSEHOLDS BY AGE RANGE & PROPERTY SIZE

Age Range	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4 Bed	5 Bed	6 Bed	Total
18 ~ 27	178	34	118	3	0	0	333
28 ~ 37	235	46	336	35	8	1	661
38 ~ 47	201	83	377	80	15	0	756
48 ~ 57	248	97	183	40	4	1	573
58 ~ 65	205	55	42	3	0	2	307
65+	290	63	12	4	0	0	369
<b>Total</b>	<b>1357</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>1068</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2999</b>

### 1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Elected Members on the **current profile of social housing demand in County Galway**, based on the Approved Housing List, with specific regard to:

- Area of Choice
- Household size requirements
- Basis of Need
- Age profile

In presenting this analysis, **1-bed and 2-bed demand is considered jointly**, reflecting both the **operation of the Allocation Scheme**, which allows for 1-bed households to be accommodated in 2-bed dwellings, and the **prevailing supply profile**, which is weighted towards 2-bed units.

### 2. Overall Level of Demand (Combined 1- & 2-Bed Analysis)

As at the date of this report, there are **2,999 approved households** on the social housing list.

When 1-bed and 2-bed demand is considered together:

- **1- & 2-bed households combined: 1,735 households (58%)**
- **3-bed households: 1,068 households (36%)**
- **4-bed and larger households (4–6 bed): 196 households (6%)**

This combined analysis demonstrates that **almost three-fifths of all approved households can be accommodated within the 1- and 2-bed stock**, aligning closely with the typical output of current and planned housing delivery programmes.

### 3. Demand by Area of Choice (1- & 2-Bed Combined)

Across all Areas of Choice, **combined 1- and 2-bed demand represents the dominant housing need**, with particularly high concentrations in the following locations:

- **Athenry and Environs**
- **Oranmore / Baile Chlair**
- **Tuam**
- **Loughrea and Environs**

These growth areas display both:

- High absolute demand, and
- A demand profile well matched to **2-bed delivery**, supporting efficient allocations where 1-bed households are housed in 2-bed units in accordance with the Allocation Scheme.

In more rural and Connemara areas, while overall volumes are lower, the **relative proportion of 1- and 2-bed demand remains high**, reinforcing the countywide relevance of this combined category.

#### **4. Basis of Need – Implications for Unit Size**

Assessment by Basis of Need further supports the combined 1- and 2-bed approach.

The largest single category of approved households is:

- **Households requiring Rent Supplement to access private rented accommodation** (1,546 households)

This cohort is predominantly comprised of **single-person and smaller households**, for whom **1- or 2-bed accommodation is appropriate**.

Similarly, significant demand arises from households with:

- Disability-related housing needs
- Medical or compassionate grounds
- Homeless or emergency accommodation backgrounds

These categories typically require **smaller, well-designed, and accessible units**, again reinforcing the operational suitability of **2-bed units accommodating both 1-bed and 2-bed approved households**.

#### **5. Demand by Age Profile**

Age profile analysis further supports the combined approach:

- The largest demand cohorts fall within the **28–47 age range**, typically single adults or smaller family units.
- A substantial cohort of **older persons (65+)** is also present, the majority of whom are approved for **1-bed accommodation**, but can be appropriately housed in **2-bed units**, particularly where design and accessibility standards are met.

This provides flexibility in allocations while supporting ageing-in-place and future-proofed housing stock.

## 6. Key Observations for Members

- **1- and 2-bed households account for the majority of housing demand in County Galway** when considered in line with allocation policy.
- The current **pipeline supply profile, which is predominantly 2-bed and 3-bed**, is broadly aligned with demand when allocations flexibility is applied.
- Treating 1- and 2-bed demand together provides a **more realistic and operationally accurate picture** of housing need and supply alignment.
- Continued emphasis on **3-bed delivery remains necessary**, but should be viewed alongside the clear predominance of smaller household demand.

## 7. Conclusion

When assessed in accordance with the Allocation Scheme and prevailing supply characteristics, the Approved Housing List demonstrates that **the majority of social housing demand in County Galway can be met through 2-bed provision**, accommodating both 1-bed and 2-bed approved households.

This combined approach supports:

- More efficient use of stock
- Improved alignment between demand and delivery
- Greater flexibility in allocations
- Stronger evidence-based planning and funding submissions

The Housing Authority will continue to monitor demand trends and report to Members through regular Chief Executive's Reports and Housing SPC updates.

## TENANCY & ESTATE MANAGEMENT (TEM) DEPARTMENT Q1 2026

### 1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of:

- The categories of complaints received by the TEM Department during Q1 2026
- The status of cases, including closed and outstanding matters
- Inspection activity undertaken and pending by Housing Liaison Officers
- Enforcement outcomes achieved during the reporting period

### 2. Overview of Complaints Received

During Quarter 1 of 2026, the TEM Department received a total of **53 complaints** across a range of tenancy and estate management categories. Complaints were assessed, prioritised, and progressed in accordance with Council policy and statutory obligations.

The primary complaint categories included:

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Abandoned Dwellings

- Illegal / Unlawful Occupation
- Threats and Intimidation
- Unauthorised Caravan Placement
- Animal Nuisance
- Boundary and Parking Disputes
- Damage to Property
- Noise Disturbance
- Refuse and Litter

### 3. Case Volumes and Outcomes

#### 3.1 Overall Totals

Total cases received: 53

Cases closed during Q1 2026: 36

Cases remaining active: 17

Overall closure rate: 67.9%

A significant proportion of cases were successfully concluded during the quarter following investigation, inspection, engagement, and enforcement where necessary.

#### 3.2 Breakdown by Category

Category	Total Cases	Closed	Outstanding	Closure Rate
Abandoned Dwellings	5	3	2	60%
Anti-Social Behaviour	11	10	1	90.9%
Illegal Occupation	5	2	3	40%
Threats / Intimidation	1	0	1	0%
Unauthorised Caravan	3	1	2	33.3%
Animal Nuisance	5	4	1	80%
Boundary / Parking Disputes	2	2	0	100%
Damage to Property	2	1	1	50%
Noise Disturbance	4	2	2	50%
Refuse / Litter	15	11	4	73.3%

### 4. Case Status and Inspections

While a strong closure rate was achieved during the quarter, **a number of cases remain active and are under ongoing inspection by Housing Liaison Officers, with enforcement-led intervention being progressed where required.**

Outstanding cases include matters involving ongoing tenancy breaches, illegal occupation, environmental issues, and compliance monitoring. Close coordination continues between

the Tenancy Enforcement Officer and Housing Liaison Officers to ensure timely progression and accurate reporting.

## 5. Enforcement Action – Q1 2026

During Q1 2026, the Council was **successful in its application for a Possession Order under Section 17 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014** in relation to the **unlawful occupation of a Council dwelling in Ballinasloe**.

This enforcement outcome demonstrates the Council's continued commitment to:

- Protecting its housing stock
- Ensuring fair and lawful occupation
- Taking decisive legal action where engagement measures fail

## 6. Conclusion

The TEM Department continues to manage a varied and complex workload while maintaining a strong focus on compliance, community wellbeing, and appropriate enforcement. The 67.9% closure rate achieved during Q1 2026 reflects effective case management and inter-departmental cooperation. Ongoing inspections and enforcement activity will remain a priority into the next reporting period.

## HOUSING GRANTS

Housing Grants continues to remain an extremely busy public service. Housing Grant applications paid out by Galway County Council are up 42% on the same period for last year. The first quarter of this year, applications paid totalled €1,570,194 compared to €1,020,697 for the same period last year (up 42% 2025/2026). Throughout 2025 the total paid on Housing Grant applications by Housing Grants was - €5,317,270. This looks to increase based on predictions following the first quarter and our Department of Housing total allocation has been increased to €5,616,691 for the year 2026.

The Housing Grants applications processed for the Housing Aid for Older People Grant has increased to 222 from 138 for the same period last year (up 46.6 %). The Housing Adaptation Grants & Mobility Aid Grants processed in the first quarter of this year far this year has increased to 128 from 77 Applications for the same period last year (up 48 %). Housing Grants has had an extremely busy year and has been aided by the efforts of Counsellors and advocates within the community to work alongside the Housing Grants team.

Housing Grants information has also been provided alongside successful fortnightly information sessions for the Local Authority Home Loan scheme in County Hall. The information sessions provide one to one guidance and clarity re application criteria and process for applicants. We have organised information sessions for Ballinasloe, Portumna and Gort area offices and will be providing grant information sessions in all municipal

districts over the coming months. All information sessions have been advertised on social media and information packs has also been developed that will be circulated to all municipal district offices , citizen information offices etc feat Application forms (in English & as Gaeilge) frequently asked questions and scheme outlines

## HOMELESS

Galway County Council, with the welcome support of Section 10 homeless funding from Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has identified additional private emergency accommodation in County Galway in Ballinasloe and Oranmore. This accommodation will support families experiencing homelessness and is delivered in collaboration with the homeless service provider COPE Galway. The Council welcomes the addition of this essential short-term emergency accommodation.

## SOCIAL WORK

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### SOCIAL WORK REFERRALS

- Online Referral process for internal referrals, link available on the Intranet.
- External referrals can be discussed directly with Kieran Keon or sent directly to [socialworkteam@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:socialworkteam@galwaycoco.ie)
- More complex cases being identified and case managed.

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### CHILD PROTECTION

The current Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Procedures were adopted in January 2023. Kieran Keon, Senior Social Worker Kieran Keon is the *Designated Child Protection Liaison Officer* for Galway County Council. All staff must complete the online Children's First Training. If staff have any queries or concerns regarding child welfare & protection issues, contact Kieran Keon. Any concerns regarding child protection can be discussed with the Social Work team, if deemed an appropriate concern, this can be followed up by completing a referral using the online link available on the Intranet.

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### ADULT SAFEGUARDING

Galway County Council requires its own Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding policy. In conjunction with Corporate Services, SSW will be working on drafting a policy during 2026.

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### SEXUAL OFFENCES LIAISON OFFICER (SOLO)

- SOLO role is attached to Senior Social Worker and Designated Child Protection Liaison Officer role.
- If staff have any queries or concerns regarding SOLO, contact Kieran Keon.

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## CASE MANAGEMENT TEAMS

For internal complex cases that arise, Senior Social Worker and Director of Services (Housing) have established a Case Management Team process whereby a case is identified as requiring a CMT within housing. Relevant staff are included; meetings are chaired by SSW and case-managed in collaboration with housing staff to progress a case and work towards agreed actions through timely intervention in order to avert further crisis and deterioration. Examples are households where there are vulnerable adults, complex needs, mental health, self-neglect, hoarding etc. SSW will assess what cases constitute the need for a CMT.

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## INTERAGENCY CASE MANAGEMENT

Complex Interagency case management is required with the Gardaí, Probation services, Galway Simon, COPE etc. for some of the above cases in addition to CMT's. We continue to prioritise and streamline process in this manner to avoid staff working in silo's, increase efficiency in terms of progress on complex cases and to ensure better outcomes for vulnerable households.

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## DISABILITY / SOCIAL INCLUSION

- The Galway County Council Strategic Plan 2021-2026 is underpinned by the National Housing Strategy.
- The Disability Regional Interagency Group (RIG) hosted by the Housing Agency that covers Galway/Mayo/Roscommon continues to meet quarterly to discuss the progression of disability allocations and works towards sharing solutions and ideas across the region. It also allows for direct feedback on housing/disability to the Housing Agency.
- Galway County Council have set up a new process with stakeholders for special housing projects for people with intellectual disabilities with Corlann, Ability West and the Living My Life project. This is in its infancy but working well. The aim is to agree joint priorities, for capital projects for shared/group living (high needs) and for individuals requiring own door accommodation with supports (Living My Life).

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## LOCAL AUTHORITY SOCIAL WORK REVIEW (CCMA)

Report has been completed and published in January 2026. Official launch hosted by the CCMA takes place in Tullamore on Monday April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

## N6 GALWAY CITY RING ROAD



Galway County Council, Galway City Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland welcome the decision of An Coimisiún Pleanála to grant approval for the N6 Galway City Ring Road.

The N6 Galway City Ring Road is a key component of the Galway Transport Strategy and of the wider transport solution for Galway City and County. In conjunction with BusConnects, rail enhancements, Active Travel and other transport measures, it is intended to support the delivery of a more sustainable, integrated and efficient transport network for Galway.

The project is a significant enabler for the future growth of Galway and the wider region. It will improve connectivity to the national road network, reduce unnecessary strategic traffic within the city centre and create greater opportunity to reallocate road space for walking, cycling, public transport and placemaking. In doing so, it will support improved road safety, quality of life, climate objectives and economic development.

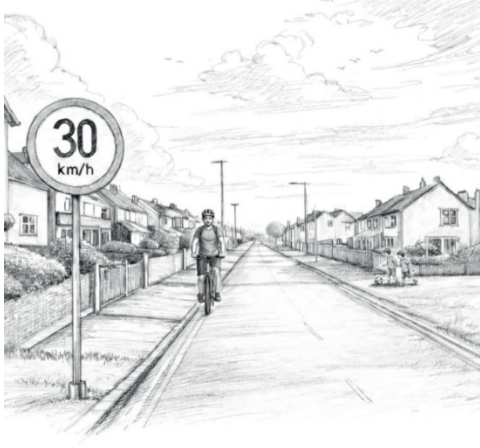
Galway County Council, Galway City Council and TII also recognise that the length of the planning process has been very difficult for the home and property owners affected by the proposed route.

Following a detailed review of An Coimisiún Pleanála's decision, the project will now proceed to the next phase. This will include the progression of detailed design, preparation of contract documentation and advancement of the procurement process.

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### SPEED LIMIT REVIEW

The Speed Limit Review process has progressed significantly over the past four months. The scope of the review includes Phase 2 of the National Speed Limit Review Recommendations (Urban Speed Limits), consideration of all speed limit submissions on hand since the last review was completed, and a review of the regional road network which was not covered by the recommendations from the National Review.



The implementation of Urban Area Speed Limits will see the introduction of 30kph limits in the centre of some towns and villages in accordance with the Guidelines and the Circular RW21 of 2025. Roads adjoining urban schools will also be subject to 30kph speed limits.

The making of Special Speed Limits is a Reserved Function and significant engagement with the Members has taken place to provide clarity on the background to, and the rationale for, the proposed changes, and to provide opportunity to participate actively in the process of developing the Draft Bye Laws which will go on Public Consultation.

The item has been on the agenda of two separate SPC meetings in December 2025 and March 2026. The speed limit proposals have also been presented to all the Municipal Districts individually and follow up workshops have been facilitated.

The draft Bye Laws are being finalised, taking account of the feedback received. On completion of the relevant documentation and mapping, they will be put out on statutory Public Consultation, providing opportunity for members of the public to assess the proposals and submit their views. There will also be engagement with TII and the Garda Commissioner as required by the prescribed process.

Ultimately the final bye laws will be brought to a plenary meeting of Galway County Council for adoption. Provision has been made by the Department of Transport to fully fund the implementation cost, including signage, road marking, and school speed limit signs (periodic signs). To avail of this funding there is a requirement to meet the timeline set out which necessitates Bye Laws adoption by the end of October 2026. The proposed operative date for the changes is the end of March 2027.

## TAKING IN CHARGE

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

The Table A hereunder outlines output for 2026.

Table A – Taking in Charge

<i>Estates Taken in Charge</i>	1
<i>Estates pending Ratification of Minutes</i>	0
<i>Estates for consideration at next MD meeting</i>	1
<i>Bond Release (Estates not Taken in Charge)</i>	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>

In addition to the above, the following is position @ 01/04/2026

<i>Applications received</i>	3
<i>Estates – advertised for Taking in Charge</i>	0
<i>Estates – Works Complete</i>	3
<i>Estates – TIC Led Estates – Works in Hand</i>	26
<i>Estates – Developer led Estates</i>	36
<i>Bond Claims</i>	3

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

## HEALTH & SAFETY

### SAFETY (HAZARD) ALERTS

**Two** Safety Alerts were **issued** during the period:

- **Vacuum Excavator Truck**
- **Product Recall - Dewalt Face Mask Model 1600 - 008**

All current and previously issued Safety Alerts are available on the **Health & Safety section of the Intranet/SharePoint** for reference and action by relevant staff.

### ANNUAL HEALTH AND SAFETY SEMINARS – OUTDOOR WORKERS

The remaining two Annual Health and Safety Seminars for outdoor workers took place on 19th of March at the Connemara Coast Hotel and the 25th of March at the Ballinasloe Shearwater Hotel. These sessions were well attended with **over 200 attendees** across both events and conclude the outdoor workers seminar programme for 2026.

The March seminars were opened by senior management, including the **Chief Executive** and the **Senior Executive Health and Safety Officer**, and included presentations from **Urban Search and Rescue**, the **Road Safety Authority**, and **Pro-Training (Mental Health First Aid)** along with the **Health and Safety Team**, who provided an overview of the safety management system, key organisational risks and incident / accident reporting processes. The sessions were well received, and sincere thanks are extended to all speakers for their contributions and to all participants for their continued engagement with the programme.



PICTURED ATTENDING THE ANNUAL HEALTH AND SAFETY SEMINAR AT THE CONNEMARA COAST HOTEL WERE DEIRDRE CAULFIELD, STAFF OFFICER, JAMES COYNE, SUPERVISOR ON CLIFDEN/ ROUNDSTONE COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SCHEME (CES), MARIAN FINNERTY, EXECUTIVE HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER AND PAT WELBY, SUPERVISOR ON MAIGH CUILINN/ OUGHTERARD CES.

Staff who did not receive a copy of the **SP21 Rev.12 Safety Management System / Safety Statement**, their “**What to Do in a Serious Incident**” card, or who require further information on the **Employee Assistance Programme (EAP)**, are advised to please contact the Health and Safety Department.

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## QUADRA - INTERNAL AUDITS

The **ISO45001 Internal Audit Schedule 2026** has been published and is **available on the Intranet/SharePoint**. Where an audit date or time is not suitable, attendees are requested to decline the meeting promptly so that it can be rearranged. Failure to attend a scheduled may result in unnecessary auditor costs.

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## HSA / NSAI AUDITS

External audits by the **Health and Safety Authority (HSA)** are due to commence from mid-**April 2026**. Audits are expected to begin in depots and may extend across the organisation. Sections audited in 2025 are reminded to ensure all outstanding actions have been fully closed out in advance of re-inspection.

The first **NSAI audit** is scheduled for **21st May 2026**. Sections likely to be involved include **Galway City Fire Station, Galway City Library and County Hall**.

The **Health and Safety Department** will engage with relevant sections in advance of these audits and will be available to provide support or respond to any queries in preparation for same.

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## HEALTH CHECKS 2026

Health Checks for all staff will take place across the county beginning in **May/June 2026**, delivered by **Medmark Occupational Healthcare**. Screening will commence in **Áras an Chontae and Centre Point**, before rolling out across **Municipal Districts**. Staff are encouraged to keep an eye and an ear out for booking information to ensure they do not miss to avail of a **free health check** for 2026

## ROAD SAFETY

The Council's Road Safety Officer attended the Road Safety Conference in Killarney in March. This national event brought together experts, agencies, and local authorities committed to making Ireland's roads safer for everyone. Over the two-day programme, speakers from An Garda Síochána, the Road Safety Authority, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, the National Transport Authority, and international partners explored emerging challenges and innovations shaping the future of road safety. An Garda Síochána delivered a clear message on the need for behavioural change, stressing that driver distraction—

particularly mobile phone use behind the wheel—must be recognised as a serious and dangerous risk.

Insights from An Garda Síochána and the RSA emphasised the importance of targeted enforcement and addressing high-risk behaviours to reduce collisions.

Topics covered at this year’s conference were:

- Harnessing Technology for Safer Roads New tools such as digital driver alert systems, road safety tech platforms, and enhanced digital policing were showcased as transformative for prevention and response.

- Collaborative Road Safety Partnerships Speakers highlighted the value of cross-agency collaboration — from utilities and transport bodies to local authorities and community organisations.

- Preparing for Severe Weather & Emergency Response Presentations from emergency services and weather experts reinforced the need for robust planning and rapid multi-agency response to collisions and extreme weather events

- Supporting Youth & Vulnerable Road Users

Discussions included juvenile e-bike/scooter programmes, pedestrian and cyclist safety, and the power of education and social media in shaping safer habits.



For the Easter Break, the Council's Road Safety Officer placed the attached images on Social Media to keep the spotlight on road safety over the long weekend when lots are travelling and the roads are busy.



## ACTIVE TRAVEL



### HEADFORD ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME

Detailed design complete, tender documents being prepared and scheduled to be published on 13<sup>th</sup> April.

### ORANMORE TO TRAIN STATION ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME

Section 38 Consultation was closed on 13th March 2026 with 17 submissions received, including Mor Action, Irish Cycling Campaign, Tidy Towns, Tesco and Irish Rail. The submissions are now being assessed and will feed into the Section 38 Report.

### BALLINASLOE ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME

Expression of Interest for the construction of this scheme was submitted to EU JFT START Fund as scheme is deemed to be shovel ready by October 2026 and would meet the outlined criteria. Active Travel will attend in-person feedback session with Pobal in April to discuss this submission and address any queries.

Section 38 consultation was closed on 27<sup>th</sup> March with 27 submissions received including Irish Cycling Campaign and Business Owners. The design team are now preparing Section 38 Report.

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## LOUGHREA ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME

Traffic and parking surveys commenced on 18<sup>th</sup> of March and are now completed. Topographical survey was carried out in the week starting 23<sup>rd</sup> March and underground utility surveys the week of 30<sup>th</sup> of March. The data from these will be available to designers last week of April.

Drone photography is scheduled for the week of 20<sup>th</sup> April.

The design team are analysing the data and Drafting Phase 2 Options Report for the scheme.

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## PEDESTRIAN CROSSING IN PORTUMNA

Works are ongoing.

The pedestrian crossing ramp and tactile surfaces on St Joseph's Road are in place. New buff colour tactile is in place on Castle Avenue crossing. Additional works include new street gullies to alleviate ponding on pedestrian desire line at Castle Avenue junction.

Due to weather conditions, there is a delay in completion of concrete footpaths at Castle Avenue. Traffic Signals are awaiting connection from the ESB.

Outstanding works include final works at concrete footpaths at Castle Avenue, line marking, permanent signage and skid resistant surfacing.





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

R1 SRTS

**Scoil Íosa, Oranmore** – Construction works are progressing on site. Action photos of the work in progress can be seen below



**Calasanctius College & Gaelscoil De Hide**- Separate tenders for both closed end Feb, appointment of contractor for one or more schemes possible. NTA to advise.

**Scoil Chroi Naofa, Athenry-** S38 planning complete, planning report with DOS for review/ approval.

R2 SRTS

**Scoil na bhForbacha** – S38 Planning and NTA Phase 4 has been granted NTA approval. The scheme is now in detailed design with tender for construction expected to be published in May.

**Scoil Sailearna, Indreabhán** – Section 38 planning now complete with Phase 4 approval documents currently with NTA for their approval.

**Gort Community College-** S38 planning complete, planning report with DOS for review/ approval.

## EV CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE (ZEVI)

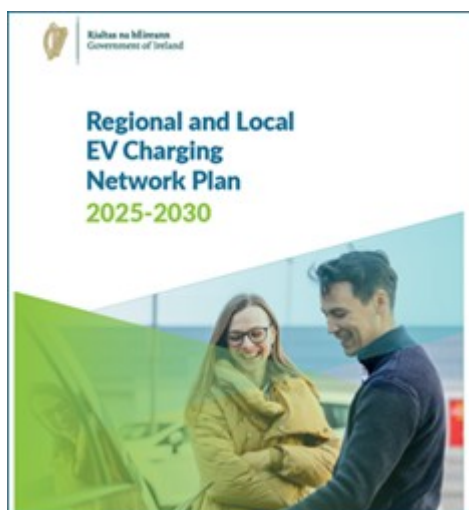
Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland (ZEVI) was set up in 2022 to develop and roll out Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure across Ireland. This will include installation of new public EV charging hubs and the upgrading of existing EV charger locations. ZEVI is currently part of the Department of Transport but has recently moved to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).

ZEVI has previously published a national **EV Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2025** (an update for which is currently out for public consultation, details of which may be found at

<https://www.zevi.ie/draft-national-ev-charging-infrastructure-strategy-2026-2028>), from which a **Regional and Local EV Charging Network Plan 2025-2030** has been developed.

Now, Galway County Council is developing its own county-specific Local EV Charging Strategy and Plan. This work is currently in progress, and it is anticipated there will be a draft available soon. All ZEVI publications are available at

<https://www.zevi.ie/publications>





Galway County Council has recently applied for funding to develop a number of potential **ZEVI Pilot Schemes** in the County. Business cases have been submitted to ZEVI and these are currently under active review.

A **Mobile Phone App** has been developed by ZEVI to enable Local Authorities to capture “live” EV Charging Infrastructure across the County. Training is ongoing at the moment and it is anticipated that there will be a county-wide Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure data capture exercise during the months of May and June, 2026.

ZEVI has issued (Draft) Site Selection Guidelines for review by local authorities and training on same is in progress.

A ZEVI update for County Galway was presented to the **Strategic Policy Committee for Physical Development, Transportation & Emergency Services** in March, 2026.

**Other local ZEVI updates include:**



Galway County Council ZEVI staff continue to actively engage regionally and nationally with the other ZEVI Region 7 counties (Donegal, Sligo, Mayo and Clare); the TII national ZEVI team; ZEVI Stakeholder Forum; transportation consultant teams; local elected members; ESB: Failte Ireland, and other relevant stakeholders.

Any Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure queries for County Galway can be emailed to [ZEVI@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:ZEVI@galwaycoco.ie).

### OPERATIONS

A formal request has been made by Galway City Council to the OPW for permission to moor the operationally ready rescue boat at the Salmon Weir (cost to be borne by Galway City Council). Tenders have been sought for ancillary equipment and training, both of which will be externally funded.



NEW RESCUE BOAT - SAMON WEIR

### NEW HAZARDOUS METERIALS UNIT

The new hazardous materials (HAZMAT) unit is nearing completion at Sidhean Teo in An Spidéal. Fitting of our HAZMAT equipment is scheduled for early May 2026. This includes a review of current equipment.

### NEW HAZARDOUS MATERIALS UNIT

The unit will include a remotely operated vehicle for remote firefighting at high-hazard acetylene and other gas incidents.



### CAPITAL PROJECTS

On 7th April, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage James Browne TD announced the State's largest ever investment in fire and emergency services in the landmark €328.5 million Fire Services Capital Programme (2026–2030). As part of this investment as well as the significant infrastructure projects detailed below – new fire station and fire service HQ for Galway City, new fire station in Loughrea and a brigade mechanics workshop to be located on the site of the new fire station in Athenry, Galway Fire and Rescue Service is due to receive 2 new firefighting appliances (fire engines) and 4 new 4x4

vehicles / vans. This is a significant investment in Galway Fire and Rescue Service and will ensure delivery of the highest standard of service to the citizens of Galway County and City.

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### LOUGHREA FIRE STATION

Four tenders for the appointment of a Main Contractor were received prior to the tender deadline of the 13 March 2026. The tender evaluation report from the design team is due week commencing the 13 April 2026. On receipt, permission to proceed to the construction stage will be sought from the NDFEM. It is hoped to appoint the Main Contractor in mid-May 2026.



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### PROPOSED NEW FIRE STATION LOUGHREA

## TRAINING

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### GCC ANNUAL SAFETY SEMINAR

GFRS presented at the three seminars in Loughrea, Ballinasloe and Na Forbacha and gave an overview of the fire service national capacity development programme. In particular an overview of the new USAR and High-Capacity Pumping Hubs to be based in Galway City. The benefits of the capabilities to the public were included.

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### NDFEM ROPE ACCESS AND CONFINED SPACE RESCUE 1 COURSE

- Attendees: 12 whole-time personnel from Dublin Fire Brigade and Cork City Fire Brigade
- Location: Carnmore Training Centre, Galway
- Purpose: to assist fire authorities in developing and updating their ability to manage rescue from height and confined spaces and other USAR type incidents. This module will be followed by the Rope Access and Confined Space Rescue 2 Course

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### NDFEM PARATECH RESCUE SYSTEM INSTRUCTOR COURSE

- Attendees: 1 senior officer of the USAR Project Team
- Location: Odense, Denmark
- Purpose: to assist in the roll out of the Paratech USAR / Heavy Rescue system as part of the NDFEM USAR national project



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## NDFEM USAR PARATECH INSTRUCTOR COURSE

### CIVIL DEFENCE

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#### ACTIVITIES

Units provided medical/first aid cover at various events across the City and County in support of their communities. All five units assisted in the provision of medical/first aid cover at St. Patrick's Day parades at various locations.

Medical cover was also provided for a Ladies' Gaelic Football fixture at Tuam Stadium and for the Galway Senior game at Pearse Stadium, Salthill.

Search boat and drone crews, with the assistance of Mayo and Clare Civil Defence, were tasked to assist in a search for a missing person in the Galway Bay area at the request of An Garda Síochána. The search concluded with the missing person being located and recovered.

Ground search teams, assisted by a drone from Mayo Civil Defence, were tasked by An Garda Síochána to assist in a search for a missing fisherman on Lough Corrib from the Oughterard area. Following consultation with the Irish Coast Guard prior to deployment, three teams were requested to search the Kilbeg shoreline in the Headford area. Crews were stood down when weather conditions deteriorated. Thankfully, the missing person was located safe and well at first light the following morning.

Search boat and drone crews, with the assistance of Mayo Civil Defence, were tasked to a missing person incident involving an entry to the water from the Quincentenary Bridge. Drone and boat crews, using side sonar scanning equipment, assisted An Garda Síochána Water Unit alongside other agencies. The search concluded with the missing person being located and recovered.

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#### TRAINING

The ACDO attended a two-day CPD seminar in Portlaoise, which covered specialist subjects including Rest Centre Management, English Competency / Adult Literacy, Clinical Care at Events, and Leadership Development, all of which are relevant to the management of Civil Defence.

Two members attended drone pilot training in Ennis, Co. Clare, as part of the expansion of Civil Defence drone operations in Galway City and County.

Six boat crew members completed Personal Survival Techniques and Casualty Handling training in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. This is a mandatory intensive course for all Civil Defence boat crews nationally.

## CLIMATE ACTION

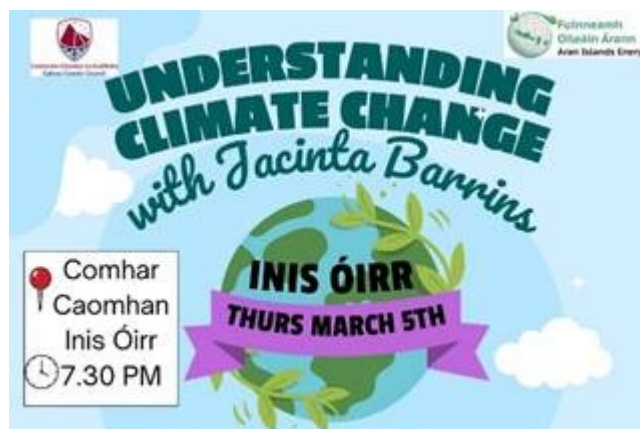
### AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The 60+ Climate Drive Programme was selected to be presented at the CCMA/NOAC Good Practice in Local Government event on March 10th in Kilkenny Castle. The event showcases innovative practices and successful initiatives that contribute to the improvement of local governance and community services. The programme was delivered through grassroots, community-based approach led on a voluntary basis by retired UN Resident Coordinator Jacinta Barrins, whose commitment and expertise were central to the initiative's success. The programme engaged older adults across Galway city and county through an accessible, six-week climate action course, demonstrating a scalable, low-cost engagement model that empowers over-60s to take practical, meaningful climate action and provides a model that can be replicated by other local authorities.

### COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION

#### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In March, the Climate Unit provided funding support to the Comharchumann Fuinneamh Oileáin Árann to conduct one day 60+ Climate Drive Events on Inis Óirr, Inis Meáin and Inis Mór.



#### COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION FUND

Communities are currently implementing projects under the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the Community Climate Action Fund including Bike Shelters and Water Fountains in Clarinbridge, Kilcolgan and Kinvara and Community Gardens and Biodiversity Areas in Athenry, Oranmore and Lackagh.



## UPCOMING CLIMATE ACTION EVENTS

### MOUNT LUCAS RETROFITTING RIG

Galway County Council, in collaboration with Mount Lucas Construction Training Campus, will welcome the arrival of this innovative training facility to An Cheathrú Rua (27<sup>th</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> May) and Clifden (5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> May). The mobile unit will provide an opportunity for members of the local community to access accredited training and practical demonstrations right on their doorstep.

## COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SCHEMES

The Health & Safety Unit in the Council arranged the '2026 Outdoor Staff Health & Safety Seminars' recently and the Supervisors and Participants on the 5 Community Employment Schemes attended, across the county. The following topics were covered on the day:

- Introduction & Safety Management System
- High Potential Incidents 2025
- Urban Search & Rescue – Fire Service
- Driving for Work - RSA
- Mental Health First Aid





## BROADBAND OFFICE

### BROADBAND CONNECTION POINTS (BCPS) AND EMPOWERING WOMEN'S HEALTH PROGRAMME 2026

In collaboration with **the Healthy County Galway office**, the **Broadband Office** supported the promotion of the *Empowering Women's Health Programme 2026* to the Galway **BCP network**, which took place in February.

Five Broadband Connection Points participated each week over a three-week period, engaging in the live-streamed sessions. Across all locations, the Broadband Connection Points attracted more than 60 participants.

This initiative highlighted the impact these digitally enabled locations can have on supporting delivery of these virtual health information events with local communities. Participants of all ages took part across the various locations, including a retired group with members up to 89 years of age.



In addition to the virtual learning facilitated through high-speed broadband, the programme also fostered meaningful social connection within each group. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with strong interest expressed in accessing further virtual programmes.

The Broadband Office continues to support Broadband Connection Points by promoting digital, enabling online programme delivery, remote working facilities, and spaces for study, art, social events, and community gatherings. There are currently 21 public Broadband Connection Points across the county, listed at <https://www.galway.ie/en/physical-infrastructure/broadband/broadband-connection-points>



DONNA BYRNE, BROADBAND SUPPORT OFFICER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, BRED A FINN, BCP MANAGER, LACKAGH HERITAGE MUSEUM BCP

## PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL PLANNING DATA

Key Statistics: 1 <sup>st</sup> January – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2026	
Applications Received/Valid	556/434 (78%)
Granted	385
Grant Rate	85%
Refused	67
Breakdown of Decisions Granted Outline (2)	
Permission (296)	
Retention (71)	
Permission Consequent (1)	
Extension of Duration (15)	
Percentage of applications received via Portal/Hardcopy	88%
Stage 1LRD	1
Stage 2 LRD	1
Major Meetings	4
SID Meetings	
Red III Applications	

Key Statistics 1st January 2026 – 31st March 2026	
<b>Exempted Development Applications (under Section 5)</b>	45
Exempt	16
Not Exempt	17

FI	2
Withdrawn	
Decision Pending	9
Appealed	1

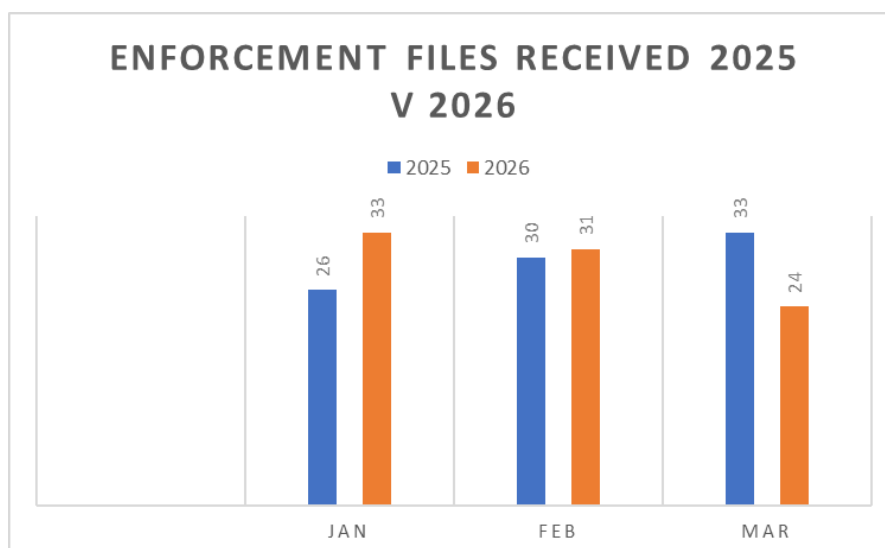
COMMENCEMENTS AND COMPLETIONS 1 <sup>st</sup> JANUARY – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2026	
Submitted and Validated Commencement Notices	217
Submitted and Validated Certificates of Completion	33

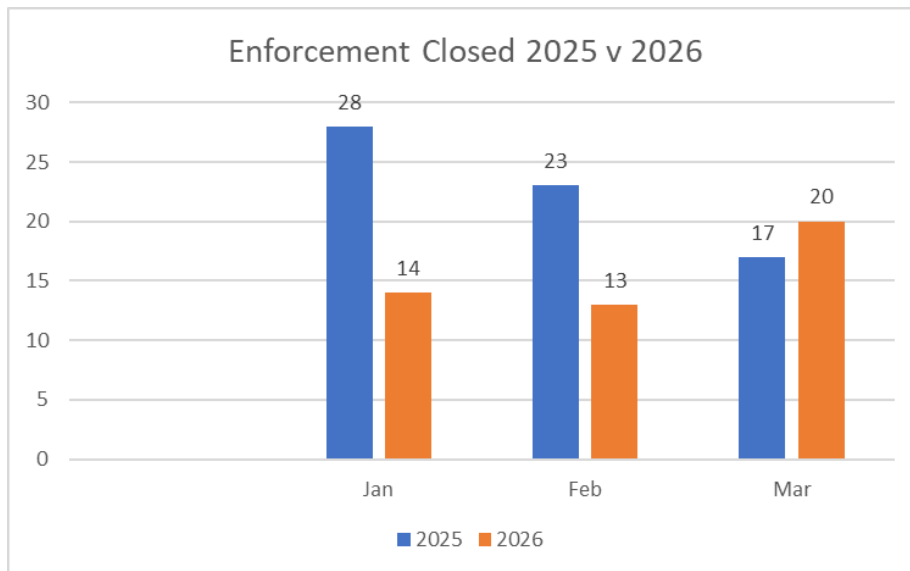
## PLANNING MEETINGS BY MONTH 2026

PPM per MD per Month	January	February	March
<b>Athenry/Oranmore</b>	3	3	<b>3</b>
<b>Ballinasloe</b>	0	4	<b>1</b>
<b>Connemara N &amp; S</b>	7	0	<b>8</b>
<b>Loughrea</b>	5	1	<b>4</b>
<b>Tuam</b>	2	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Total per month</b>	17	8	<b>18</b>

## ENFORCEMENT

There are 185 enforcement cases at various stages of court proceedings with the Law Agents





## KEY PLANNING UPDATES

### CDP MONITORING REPORT

Currently being prepared by Forward Planning Team.

### 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.

### RZLT (RESIDENTIAL ZONED LAND TAX)

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

#### 1. The Annual Final Map -Published on the 31/01/2026

Scoped-in sites mapped in the annual final map will be liable for RZLT **from the 1st of February 2026**.

Landowners liable for RZLT, will be able to register with Revenue from January 2026. Landowners will be required to make an annual return to Revenue and pay any RZLT liable by the **23<sup>rd</sup> of May 2026**.

Closing date for Rezoning Requests to Galway County Council was the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2026. **A total of 12 No. submissions were received of which 1 no. was withdrawn.**

#### 2. The Annual Draft Map - published on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026

Scoped-in sites mapped on the annual draft map **will not** be liable for RZLT until 2027.

Closing date for submissions on the annual draft map to exclude or include parcels from being liable to RZLT for 2027 was 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026. **A total of 7 No. submissions were received of which 1 No. was withdrawn.**

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## URDF

Carpark design options and associated construction costs currently being considered by consultants and Forward Planning Team. Discussions with the NTA with respect to the carpark design have also taken place.

Funding options for the construction of the carpark are being explored.

Final Business Case for main rail works contract has now been approved by the Department. Contract signing for the main works on the rail project (passing loop; platform etc) imminent.

Towns and Cities Regeneration Investment Fund (URDF Call 4) was announced in March. Funding applications currently being considered by the Forward Planning Section. **Closing date for applications is 01 May 2026.**

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## REGIONAL SPATIAL AND ECONOMIC STRATEGY

The review of the RSES commenced in March with the publication of the Pre Draft Consultation. **Closing date for submissions is 22nd May 2026 at 6pm.**

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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Householder and Business Survey has been published on the Councils consultation portal.

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## BRIARHILL URBAN FRAMEWORK PLAN LANDS

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

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## DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Review of Development Contributions Scheme has commenced. Awaiting feedback with respect to spending priorities for each Directorate.

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## CAHEROYN URBAN FRAMEWORK PLAN (ATHENRY)

Works progressing to deliver draft Caheroyne Urban Framework (Athenry). Discussions ongoing with Irish Rail regarding dis-used level crossing.

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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE

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### 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.

#### April Schedule:

Sales and Selling | 07.04 & 15.04

Visual Storytelling | 09.04 & 16.04

Assertive Communication | 10.04

Business Start Up Basics | 15.04

How to Write a Business Plan | 20.04

How to use the New Canva AI Tools | 22.04



TRANSFORM YOUR  
MARKETING & SALES  
WITH AI | 28.04



### BUSINESS ADVISORY CLINIC



Our business advisory sessions enable clients to speak with one of our business advisors who will offer general advice to help on starting a new business or expanding on an existing business. Our advisor will discuss LEO related supports, training, mentoring and any

other relevant services that may be available to aspiring or existing business promoters. A business advisory is a free 30-minute consultation and runs weekly throughout the year. Our sessions are both in person and by phone. Please keep an eye on our website for the next upcoming available dates.

The Business Advisory Clinic in Ballinasloe is a regional initiative, designed specifically to make our advisory services more accessible to businesses located outside Galway City. Unlike sessions hosted at the Galway City office, this clinic is held at the Ballinasloe Enterprise Hub, offering local entrepreneurs the convenience of engaging with advisors in their own community. This regional approach ensures that support is extended across the county.

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## MENTORING

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

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

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## START YOUR OWN BUSINESS PROGRAMME (SYOB)

LEO Galway organizes a SYOB programme monthly with up to 16 participants on each programme. The next SYOB will be in May, evening programme starting on 1st of May 2026 and will finish on June 4<sup>th</sup>. We will be running our next Start Your Own Business course in April.

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## THE STRATEGIC GROWTH PROGRAMME FOR BUSINESS LEADERS

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

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

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## AI FORWARD FOR SME'S

LEO Galway, in partnership with LEO Mayo, LEO Roscommon and PorterShed Galway, are delivering AI-Forward for SMEs, a practical management development programme for small businesses across the region. The programme focuses on how AI can be applied in a realistic and meaningful way to improve productivity, marketing, operations, and day-to-day

efficiency. Delivered through a combination of in-person and online workshops (March–May 2026), the programme is designed around real business challenges and provides participants with practical tools, clearer workflows and increased confidence in using AI within their business.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### AI WORKS FOR IRELAND – GALWAY

The Local Enterprise Offices, in partnership with Google, will host AI Works for Ireland at the Radisson RED Hotel, Galway on Thursday, 30 April 2026. The event is targeted at Irish SMEs and is designed to support businesses in identifying and implementing AI-driven strategies to achieve sustainable growth.

The programme will combine practical, workshop-based learning with real-world case studies from Irish businesses that are actively using AI to enhance productivity, innovation, and commercial performance.

A key highlight of the event will be a fireside chat with Aimee Connolly, CEO and Founder of Sculpted by Aimee, who will share insights on leveraging AI within a scaling consumer brand. This will be complemented by a panel discussion featuring industry leaders:

- Raj L. Chohan, Co-Founder, ICØN
- Peter Kilmartin, Founder, Spicy Dog Media
- Julie Dowling, CEO, Fudge & Gandol and AIM Innovation Centre
- Cian Collins, Founder, Nova HCM

### AI Works for Ireland

Hosted by Local Enterprise Offices  
and Google

Supported by Enterprise Europe  
Network and Enterprise Ireland



Panel contributors will outline how AI is being applied across their organisations to drive efficiency, support decision-making, and unlock new growth opportunities.

Attendance is limited, and demand is expected to be strong. Registration is available via the following link:

<https://loom.ly/ukY-nw8>



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## LEO GALWAY PARTNERS WITH PORTERSHED TO CELEBRATE 10 YEARS OF INNOVATION

LEO Galway is delighted to partner with PorterShed in celebrating 10 years of tech innovation and support in Galway. As part of the celebrations, Spark — a one-day conference taking place on Thursday, 23 April at Dexcom Stadium, Galway, will bring together founders, entrepreneurs, and angel investors

from across the tech ecosystem. The programme features a carefully curated line-up of speakers with national and international expertise, including Sean Blanchfield, Jentic; Ealine Brennan, Northwell Health; Albane Bruyas, Scaleway; and Paul Hayes, Beach Hut PR Ireland.

Spark promises a full day of insight, inspiration, and connection, highlighting Galway's role as a growing hub for innovation and enterprise.



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## EDGE26 | IRELAND'S CREATIVE ECONOMY SUMMIT – 21 MAY 2026

LEO Galway is proud to be a supporter of EDGE26, Ireland's Creative Economy Summit, taking place in Galway on 21 May 2026. EDGE26 is Ireland's national gathering for the creative industries, bringing together where creativity, technology, and enterprise converge. The summit will welcome founders, studio leaders, investors, policymakers, and researchers to explore the future of the creative economy. The event will examine how innovation,

intellectual property, and emerging technologies are transforming the digital creative industries, with sectors represented including: Film • Animation • Games • Immersive • Design • Creative Tech • Music Tech

By supporting EDGE26, LEO Galway continues its commitment to strengthening Galway's position as a national and international hub for creative and innovation-led enterprises. Head of Enterprise, Caroline McDonagh will moderate the panel discussion: The Creative Economy in Action - Real Companies, Real Growth

21 May 2026 | Dexcom Stadium, Galway



## PAST EVENTS

### STUDENT ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME – GALWAY FINALS

The Galway Finals of the Student Enterprise Programme saw strong participation across senior, intermediate, and junior categories, with 45 student enterprises competing. Kate O’Sullivan, trading as KA Woodcrafts from Portumna Community School, won the Senior Category and will represent Galway at the National Finals in Mullingar on 7 May 2026.

Winners were also announced in the Intermediate and Junior categories, with Fidget Craft (Merlin College) and Purely Crafted (Presentation College Athenry) taking first place respectively. The Bish was awarded Most Enterprising School, securing multiple accolades including Best Business Report, Best Product and Best Stand.

In total, the 2026 programme engaged over 1,155 students across 28 schools in Galway. The Student Enterprise Programme is delivered by LEO Galway as part of a national initiative funded through Enterprise Ireland, supporting entrepreneurship and enterprise skills development among second-level student



CLLR. HELLEN OGBU GALWAY CITY COUNCIL, RONAN LOUGHNEY, CONNAUGHT RUGBY, ALICE MONAGHAN, PRESENTATION COLLEGE ATHENRY. CAROLINE MC DONAGH, HEAD OF ENTERPRISE LEO GALWAY, CLLR, MARY HOADE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

CLLR. HELLEN OGBU GALWAY CITY COUNCIL, JARRAD BUTLER, CONNAUGHT RUGBY, KATE O’SULLIVAN, PRESENTATION COLLEGE ATHENRY. CAROLINE MC DONAGH, HEAD OF ENTERPRISE LEO GALWAY, CLLR, MARY HOADE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL





BISH STUDENTS WITH JARRAD BUTLER + RONAN LOUGHNEY CONNAUGHT RUGBY, CLLR. HELLEN OGBU, GALWAY CITY COUNCIL, NIAMH DOYLE, TEACHER THE BISH, JACVK CARTY, CONNAUGHT RUGBY, CAROLINE MC DONAGH, HEAD OF ENTERPRISE LEO GALWAY, CLLR, MARY HOADE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

## LEO GALWAY SUPPORTING UNDERGRADUATE ENTREPRENEURSHIP THROUGH ICE MODULE

LEO Galway supported undergraduate entrepreneurship through direct mentoring engagement with the Innovation, Creativity & Enterprise (ICE) Module competition at the J.E. Cairnes School of Business & Economics. The 2026 competition attracted 90 student teams, supported by over 13 mentors from across the Galway business ecosystem, and culminated in a final showcase of shortlisted teams presenting solutions addressing real societal and industry challenges. Team SecureShield was awarded the overall winner, securing the top prize of €2,000, with mentoring support provided by Sandra Regan, LEO Galway. The winning project focused on the development of a smart, real-time dashboard



to improve construction site safety. Final presentations were assessed by an industry-led judging panel comprising senior representatives from Boston Scientific, PwC Ireland and PorterShed, reinforcing the programme's strong links between education, enterprise and industry.

### WESTERN REGIONAL ENTERPRISE PLAN PROGRAMME MANAGER MEETS WITH MINISTER PETER BURKE

Kenny Deery, West Regional Enterprise Plan Programme Manager met with Minister Peter Burke, Dept of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment during March. The focus of this meeting was briefing the Minister on the status of projects being worked on by the programme manager in collaboration with agencies and local authorities, the following were the main projects discussed;



- **Ireland West Airport SDZ – Infinity Circular Economy Hub** with a particular focus on aviation. Presently an EI Smart Regions Priming funding application for €200k with match funding from Mayo Co Co is being evaluated. A designated activity company (DAC) has been formed to facilitate the application; this will hopefully be approved at the April evaluation meeting.
- **Health Tech Campus** for Ireland based out of Galway €50k EI Smart Regions feasibility and €12.5k Galway Co Co match funding secured to develop project. Multi agency / industry / stakeholder buy in and a significant opportunity to deliver a future focussed Health Tech Campus to address the needs of existing indigenous Irish tech startups, future proof our thriving ecosystem and attract further international investments.
- **An Bealach Creative and Digital Industries Hub** in Roscommon has secured €100k EI Smart Regions Priming Funding with match funding from Roscommon Co Co. Work is underway to develop this project to a capital application.
- **PorterShed Renewables Hub at the Port of Galway** secured €200k priming funding with own matched resources. Priming work is nearing completion and will lead to a Stream One funding application.
- There are two active projects at feasibility stage being progressed under Just Transition Funding in East Galway and Roscommon, both with strong enterprise focus across sustainable and circular economy pillars.

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## J.E. CAIRNES SCHOOL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY APPOINTS NEW EXTERNAL ADVISORY BOARD



Professor David Burn, President of University of Galway; Professor Alma McCarthy, Executive Dean, J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics with Kenny Deery, West Regional Enterprise Plan Programme Manager;

Professor Karena Yan, Dean of the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics along with members of the External Advisory Board meeting after the Regional Business Summit on the Business of AI, which took place in Galway on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Kenny Deery, Regional Enterprise Plan Programme Manager has been appointed to the external advisory board of the J.E. Cairnes School of business. A particular focus of Kenny's appointment centres around regional development and the role the University of Galway can play in enabling greater development across the West of Ireland. Kenny joins the board along with Conall McGettigan, NWRA; Edel Browne, Dexcom; Paul Sherlock, Thermofisher Scientific; Sola Sonuga, UBS; Kevin Lin, Tuspark Holdings UK; Anne Grealish, Medtronic; Leo Ling, Nikkiso Europe; Thomas McDonagh, Thomas McDonagh and Sons limited and Pat Duane, T.E. Connectivity.

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## LIFESCIENCES WORKING GROUP OF THE WESTERN REGIONAL ENTERPRISE PLAN



Chair of the Lifesciences Working Group of the Western Regional Enterprise Plan Dave McKernan with members of the industry led working group during the recent workshop hosted in County Hall.

The focus of this follow up industry led session on March 19<sup>th</sup> in County Hall was agreeing the next steps now that funding has been secured in the amount of €50,000 from Enterprise Ireland under the Smart Regions matched by €12,500 from Galway County Council, the following deliverables were agreed;

- A strategic 5-year roadmap for a Healthtech campus in the region
- A shortlist of location options for a 'Healthtech campus'
- A design concept for a Healthtech campus structure
- A proposed operational framework for the campus
- An updated map of the current Healthtech Ecosystem in the region
- A report on the key 'needs' with a 'priority' order

*The following tasks will need to be undertaken in order to achieve the deliverables;*

- Mapping the Healthtech Ecosystem- companies, enablers, stakeholders, current assets, capabilities, services etc
- Analysis to understand, validate, opportunities and gaps and future needs in the ecosystem
- Scoping location options and a framework/structure for the campus
- Understanding 'best in class' 'centres of excellence'
- Outline design/plan for the 'Healthtech campus' and estimate of costs
- Exploring operational models including what the potential is to have venture development operators like Pioneer, Portal Innovations involved
- Exploring funding options and associated requirements e.g. applicant entity legal status etc

## HERITAGE OFFICE



WROUGHT IRON TRADITIONAL GATE.  
PHOTO CREDIT: THE HERITAGE COUNCIL

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## TRADITIONAL FARM BUILDINGS GRANT SCHEME (THE HERITAGE COUNCIL)

The **Traditional Farm Buildings Grant Scheme** provides funding for the conservation and repair of traditional farm buildings and associated structures of heritage value that remain in active agricultural use. The scheme is administered by **The Heritage Council**, in partnership with the **Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine**, and supports works such as roof and wall repairs, structural conservation and the maintenance of historic farmyard features, in line with best conservation practice.

### **Eligibility:**

The scheme is open to farmers who are:

- Participants in **ACRES** or the **Organic Farming Scheme**, and
- Owners of the building or structure concerned, or acting with the owner's written consent.

The **closing date for applications is 5.00 pm on Monday, 18 May 2026.**

Further information is available at:

<https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/projects/traditional-farm-buildings-grant-scheme>

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## COUNTY GALWAY ORAL HERITAGE PROJECT

Funding has been awarded by The Heritage Council to support the delivery of the County Galway Oral Heritage Project, which represents the first implementation phase of the *County Galway Oral Heritage Master Plan 2026–2036*. The project addresses urgent preservation risks identified through the 2023–2025 Galway Audit of Oral Heritage, which recorded over 4,500 oral heritage recordings across 86 collections, many of which are held on fragile analogue media.

The project will establish governance structures, develop unified metadata and ethical standards, and begin the digitisation and safeguarding of at-risk collections. It will also build capacity among local heritage groups and custodians through training, stakeholder engagement, and the provision of practical toolkits and guidance. Public engagement forms a key element of the project, including workshops, seminars, community radio collaborations, and a County-wide public event during National Heritage Week 2026.

The Heritage Council funding of €20,000, supported by Galway County Council own resources, will enable the translation of strategic recommendations into practical actions, ensuring that Galway's rich oral heritage is preserved, accessible, and embedded as a living community resource for future generations.



TOMAS MACCONMARA AT MOUNTBELLEW AGRICULTURAL SHOW, 2025. PHOTO CREDIT: MACCONMARA CONSULTING

## GALWAY COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT 2026 – HERITAGE COUNCIL FUNDING

The Galway Community Archaeology Project 2026 has been awarded funding of €20,000 from The Heritage Council under the County Heritage Plan Projects scheme. The project will be delivered across County Galway from March to November 2026.

Through the engagement of a consultant community archaeologist, the project supports communities, landowners, schools and volunteers in understanding, protecting and managing archaeological heritage in line with best practice and national legislation.

Key activities in 2026 include community site visits, training and advisory support; assistance to groups involved in Community Monuments Fund and Heritage Council projects; public engagement events including National Heritage Week, ICOMOS Sites and Monuments Day and Féile na gCloch; and the development of digital outputs such as StoryMaps, films and podcasts. The project also supports educational engagement with schools and libraries and ongoing collaboration with farming and rural communities.



The project aligns with the Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2024–2030, Heritage Ireland 2030, and national biodiversity and sustainability objectives.

BALLINASTACK MEGALITHIC TOMB. PHOTO CREDIT: BERNIE DOHERTY

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## HOLY WELLS OF GALWAY 2026 PROJECT

This project was successful in securing €15,00 in funding from the Heritage Council under the County Heritage Plan Projects scheme. The funding supports the development of a countywide digital StoryMap and the preparation of text and visual content for a major publication on the holy wells of County Galway. The project builds on six years of audited research covering 256 holy wells and will make this material publicly accessible through a map-based platform incorporating interpretive text, films and podcasts. Work in 2026 will focus on updating site information, producing new multimedia content, and preparing the English-language text and visuals for publication, with Irish translation and printing planned for 2027. The project will deliver long-term public access to an important body of cultural and natural heritage and includes a public event during National Heritage Week 2026.



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TOBAR CHOLMCILLE IN BEDROCK PHOTO CREDIT: ZENA HOCTOR

## PLANNING

### BIODIVERSITY

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#### WORKSHOP: FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE: BUILDING BETTER FOR PEOPLE AND BIODIVERSITY

On the 14th April, close to 100 local authority staff from 7 local authorities participated in a national workshop, *From Policy to Practice: Building Better for People and Biodiversity*, delivered by the Irish Green Building Council (IGBC). There was very strong engagement with this topic across the sector, with 9 staff from Galway County Council attending.

The workshop was co-designed and co-delivered by the Galway County Biodiversity Office, working in collaboration with biodiversity officers from other local authorities and the IGBC. It formed part of the delivery of Galway County Council's Heritage Council-funded Local Authority Biodiversity Action Plan programme and supports implementation of the Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2024–2030.

The workshop programme combined national policy perspectives, applied technical guidance and interactive sessions on planning, residential development and urban regeneration, including topics such as nature-based solutions, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), biodiversity checklists and the role of planning ecologists. Overall, the scale of participation and the collaborative delivery model demonstrate strong organisational momentum in Galway County Council and across the local government sector to advance

biodiversity outcomes within the built environment while delivering on adopted county and national policy frameworks.



PHOTO: MINISTER CHRISTOPHER O'SULLIVAN WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITY BIODIVERSITY OFFICERS AND HERITAGE COUNCIL STAFF AT THE BUILDING BETTER FOR PEOPLE AND BIODIVERSITY WORKSHOP IN PORTLAOISE

PHOTO: COILÍN O'REILLY, CE CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL, WITH BRENT MOSTERT, REGENERATION TEAM AND DIRECTOR OF SERVICES LIAM HANRAHAN AT THE BUILDING BETTER FOR PEOPLE AND BIODIVERSITY WORKSHOP IN PORTLAOISE



## WINGS – GALWAY COUNTY BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE 2026

The Galway County Council Biodiversity Office will host **WINGS – Galway County Biodiversity Conference 2026** on Wednesday, 29 April 2026, from 9:30am to 3:30pm at the Lough Rea Hotel & Spa, Loughrea.

WINGS is a free, one-day biodiversity conference with a thematic focus on birds, bats, insects and other winged species, highlighting current research alongside practical, community-led action to support biodiversity in County Galway. The event is designed to bring together community groups, Tidy Towns committees, conservation practitioners, third-level students, artists and the wider public, supporting knowledge-sharing, collaboration and on-the-ground action.

This event is an initiative of Galway County Council's Biodiversity Office, funded by the NPWS Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2022-26 and supported by The Heritage Council's Local Authority Biodiversity Offices Programme, including an investment in the Heritage Biodiversity Action Plan (HBAP) 2022-26.



The conference programme features a strong line-up of national and local speakers, including John Lusby (BirdWatch Ireland) on raptors, Karina Dingerkus on bumblebees, Kate McAney on bats, Jesmond Harding and Kay Synott on butterflies and gardens for biodiversity, Larry Fullam from

the Community Wetlands Forum, Gordon D’Arcy on art and biodiversity, and contributions from the Galway County Council Biodiversity Office. Themes span species conservation, community action, wetlands, gardens and creative engagement with nature.

A key highlight of the event will be the official launch of *Butterflies of County Galway*, a new bi-lingual booklet by Kay Synott. The booklet has been developed as an accessible resource for communities and the wider public, and all conference attendees will receive a complimentary copy.

The event has received a strong level of interest, with bookings progressing rapidly, and it is anticipated that the conference will reach full capacity in advance of the event date. Lunch and light refreshments will be provided, and advance registration is required. The conference represents an important opportunity to increase biodiversity awareness, support community engagement and contribute to delivery of the Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan.

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

### ATHENRY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

The Annual Schedule of Proposed Works for the Municipal District, including the proposed 2026 Annual Roads Programme, was presented to the elected members at a special meeting held on 31 March. Members were advised that the 2026 Roads Programme comprises the following elements:

- 23 Restoration Improvement (RI) projects, with a total allocation of €2,423,237
- 13 Restoration Maintenance (RM) projects, totalling €550,598
- 5 Discretionary Grant projects, with a combined allocation of €83,467

In addition, the programme includes funding allocations for:

- National, Regional and Local Road maintenance
- Climate Adaptation schemes
- Low-Cost Safety Schemes
- Bridge repair works
- Local and Regional Road drainage works

Contractors are currently being procured to undertake most of the above works.

As part of the Early Start Programme, resurfacing works have recently been completed in Kiniska, where approximately 1 km of pavement was resurfaced.

In preparation for the main resurfacing season, crews are currently carrying out advance works, including road edging and drainage improvements, to facilitate the forthcoming resurfacing programme.

Additionally, the operational focus has remained on maintaining the road network with our water table programme being completed on approximately 70 km of the regional road network and over 80 km on the local road network. In addition, crews have been actively addressing the significant number of potholes that developed across the network

Some sample photos of other ongoing works



FOOTPATH  
REPAIRS,  
ORANMORE



DRAINAGE WORKS @ CAHERFINISKER

DRAINAGE WORKS @ CLORON





RESURFACING @ KINISHKA



VERGE MAINTANENCE WORK – REGIONAL ROADS



VERGE MAINTANENCE WORK – REGIONAL ROADS  
DRAINAGE WORKS, MACE

## BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

At a Special Municipal District Meeting held in March, the 2026 Roads Programme was formally adopted within the Ballinasloe MD's Annual Schedule of works. Two RI funded overlays included within the Roads Programme at L-8726 at Ballinakill, Eyrecourt and L-34172 6 at Donaree, Cappataggle were completed.

Direct Labour crews completed several permanent reinstatements of drainage works including Aughrim and Glentaun and repaired roads at St. Joseph's Estate and John Dunne Avenue, Ballinasloe Town. MD crews were also focused on maintenance of public roads in terms of pothole repairs and drainage with opening water tables and drain cleaning works on N63 Mountbellew.

Works by a contractor to rebuild damaged retaining wall along the R446 at Aughrim commenced. Works at the Caher junction to build boundary wall as part of the Lower Cost Safety Scheme commenced.

Works to upgrade the playgrounds at Hymany Park and Coral Leisure Centre were completed in March 2026. These works were funded under the Community Recognition Fund 2024.

The annual grass cutting, and open space maintenance programme has begun within Ballinasloe Town. This work is undertaken by both Ballinasloe MD staff and contractors.

The following images are examples of works undertaken throughout the MD during March 2026.



OVERLAY OF THE L-8726 AT BALLINAKILL, EYRECOURT UNDER RESTORATIVE IMPROVEMENT WORKS PROGRAMME 2026





OVERLAY OF THE L-34172 6 AT DONAREE, CAPPATAGGLE UNDER RESTORATIVE IMPROVEMENT WORKS PROGRAMME 2026



RECONSTRUCTION OF DAMAGED RETAINING WALL ALONG THE R446 AT AUGHRIM, FOUNDATION WORKS

RECONSTRUCTION OF DAMAGED BOUNDARY WALL ALONG THE R446 AT CAHER CROSS





REFURBISHMENT UPGRADES TO HYMANY PLAYGROUND, BALLINASLOE



REFURBISHMENT UPGRADES TO PLAYGROUND AT BACK OFF CORAL LEISURE CENTRE, BALLINASLOE



RESURFACING OF THE HYMANY PLAY AREA

REINSTATEMENT OF DRAINAGE WORKS AT GLENTAUN



DRAIN CLEANING WORKS ON N63 MOUNTBELLEW

ROAD REPAIRS AT ST JOSEPHS, BALLINASLOE



2026 ROADS PROGRAMME - ADOPTED ON 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH

The MD Programme of works was formally adopted by the elected members on the 31<sup>st</sup> March. €5,054,433 in Restoration Improvement funding (Strengthening works/Overlaying of roads with bound and unbound layers) is a 6% increase on the 2025 figure. This list of roads is below.

Conamara MD Restoration Improvement Programme		
Road Class	Road No.	Road Name (excl. rd no.)
R	340	Tí Dowd Carna
R	374	An Máimín
R	336	Coismeig Mór
R	336	Baile na hAbhann
R	341	Ballyconneely Roundstone
R	379	Cleggan
R	345	An Charraig Láir
R	336	Leenane
R	344	Inagh
LS	5263	Tismeáin
LP	1202-18	Doire Fhearta
LP	5230	Cnoc
LT	52413-6	Cladach ó dheas
LT	52411	Silear
LP	1205-14	Bog Rd Doire Iorrais
LT	52467	Muighnis
LT	52284	An Ros Leitir Caladh
LT	12064	Maíros
LT	12057	Na Doirriú
LP	1320	An Spidéal, Maigh Cuilinn rd
LP	1323	Thonabrocky
LS	5388	Foraí Maola Link road
LS	5376	Claideach
LT	13144	Ross Castle
LP	1201-62	Seanadh Phéistín
L	5397	Baile Éamoinn
LT	13143	Ross Demense (Damiens Rd)
L	5353	Barr an Ghearrain (Fahy)
LP	1313	Tullykyne Rd. Baile Doite
L	5370	Liagán
LP	5368	Droim an Mhotháin
L	11063	Mannin High Rd
L	5132	Errislannin High Rd
LT	51373	Barnanoran

LS	5128	low Rd recycling centre
LT	11029	Glenbrickeen
LS	5136	An Uillinn
LT	53286	Tullaghboy
LS	5300	Gleantreague
LS	5304	Mountgable
LS	5323	Dooros
LS	53262	Drumsnauv
LP	1301	Finny
LS	5327	Glann
LT	53271	Barnagorteeny
LT	53275	Shannawagh
LT	11037	Ballynew
LT	51241	Shanakeever
LT	51283	Tullyvoheen
LT	52382	Camus Íochtar Cul de Sac
LT	52018	Coill Rua
LT	12041	Glin Chatha Bóthar Ó thuaidh

€1,148,449 in Restoration Maintenance funding (Surface Dressing of existing road pavements) is a 3% increase on the 2025 figure. This list of roads is below.

Conamara MD Restoration Maintenance Programme		
Road Class	Road No.	Road Name (excl. rd no.)
R	336	R336 Baile na hAbhainn
R	340-372	Carna
R	340-83	Doire Iorrais
R	340-61	Rosmuc
R	336	Pairc
R	341	Clifden to Ballyconneely
R	341	Ballyconneely to Roundstone
R	345	Coalpark
R	336	Griggins
R	336	Breanaun
LP	1314	Ower High Rd
LT	13134	Gortachalla
LP	1322	Paddys Cross to Aille rd
LP	1101	Derryinver
LS	5105	Renvyle
LP	1102	Doon
LP	1104	Sky Road
LP	1311	Seanadh Phéistín

€265,898 in Discretionary Grant funding is identical to the 2025 figure and the roads are listed in the table below.

Conamara MD Discretionary Grant Programme		
Road Class	Road No.	Road Name (excl. rd no.)
L	52282	Bóthar an Bheairic
LS	53472	Acton's Rd
LT	12001	Cloch Mór Reilig
LT	53245	Toombeola, Roundstone
LT	11081	Kilmeelickin, Maum
LT	13105	Barrusheen

The Conamara MD Overlays Contract was tendered, assessed and awarded to McGraths Limestone Cong Ltd, who are due to commence work on the 13<sup>th</sup> April. The Surface Dressing contract (Conamara South Engineering Area) was awarded to Colas Contracting Ltd, and as soon as weather conditions and temperatures improve, they will commence works in the area.

Separately, €320,000 was allocated to three Climate Change projects across the MD, at Maigh Cuilinn, Na Grigíneacha (which suffered flash flood damage during Storm Amy in October 2025) and the Ballyconneely to Clifden R341 road.

€85,000 was allocated to two Safety Improvement Works projects at Coill Rua Thoir on the R336 and Streamstown on the L-1102. Cuan na Loinge in Ceantar na nOileán will continue to receive funding under the Specific Improvement Grant fund. We await final decision from An Coimisiún Pleanála on this project.

Three projects have received funding under the Community Involvement Scheme at Na Doirriú (R336), Carrowmanagh (Oughterard) and Cill Chiaráin (R340). The Local Improvement Scheme is still being finalised and letters of offers are in the process of being sent to applicants, so we await the final list for the mainland and islands.



DRAINAGE WORKS  
BEING UNDERTAKEN BY  
DIRECT LABOUR STAFF  
ALONG THE AN  
SPIDÉAL TO MAIGH  
CUILINN ROAD



## PRIMARY FOCUS OF ACTIVITY

The Annual Schedule of Proposed Works for the Loughrea Municipal District, including the proposed 2026 Annual Roads Programme was presented to the elected members at a special meeting on the 31st March.

Members were advised that the 2026 Roads Programme included 53 Restoration Improvement Grant (RIG) projects, 23 Restoration Maintenance Grant (RMG) projects, and 9 Discretionary Grant (DG) projects. The significant effort and contribution of the Loughrea MD Engineering and Technical staff Niall Kennedy, Dave O'Loughlin, Michael Duane and Shane Gavin, in the preparation of the 2026 Roads Programme was acknowledged.

The Annual Roads Programme comprising all the various road grants i.e. National, Regional and Local Roads, Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience, Bridges, Low-Cost Safety Improvement, Drainage etc. was adopted as presented. Tenders for our bound Restoration Improvement programme have been issued, returned, assessed, and contractors are currently being appointed. Tenders for Surface Dressing and unbound RIG are currently being prepared and will be issued shortly.

Early start roads had been identified prior to the adoption of the 2026 Roads Programme and the L-8567, Gortroe to Lavalleyconor road in the Gort/Kinvara Area is now complete.

Operationally, we continue to complete any outstanding projects from 2025 and address NOM funded projects. Improvement works at our Depots, drainage maintenance, road repairs and all other routine maintenance works are continuing.

A sample of works on-going is as follows:



## PREPARATORY WORK FOR SUMMER PLANTERS AT THE GREENHOUSE, LOUGHREA ROADS DEPOT



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SPRING FLOWERING BULBS AT CORRY'S FIELD, LOUGHREA



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REPAIRS TO ROAD VERGE AND CULVERT, CAPPARD, GORT

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ROADS SAFETY AND VERGE IMPROVEMENT WORKS ON THE R355



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INTRODUCTION OF TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MARKINGS AT THE PORTUMNA ROADS DEPOT



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BEFORE AND AFTER IMAGES - REPLACEMENT OF FADED AND DAMAGED ROAD SIGNAGE





FOOTPATH REINSTATEMENT INSPECTIONS ON FOOT OF PROCESSED ROAD OPENING LICENCES



WORKS CARRIED OUT DURING THE MONTH

R332 KILBANNON REALIGNMENT



Good progress was achieved during the past month by **Jons Civils Ltd**, with site clearance works now completed. This included tree removal and the removal of roadside walls and earth mounds. Farm-side fencing has been fully installed.

Public lighting ducting works were completed during the period, together with additional Eir ducting provisions. Infill and capping of existing redundant drainage infrastructure was also completed. Investigation trial holes at the locations of existing culverts were carried out and are now complete.



R332 DUNMORE – BRIDGE STREET

Galway County Council has undertaken interim road safety improvement works on Bridge Street, Dunmore, including:

- Upgraded road signage
- Refreshed road line markings on Bridge Street and all junctions leading into it

These works will improve visibility and traffic clarity while the wider Dunmore regeneration project continues to progress.



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## DUNMORE DEPOT

Construction of the new storage shed at the Dunmore Roads Depot has been completed. The facility provides a dry and secure storage location for roads materials and machinery. The project was funded through the Health and Safety section and will significantly improve onsite storage and safety arrangements.



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## ABBEYKNOCKMOY

A climate adaptation drainage scheme under the **2026 Roads Programme** has been completed in Abbeyknockmoy by the Roads Direct Labour crew.

The works addressed a long-standing issue of significant surface water runoff from a hillside local road onto the national road, which had resulted in flooding of adjacent properties during periods of heavy rainfall.

The solution involved the installation of new pipework and a gully system to intercept and safely convey surface water as it travels downhill, thereby reducing flood risk to both the national road and nearby properties.



BEFORE WORKS COMMENCED



DURING WORKS



Mise, le meas,

**Mr. Liam Conneally**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Galway County Council**

**23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2026**