



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

TURASCÁIL BAINISTÍOCHTA MANAGEMENT REPORT



Iúil 2026
July 2026

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CORPORATE SERVICES & RURAL, COMMUNITY & TOURISM DEVELOPMENT & INTEGRATION

CORPORATE SERVICES

PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union commenced on the 1st July 2026. Ireland will assume a leading role in shaping the European Union's priorities over the forthcoming six-month period.

A flag raising ceremony took place outside County Hall on the afternoon of the 1st of July to mark the occasion.



CATHAOIRLEACH COUNCILLOR ANDREW REDDINGTON RAISES THE EUROPEAN FLAG AT COUNTY HALL TO MARK THE COMMENCEMENT OF IRELAND'S PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN UNION

COUNCILLOR ANDREW REDDINGTON, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY
MICHAEL OWENS, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES,
PAT LALLY, LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, COUNCILLOR MICHAEL CONNOLLY, COUNCILLOR OLLIE TURNER, COUNCILLOR LAURIE HARNEY, ATTENDING THE RAISING OF EUROPEAN FLAG TO MARK THE COMMENCEMENT OF IRELAND'S PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE CATHAOIRLEACH



COUNCILLOR EILEEN MANNION AND COUNCILLOR ANDREW REDDINGTON, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY ON INISHBOFIN ISLAND WHERE THEY MET WITH BUSINESS OWNERS AND RESIDENTS

COUNCILLOR OLLIE TURNER, COUNCILLOR ANDREW REDDINGTON CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY, COUNCILLOR SIOBHÁN MCHUGH RYAN AND DEPUTY SEAN CANNEY AT THE LAUNCH OF THE DUNMORE FESTIVAL



AT THE LAUNCH OF THE GALWAY RACES IN THE EARL INN, MICHAEL MOLONEY, GALWAY RACES CEO, COUNCILLOR JOSIE FORDE, DEPUTY MAYOR OF GALWAY CITY, COUNCILLOR ANDREW REDDINGTON, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY AND DR. COLM O FLAHERTY, GALWAY RACES CHAIRMAN

ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION CEREMONY AT THE ROYAL HOSPITAL KILMAINHAM



ARDRAHAN AGRICULTURAL SHOW



GAELFORCE EVENTS, PORTUMNA



L-R: CLLR. DR. EVELYN FRANCIS PARSONS, CLLR. MICHAEL CONNEELY, CLLR. ANDREW REDDINGTON, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY

The Kilbegnet Historical Society launched their 5th annual Bard of Connacht Poetry competition in Creggs Heritage Centre



LAUNCH OF THE CONNEMARA PONY SHOW CLIFDEN



LAUNCH OF CORTOON LAVALLY COMMUNITY PARK

GALWAY HURLERS HOMECOMING

A homecoming event for the Galway Hurling Team was held in Ballinasloe on Monday, 20 July 2026. The event was very well attended, with a large turnout from the local community showing strong support for the team.



L-R: CLLR. ANDREW REDDINGTON, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY, MICHÉAL DONOGHUE, GALWAY HURLING TEAM MANAGER, LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

L-R: CLLR. DR. EVELYN FRANCIS PARSONS, MICHÉAL DONOGHUE, GALWAY HURLING TEAM MANAGER





CROWDS AT THE
HOMECOMING FOR
GALWAY HURLERS IN
BALLINASLOE

GALWAY HURLING TEAM AT
THE HOMECOMING IN
BALLINASLOE ON MONDAY
20TH JULY 2026



GALWAY COUNTY
COUNCIL STAFF WITH
CATHAL MANNION,
GALWAY HURLER



L-R: LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, DARACH FAHY, GALWAY HURLER, BREEGE LYNN, ADMINISITRATIVE OFFICER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, CIARAN FAHY, GALWAY HURLER

GALWAY HURLERS SIGNING HURLEYS AT THE HOMECOMING IN BALLINASLOE



GALWAY WOMEN’S CAUCUS

WHY MORE WOMEN MATTER IN POLITICS CONFERENCE

The conference “Why More Women Matter in Politics” took place on 17th and 18th June 2026 at the Radisson Red Hotel, Galway. The event was led out by Cllr Mary Hoade, Leas-Cathaoirleach, Galway County Council, and Cllr Helen Ogbu, Galway City Council, together with the respective Corporate Services Units in both local authorities and was co-hosted with Women for Election.

The conference comprised a programme of workshops and plenary sessions focused on supporting women in political leadership and encouraging participation in local government and electoral processes.

The event was well attended and included Elected Members from Galway County Council and Galway City Council, women Councillors from local authorities across Ireland, and representatives of national organisations and community leadership networks. Participation reflected a wide geographic spread from across the county and nationally.

The programme included workshops for Elected Members on leadership, work-life balance and communications, alongside plenary sessions and panel discussions addressing the role of women in politics, diversity in public life and pathways to participation. All sessions were delivered as scheduled and facilitated engagement and networking among participants.

The conference provided targeted supports for women currently serving as Elected Members, facilitated engagement between local representatives and national organisations, and promoted awareness of pathways to political participation. It also supported continued collaboration between local authorities and sectoral partners in promoting participation in public life.



The conference was successfully delivered, with strong attendance and engagement, and included participation by Elected Members and Stakeholders from across Galway and throughout Ireland.

L-R: CLLR. DR. EVELYN FRANCIS PARSONS, CLLR. MARY HOADE, LEAS CATHAOIRLEACH, AND CLLR. EILEEN MANNION AT THE 'WHY MORE WOMEN MATTER IN POLITICS' CONFERENCE

LEAS CATHAOIRLEACH CLLR. MARY HOADE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND CLLR. HELEN OGBU, GALWAY CITY COUNCIL AT THE 'WHY MORE WOMEN MATTER IN POLITICS' CONFERENCE





ATTENDEES AT 'WHY MORE WOMEN MATTER IN POLITICS' CONFERENCE

VIST FROM MINISTER OF CANADIAN IDENTIY AND CULTURE

The Canadian Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture visited Galway on Tuesday 21st July.

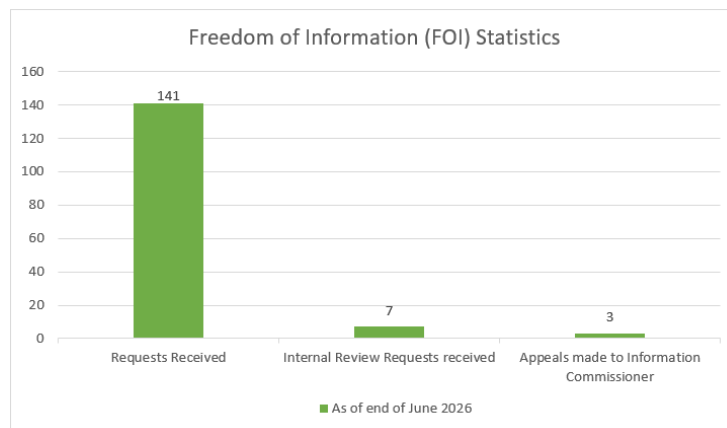


L-R: JOHN CONCANNON, IRISH AMBASSADOR TO CANADA, THE HONOURABLE MARC MILLER, MINISTER OF CANADIAN IDENTITY AND CULTURE, CATHAOIRLEACH ANDREW REDDINGTON, SHARON O'GRADY, GALWAY COUNTY ARTS OFFICER, DENIS KING, AMBASSADOR OF CANADA TO IRELAND

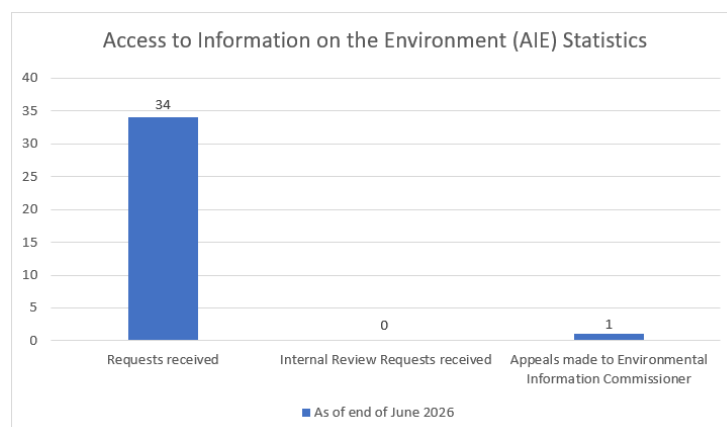
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION & DATA PROTECTION

2026 YEAR TO DATE STATISTICS TO 30.06.2026

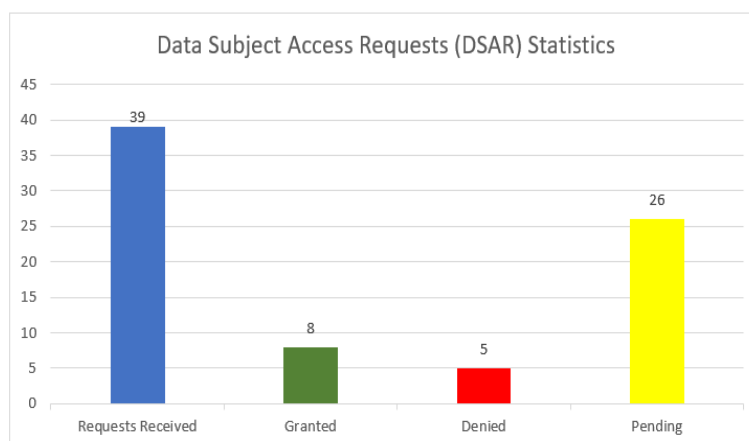
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT



DATA PROTECTION



39 Requests received:

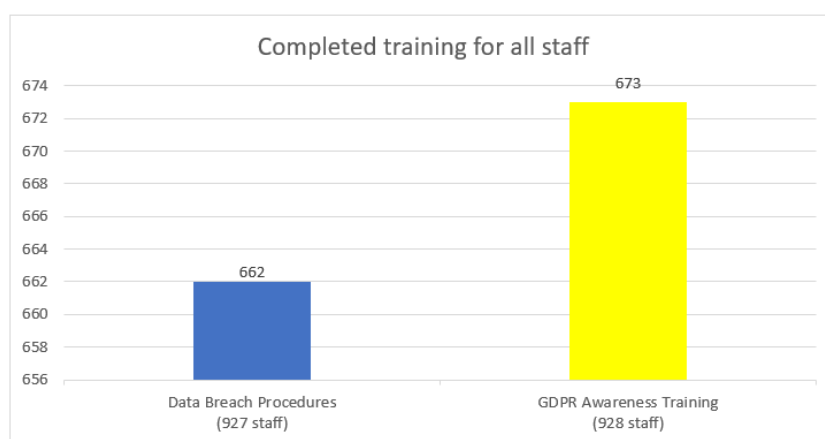
- 37 Subject Access Requests
- 2 Third Party Subject Access Requests (An Garda Síochána)

8 granted, 5 denied, 26 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.



CUSTOMER SERVICES

YOUR COUNCIL DAY 2026

Your Council Day 2026 achieved significant public engagement, generating in excess of 70,000 views across all media platforms and communication channels. The campaign provided an excellent opportunity to showcase the wide range of services delivered by Galway County Council, increase public awareness of the Council's work, and highlight the positive impact of local government on communities throughout the county.

Galway County Council
Published by Hootsuite · 26 June at 15:55 ·

These are just a small sample of the jobs that happen day in, day out — the routine work that keeps everything running smoothly.

They might not always grab attention, and often they go unnoticed, but they are essential. From small maintenance tasks to ongoing upkeep, these efforts make a real difference to our communities every single day. It's easy to take these things for granted, but behind each one is time, care, and commitment.

A reminder that it's often the quiet, consistent work that has the biggest impact on Communities.

#YourCouncilDay #Galway #SupportingCommunitiesEveryDay

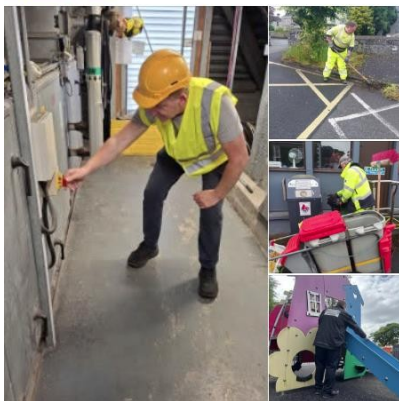
Níl anseo ach sampla beag de na jabanna a dhéantar lá i ndiaidh lae — gnáthobair a choinníonn gach rud ag rith mar is ceart.

Ní thugtar suntas dóibh i gcónaí agus is minic nach tugtar faoi deara iad, ach tá siad riachtanach. Tascanna beaga cothabhála, obair leanúnach chothabhála agus neart eile, déanann na hiarachtaí seo difríocht mhór dár bpobail gach aon lá. Is furasta na rudaí seo a ghlacadh mar ghnáthrud, ach taobh thiar de gach ceann acu tá am, cúram agus tiomantas.

Meabhruchán gur minic gurb í an obair chúinn, chomhsheasmhach a mbíonn an tionchar is mó aici ar phobail.

#DoLáSaChomhairle #Gaillimh #AgTacúLePobailGachLá

Local Government Ireland [See less](#)



The strong level of engagement demonstrates the effectiveness of the Council's communications efforts and the public's interest in learning more about the services, projects, and initiatives delivered on their behalf. The campaign also contributed to strengthening public understanding of the Council's role and fostering greater engagement with local government.



FACILITIES

CENTRALISED BINS STRATEGY LAUNCH JULY 20TH IN COUNTY HALL AND CENTREPOINT



From Monday July 20th, we will have a new Centralised Waste Management System in operation both within County Hall and Centrepoint.

This marks yet another important step forward in both our collective

and individual efforts within Galway County Council to do the right thing through more responsible waste management.

The posters will also be appearing throughout County Hall and Centrepoint to support this transition.



OUR GOAL

Small Actions for Big Impact. Let each of us - lead by example. We look forward to everyone supporting this initiative being rolled out by the Facilities team in collaboration with the Environment team.

FRIDAY JULY 10TH - ESSENTIAL WORKS AT COUNTY HALL



On July 10th, the Facilities team in conjunction with the ESB, carried out essential works to upgrade power supply into County Hall as part of our goal:

- to enhance business continuity planning, here at our headquarters
- to future proof our building electricity supply, to support our Office Accommodation project.

Our IT department were instrumental in supporting this essential work together with our Customer Services team working on all necessary communications to the public and all other stakeholders.

THE BATTLE OF AUGHRIM VISITOR CENTRE JULY SUMMER SERIES LECTURE

On Friday July 17th, the Facilities team will be delighted to welcome Donal Burke to the Centre to present on the Heraldry of Irish families. We are looking forward to exploring this fascinating aspect of our national heritage.



SOCIAL MEDIA

Followers		New followers		Posts		Post impressions	
SOCIAL NETWORK	#	SOCIAL NETWORK	#	SOCIAL NETWORK	#	SOCIAL NETWORK	#
Facebook Page	23,238	Facebook Page	194	Facebook Page	162	Facebook Page	480,790
LinkedIn Page	3,538	LinkedIn Page	142	Instagram Business	151	Instagram Business	66,688
Instagram Business	3,393	Instagram Business	116	LinkedIn Page	56	LinkedIn Page	7,620

OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY

Total posts on all Social Media Platforms for June were 337, 46% of which were also posted in Irish. Our Customer Services team, part of Corporate Services, continue to diligently monitor and update the Council's social media content daily towards enhancing our engagement with the Public. *Posts Impressions - The number of times that posts on our Galway County Council Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn accounts appeared on someone's screen. Content viewed includes posts, videos, and reels.

FACEBOOK TOP THREE POSTS

Top posts



Galway County Council
Jun 24, 12:13

Tá roinnt tuairiscí faighte ag Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe go bhfuil Smugairle an tseoil tagtha i dtír ar chósta na Gaillimhe (Dumhaigh Uí Cherna). Tá an chéad...

8,190 follower views



Galway County Council
Jun 09, 15:41

New Monthly Market Launches at Portumna Courthouse
This June A vibrant new community market is set to launch at the historic Portumna Courthouse, with the first...

6,931 follower views



Galway County Council
Jun 26, 17:45

Please be advised that John Madden & Sons Ltd. will be carrying out road resurfacing works on behalf of Galway County Council at four locations along the D354 in the...

6,069 follower views

INSTAGRAM TOP THREE POSTS

Top posts



galwaycountycouncil
Jun 24, 12:13

Tá roinnt tuairiscí faighte ag Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe go bhfuil Smugairle an tseoil tagtha i dtír ar chósta na Gaillimhe (Dumhaigh Uí Cherna). Tá an chéad...

4,283 views



galwaycountycouncil
Jun 26, 12:30

Do Lá Sa Chomhairle – Oileáin Árann Is iad Oileáin Árann Limistéar Dícharbónaithe Chontae na Gaillimhe. — aitheantas ar...

3,397 views



galwaycountycouncil
Jun 08, 15:30

Comhairliúchán Poiblí: Foirgneamh & Páirc Áineasa Allamuigh Phort Omna Tá Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe ag...

1,571 views

LINKEDIN TOP THREE POSTS

 **Top posts**



Galway County Council
Jun 02, 11:34

Vacancy/Folúntais: <https://lnkd.in/eeuy-9YV> Galway Advertiser Galway Bay FM Connacht Tribune Group Tuairisc le RTE

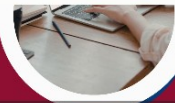
881 impressions



Galway County Council
Jun 19, 08:00

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2026/2027 has been launched. The scheme supports the

471 impressions



Galway County Council
Jun 04, 10:35

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

322 impressions

COMMUNITY, RURAL & TOURISM DEVELOPMENT & INTEGRATION

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PRIDE OF PLACE COMPETITION

Entry Summaries have been completed and submitted to Cooperation Ireland for the 2 Pride of Place entrants representing County Galway in the All-Island competition in 2026. These are Portumna Tidy Towns in the 'Community Tourism Initiative' Category and Tuam Women's Shed in the 'Inclusive Communities' Category. The Pride of Place judging date has also been booked for Monday 31st August at 2.00 pm in Portumna and Tuesday 1st September at 9.30 am in Tuam Palace Grounds.

LOCAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME 2026

Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Jerry Buttimer TD, announced on the 2nd July, the successful projects under the Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2026.

The Local Enhancement Programme 2026 was launched in December 2025 and it will provide capital funding of €7 million to support projects that are essential for many small community groups and organisations, particularly those who serve disadvantaged areas in rural and urban areas. Staff in the Community Department are contacting successful applicants and providing guidance to grant recipients with their applications.

The full list of successful LEP 2026 projects can be viewed at this address:

https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/adb1d22d/LEP_2026.pdf

AGE FRIENDLY

Two County Galway projects have been shortlisted for the 2026 National Age Friendly Recognition & Achievement Awards. They are the Tuam Palace Grounds Sensory Garden

and Active Recreation under the environment category and Connemara Memory Café for Brain Health under the community category. The community section are the lead in both projects. Judging will take place between now and the end of August and the national awards will take place in Limerick on October 8th.

The next age friendly alliance meeting is scheduled to take place on July 30th.

LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION FUND (LEAF)

The LEAF initiative seeks to empower tidy towns and other voluntary community groups to take meaningful action to enhance their local environment through impactful, community-driven projects, collaborating with community stakeholders. It is fund provided by Irish Public Bodies to mark their 100-year anniversary with their contribution equally matched by Galway County Council. Applications were invited from those tidy towns groups who have been in a medal category for the national tidy towns competition or who have received an endeavour award in recent years. Moreover, and as far as possible emphasis was put on those projects with a strategic focus with it being envisaged that the fruits of same will have impact in the 2027 national tidy towns competition. Applications were also sought from our two 2026 pride of place entrants. After receiving applications, assessment took place and a proposed list of recommendation was placed on the agenda for the July plenary council meeting.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

CLÁR PROGRAMME

CLÁR Measure 1 supports a variety of capital projects that contribute to the enhancement of existing, and/or the development of new, accessible community recreation facilities. All community facilities and amenities funded under this programme must, be accessible to all abilities and ages. The Rural Team are supporting three CLÁR Measure 1 Schemes concurrently as follows: CLÁR 2024, (15 projects, 14 completed); CLÁR 2025 (10 Projects are ongoing) and Shortlisting and Assessment for CLÁR 2026 was completed by July 3rd 2026.

CLÁR 2024 PROGRAMME

A total of 15 projects were awarded funding of €724,755 by the Department of Community and Rural Development (DRC) in October 2024 with a completion date of end of June 2026. Members have been advised of progress in monthly report, and it can now be advised that all projects have now been delivered with exception of Killimordaly Community Centre that experienced significant damage in Storm Eyown which CLÁR funding could not address the level of repairs required. The completion of the programme within the overall timeline represents significant effort by the volunteer leaders in each community and consistent support and monitoring from the Rural Team to guide them on effective delivery and draw-down of funding. The areas that benefitted from CLÁR 2024 Scheme are as

follows and Roundstone and Kilchreest are the final projects completing and are detailed in the following table:

Organisation	Reference Number	Project Description
Scoil Mhuire Gan Smal - Ballygar National School	C124G01	Deliver a Multi-Use Games Area within existing boundaries in Village Centre.
Kilchreest National School Board of Management	C124G02	Complete additional 450m of walking track open to the public.
Roundstone Community Development Council Ltd (Playground Committee)	C124G03	Enhance village centre playground to residents and visitors. Introduce Bio-Diversity
Williamstown Development Company CLG, Supported by Williamstown GAA Club & National School	C124G04	Walkway enhancements with lighting, sensory garden and landscaping.
Clonberne Community Centre Co Ltd & SNO Club (Special Needs +Others)	C124G05	Sensory enhancements to cater for Adults with Disabilities and Sensory Needs. In Outdoor Play Space.
Moylough Parish Sports Field	C124G06	Upgrade to Moylough Community Playground
Leenane Development Association CLG	C124G07	Install Sensory play equipment around the internal accessible paths of the Leenane Community Park
Dunmore Tidy Towns & Galway County Council	C124G08	Upgrade and enhance Dunmore River Walk
Clontuskert Community Development Group	C124G09	Upgrade and refurbishment of community rooms and changing facilities at local community pitch
Killimordaly Community Centre CLG	C124G10	Small Scale Renovation and Roof Repairs to existing Community Centre – Could not proceed
Killiererin Community Council	C124G11	Small Scale Community Centre renovation
Woodford Playground Committee	C124G12	Village centre community playground upgrades and additional seating / facilities
Esker Community Centre	C124G13	Small scale renovations (lighting and internal thermal upgrades)
Kilconly Community Recreational Group	C124G14	Add 1 x Tennis Court and 1 x Basketball to Community Recreation Space
Gort Community Playground	C124G15	Install a net climbing frame to upgrade Playground to cater for older children.

ROUNDSTONE COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND

The playground is located in the village centre was granted €50,000 for upgrades under the CLÁR 2024 programme. The total invested in the project was €61,072.85 with the balance of the funds contributed by the Community.

The playground mainly catered for children from preschool through to primary school age, but the swings set and climbing frame also attracted the younger teenagers. The playground was enclosed by a timber fence post with two gates for access which had been in place since the playground was constructed and have now been replaced along with



essential repairs and upgrade to equipment, in time for this coming Tourism season.

ROUNDSTONE COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND – WITH LARGE WOODEN FENCING IN DISREPAIR REPLACED WITH MARINE GRADE STEEL FENCING IN SIGNATURE COLOUR, OPENING UP THE FACILITY FOR SAFETY AND FOR MAXIMISING VIEW FOR USER APPEAL.

KILCHREEST (WALKING TRACK) CLAR 2024 PROGRAMME



Kilchreest National School was granted €50,000 for an extension to the walking track in the school grounds conditional on being accessible to members of the public as per the CLÁR regulations. Kilchreest cost €57,845.29 with the balance funded by the Community in line with CLÁR programme. The project consisted of 700m walking track providing an accessible and safe facility for use by the entire local community including young families, senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Its specification

is such that it is wheelchair useable, and will also cater for young families with buggies, small bikes and scooters.

MAJELLA MOYLAN, SSO RURAL TEAM WITH MEMBERS OF THE PARENTS ASSOCIATION AND SCHOOL TEACHERS AND PUPILS OF THE KILCHREEST NS AT THE WALKING TRACK.



CLÁR 2026 - MEASURE 1 (COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND AMENITIES) APPLICATIONS

Applications were sought by Galway County Council with a closing date of May 15th. 35 Applications were deemed valid and completed and underwent detailed assessment. In total, 16 projects have been shortlisted and submitted to the Department of Community Rural Development & the Gaeltacht seeking grant aid of €973,364, including two Gaeltacht projects (permitted as additional submissions for Galway County). Only two projects may be submitted in the €100,000 category.

The Department is responsible for the final funding decisions and while shortlisting represents progress achieved by the applicant it does not guarantee funding. A funding decision is expected from DRCDG by November 2026. Approved projects will have 18 months for implementation.

In order to qualify projects must be in designated CLÁR areas (which is marked out at District Electoral Division-DED areas) and comply with DRCDG guidelines, be shovel ready and be accessible to people of all ages and abilities where practicable. In 2026, An Cheathrú Rua (DED An Cromptán) was added to the CLÁR area. The following table shows the breakdown of applications completed by MD and the type of projects that were submitted under CLAR 2025.

Municipal District, Galway County Council	No. Of Completed Applications	% of Total Applications
Ballinasloe MD	9	26%
Connemara MD *	7	20%
Loughrea MD	10	28%
Tuam MD	9	26%
Athenry/Oranmore MD	0	
Total	35	

Community Hall	6✓	Playgrounds	5✓
Sensory Garden	3✓	Astro (MUGA)	3✓
Carparks	5✓	Walking Tracks	2 ✓
Community Gym	1✓	Lighting (Internal/External)	4✓
Fencing	1✓	Men's Shed	3✓
Toilet/Showers	2	Total	35

TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME

KILLIMOR STREETSCAPE SCHEME

This take up by local business owners and residents and tenants of this Painting/Shopfront Scheme take up is progressing well. Offers issued to up to the end of June 2026 to 36 Properties with a value of 129,420. Colour Palette Completed in partnership with Dulux. Works in the village are ongoing.

Projects are ongoing also in Leitir Móir, Ahascragh, Portumna, An Fhairce-Clonbur, and a final phase of the Gort Streetscape in Georges Street. The total value of DRCDG grant funding approved over these 6 projects and the PDM is 1, 902,872 which will be expended over the next 18-24 months.



SAMPLE OF SOME RECENT PAINT WORK AND ONGOING WORK IN KILLIMOR VILLAGE UNDER THE TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL STREETSCAPE SCHEME, JUNE 2026



Under the Town and Village Renewal Project Development Measure, Corofin Community Development Association have issued a Request for Quote for the Design for the Upgrade of Canon Oliver Hughes Community Park, further to engagement on the scope with the Rural and Capital Delivery Team. Further to submission they aim to appoint a Consultant over the Summer with Community Engagement session scheduled for the Autumn.

Athenry Community Council have advanced a request for tender for the Design for the Renewal of Canton Hall in Athenry as a Community Multi-purpose Space and are advancing discussion on leasehold. This project further to initial survey works will be advancing to community consultation in September with a view to bring preferred designs to planning in 2027.

RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The 3rd National Outdoor Recreation Conference was hosted by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht alongside Comhairle na Tuaithe and took place in Cavan on 25th June 2026.



Mannion, Executive Engineer and Siobhán Cleary, Administrative Officer attended this year's conference.

The conference brought together people from across Ireland's outdoor recreation sector.



Galway County Outdoor Recreation Plan

Have your say!

Galway County Council is developing a new County Outdoor Recreation Plan, and we want to hear your views.

Join us at a public consultation event near you:

Conamara MD Oughterard Courthouse	Monday 10 th August	Starts at 7pm sharp
Athenry-Oranmore MD Athenry Community Hall	Tuesday 11 th August	Drop in from 2-4pm
Tuam MD Harmony Hall, Bru Bhríde FRC	Tuesday 11 th August	Starts at 7pm sharp
Ballinasloe MD Ballinasloe Family & Community Resource Centre	Wednesday 12 th August	Drop in from 2-4pm
Loughrea MD Temperance Hall, Loughrea	Wednesday 12 th August	Starts at 7pm sharp



Significant progress is being made with the Galway County Outdoor Recreation Plan. Public consultations are scheduled to take place across Galway's 5 Municipal Districts during August 2026, and we would greatly appreciate your input. Locations and dates of the public consultations will be available shortly.

Application forms for the 2026/2027 ORIS Scheme are available on Galway.ie or you can email outdoorrecreation@galwaycoco.ie to request access to the link.



CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

ARTS PLAN 2026-2030

The Draft Arts Plan has been presented at the following:

- Community, Irish Language, Gaeltacht, Tourism & Integration Strategic Policy Committee - 15 June 2026

- Council Members Workshop - 29 June 2026
- Corporate Policy Group – 13 July 2026

With the support of Corporate Services, the Arts Office, arts consultant Jane Daly have worked with Niall Crowley on a Public Sector Equality & Human Rights Duty Impact Assessment of the Arts Plan. Comments and feedback from presentations and Public Sector Duty assessment are being incorporated to the final draft of the Arts Plan for presentation at the July Plenary meeting on 20 July.

CULTURE NIGHT

Our Open Call for Culture Night funding was oversubscribed again this year. The deadline was 28 May; the Arts Office received 63 eligible applications with a total request of €44,329.

€21,000 was awarded to 49 applicants. Event organisers will work through the summer to firm up the details of their events with the support of the Arts Office and our Culture Night Coordinator Ruth Gordon.

The Arts Office are working with Creative Producers, Culture Works for our *Culture Night Late* event in Ballinasloe with support from Ballinasloe Town Hall Theatre. Artists Breda Larkin, Ultan Conlon, Kev Feeney and Linda Schirmer are creating work for audiences to experience. The work is a site-specific tractor parade and outdoor performance at Ballinasloe Square - bringing together comedy, dance, light installation and music - exploring 80 years of agricultural transformation in East Galway.

This year we are also working with partners to bring diverse events to audiences in Baile Chláir, Portumna and Tuam. We invited Cue One to programme a music event in their exemplary Studio 5 in Baile Chláir. We supported Shorelines Arts Festival and Portumna Courthouse to apply for Culture Night Late funding for an event in Portumna.

We applied for EU Presidency Culture Programme funding for an event and exchange between Sparkcatchers! and BROEI in the Netherlands to celebrate and showcase teenage artists work at The Mall Theatre, Tuam.



We look forward to sharing more of our Culture Night programme details closer to the time. For the moment be sure to save the date and support event organisers on Culture Night Friday 18 September.

ARTIST BRED LARKIN

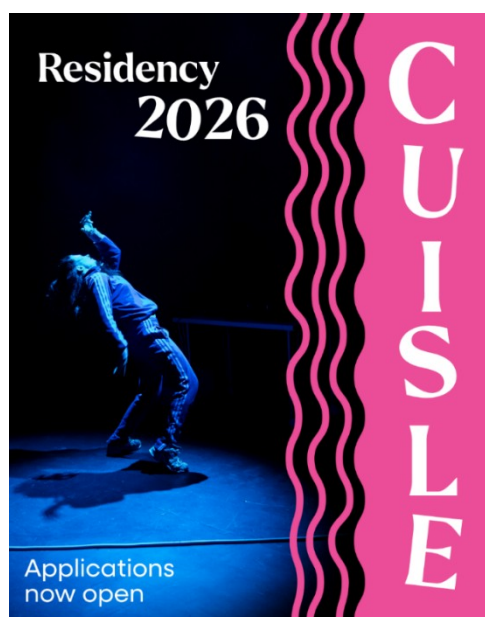
GALWAY THEATRE FESTIVAL CUISLE ARTIST RESIDENCY

Galway Theatre Festival, in partnership with Fishamble: The New Play Company, has opened applications for the 2026 CUISLE Artist Residency, a week-long development opportunity for theatre artists based in or connected to Galway.

Now running for a second year, CUISLE gives artists the space, time and dramaturgical support to develop an idea for the stage. The residency will be facilitated by Gavin Kostick, Literary Manager at Fishamble, with two guest facilitators joining throughout the week, and will take place in Galway.

Artists selected for the residency will receive:

- A €1,000 stipend
- Accommodation with fellow participants
- Support with access costs where needed
- The opportunity to present developed work later in the year, with potential for consideration as part of a future Galway Theatre Festival



Galway Theatre Festival strongly encourages applications from artists working in the Irish language, and from artists from diverse backgrounds and underrepresented communities. Two places are reserved for theatre artists based in Galway County, supported by Galway County Arts Office. Residency dates: 24 to 28 August 2026

Application deadline: 21 July, 5pm

CREATIVE PLACES TUAM UPDATES

Creative Places Tuam has announced an open call for two artists from Tuam or the surrounding areas to participate in a two-week residency programme at Áras Éanna Arts Centre on Inis Oírr during October 2026. These residencies are intended to support artists in developing their creative practice through dedicated time, space, and reflection within the unique environment of the Aran Islands. The opportunity is designed to encourage artistic experimentation, research, connection, and professional development.

The residencies form part of Creative Places Tuam's ongoing commitment to supporting artists and strengthening creative opportunities within Tuam and its surrounding communities.

Deadline Friday 24 July. [Click here for more information](#)

Creative Places Tuam is inviting Expressions of Interest for Tuam Artist Spotlight, a rolling programme that celebrates the wide range of artists and creatives living and working in Tuam and the surrounding areas. This initiative aims to increase the visibility of local creative talent and highlight the vital role artists play in Tuam's cultural life.



Selected artists will be featured in a combination of public and online platforms. This includes a two-week curated window display on Shop Street, an online artist profile shared across Creative Places Tuam's website and social media, and an informal interview inspired by the Proust Questionnaire. Participants will also join the Tuam Artist Roster, which helps inform future exhibitions, events, workshops and other creative opportunities.

The Spotlight is open to artists of all disciplines - visual artists, musicians, writers, filmmakers, performers, community artists and more. No previous exhibition experience is required, and Creative Places Tuam is keen to support creative presentations that suit different practices, including non-traditional formats. [Click here for more information](#)

SOUNDBOARD 121 supports Tuam based artists. Whether you need personalised feedback, career or professional development advice, guidance on a funding application, problem-solving specific creative challenges or just space to figure out your next step, Soundboard 121 offers supportive one-to-one sessions tailored for artists and creatives.

The Creative Places Tuam Coordinators offer 30-minute sessions between 10 AM - 1 PM every third Wednesday of the month. The next offering is Wednesday 15th July 2026.



The sessions take place on Zoom. A link will be sent directly to your email in advance of your booked time.

Booking Link: <https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/b8zj2Mme> or contact info@creativeplacestuam.ie

LOOP SESSIONS is Creative Places Tuam's monthly artist meet-up. Artists from all artforms (musicians, poets, painters, crafters, dancers etc) and career stages are welcome. Bring an instrument, a poem, something you are working on or simply bring yourself.



🎨 Next session: Thursday, 16th July 2026 📅 Every 3rd Thursday of the month

🕒 19:00-21:00 Brownes, The Square, Tuam

Loop Sessions are informal monthly gatherings where creatives can connect, share ideas, and spark collaborations - all in a relaxed, welcoming setting. Teas and coffee provided! Come along, meet your peers, and get inspired.

PUBLIC ART

Visual artist Cathal McCarthy has been meeting with and running workshops with community groups across Baile Chláir as part of research for his permanent sculpture called Unfurl a Galway County Arts Office and OPW Commission managed by Rina Whyte, Public Art Curator.

A series of songwriting workshops has been taking place with students and staff at Coláiste Bhaile Chláir in May and June with support from musicians Padraig Stevens and Leo Moran.



ARTIST CATHAL MCCARTHY MET WITH BAILE CHLÁIR HISTORICAL & CULTURAL SOCIETY ON 04 JUNE.

BIODIVERSITY WALK BAILE CHLÁIR



Artist Cathal McCarthy hosted a biodiversity walk guided by herbalist Sharon Walsh on the 13th June to explore the flora, fauna and native plant life that are inspiring the sculpture. After the walk the artist gave a presentation on the concepts behind the

sculpture and how all the community engagement will feed into the final creation and design.



CREATIVE IRELAND PROGRAMME – OPEN CALL 2026

Earlier this year we ran our annual Open Call for Creative Ireland funding. Out of the 50+ applicants, 25 were funded. Of those 25 successful applicants, 14 were in the ‘Newcomer’ category, meaning they had never applied to Galway County Council to fund creative projects before. Some of these projects have already coming to completion with two listed below.

F I E S T A! – KINVARA COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

Entitled Fiesta! to invoke a celebratory spirit, Kinvara Community Orchestra recently marked its 5th year with a 2-series concert in Kinvara Community Centre. Attended by over 260 audience members and guests, the orchestra presented works which were a culmination of a 12-week artistic process involving 58 musicians. A selection of Mexican polkas, especially arranged by Musical Director Garry O’Briain, alongside the song Postas de Retrocarga from the Mexican border tradition, while the Cuban song Guantanamera provided an opportunity for the audience to join in.

A key artistic element of the programme was the commissioning of a new work, Primeira Luz (First Light), by Brazilian/Galway-based composer Mila Maia (milamaia.com). For this piece the Orchestra was joined by Javi Campos – a Spanish flamenco and fusion guitarist. The programme of work provided an exciting opportunity for the musicians to learn about Latin American music and culture and for the audience to experience the joy and uplifting rhythms of this genre.



LOCAL MUSICIANS PERFORMING
KINVARA COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA'S
FIESTA! TO A FULL HOUSE

SING ALONG SOCIAL NURSING HOME POP-UPS – DAYTIME DISCO

For the third year, Sing Along Social has brought their special brand of music, connection, and craic to Nursing Homes around Conemara. These hugely popular sessions have an incredible impact on patients, healthcare professionals, and the craic mechanics of Sing Along Social. See testimonials;

"Between March and June 2026, we hosted eight daytime discos in four nursing home and care facilities in Connemara. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive from staff and residents, and our facilitators. We continue to be blown away by the impact that our colourful facilitators and the cheerful pop music they play have on the residents and the atmosphere at these facilities. We absolutely can't wait to do more, and we're so grateful to Creative Ireland Galway for enabling us to do this. Seeing people with dementia and cognitive decline responding with laughter, movement, dancing, and even DJing in one case, had such an enormously positive effect on the residents, their family members present, the staff, and our team."

"Thank you so much for coming to the Áras last month, (March 2026) to entertain residents of the nursing home. Once again, your sunny disposition, the choice of music, props and energy was wonderful, with residents/staff/family members participating and enjoying this event. The atmosphere in the room was 'electric' with residents openly getting involved by clapping, swaying to the music, tapping their feet, singing along and getting up to dance. I have received feedback from these family members to say how 'wonderful' and 'uplifting' this event was for them and their loved ones. We so look forward to seeing you again in the Áras later this month. I have been asked by some family members if a date has been set for your return as they wish to join in again! Need I say more!"

SING ALONG SOCIAL'S CRAIC MECHANICS AT ÁRAS COIS
FHARRAIGE, AN SPIDÉAL



This project is an example of Creative Ireland, Galway County's ongoing commitment to ensuring that all the residents of Galway County, regardless of age, location, or ability, are given the same opportunities to explore their creativity in a fun, accessible, and engaging way.

SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL PLAY DAY

National Play Day 2026 was successfully delivered by Galway Sports Partnership in partnership with Galway County Council at Corribdale Park, Oughterard, on Saturday, 11 July. The event embraced the national theme "Play for All", providing a free and inclusive programme of activities for children and families, including Garden Games, Irish Dance, Circus Skills, a Sensory Area, Flag Football, Golf, Orienteering and Face Painting. The event attracted strong participation from local families and created a welcoming environment that encouraged physical activity, creativity, social interaction and community connection. A key strength of the event was its focus on accessibility and inclusion, ensuring that children of all ages and abilities had opportunities to participate and enjoy play in a safe and supportive setting. Feedback from attendees was extremely positive, with families particularly appreciating the variety of activities on offer and the community atmosphere throughout the afternoon. The event successfully promoted the importance of play in supporting children's physical, emotional and social development while strengthening relationships within the local community.

To further extend the impact of National Play Day beyond the event itself, activity packs were distributed to Family Resource Centres across County Galway, supporting disadvantaged children and families who may have faced barriers to attending. These packs provided opportunities for continued play, learning and family engagement within local communities, ensuring that the benefits and message of National Play Day reached a wider audience and reinforced the commitment of Galway Sports Partnership and Galway County Council to promoting inclusive opportunities for all children.



L-R: TOMMY PEOPLES, CLLR THOMAS WELBY, LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, CLLR ANDREW REDDINGTON, CATHAOIRLEACH, NIAL MULVIHILL, RÓNÁN QUINN, MICHAEL OWENS, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES FOR CORPORATE SERVICES, RURAL, COMMUNITY AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION

HEALTHY IRELAND OUTDOOR SWIMMING INFRASTRUCTURE

Galway Sports Partnership, in partnership with Galway County Council, was successful in securing €25,000 through Sport Ireland's Healthy Ireland Outdoor Swimming Infrastructure Grant to support enhancement works at key outdoor recreation locations across the county. The funding will facilitate the installation of a hoist at Longpoint, Loughrea, a swim shelter at the Portumna Swim Area, and a freshwater shower at Trá an Dóilín, improving accessibility, comfort and the overall user experience.

These improvements will support increased participation in outdoor recreation and water-based activities while ensuring that these popular amenities are more inclusive, welcoming and accessible for residents and visitors alike. The investment reflects the ongoing commitment of Galway County Council to developing high-quality outdoor recreation infrastructure that promotes active lifestyles and community wellbeing.



EXAMPLE OF SWIM SHELTER INSTALLED IN TRAUGHT AS PART OF PREVIOUS ROUND OF FUNDING.

BALLINASLOE MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL

Galway Sports Partnership was delighted to support the Ballinasloe Midsummer Festival 2026, contributing to a vibrant community celebration that brought together residents, families and visitors from across the region. Through a range of sport and physical activity opportunities, the festival provided an excellent platform to promote active lifestyles, community participation and social inclusion in a fun and welcoming environment.

The festival generated strong engagement throughout the programme, with participants of all ages taking part in activities and enjoying the family-friendly atmosphere. The event highlighted the value of community festivals in encouraging people to be active, connect with others and experience the benefits of participation in sport and recreation. Galway Sports Partnership's involvement helped raise awareness of local opportunities for ongoing participation while supporting the broader objectives of health, wellbeing and community



development across East Galway.

MICHAEL OWENS, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, CORPORATE SERVICE, RURAL, COMMUNITY, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT & INTEGRATION, CLLR DR EVELYN FRANCIS PARSONS, NIAL MULVIHILL, ANDREW MC BRIDE, GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP.

SHOUT! RAFTING TRIP WITH YOUTH WORK IRELAND GALWAY



During July, Galway Sports Partnership (GSP) delivered its first Women in Sport engagement programme in partnership with SHOUT!, an LGBT+ youth project operated by Youth Work Ireland Galway. SHOUT! provides a safe, supportive and social space for young people aged 13–25 years across the Galway region. Following consultation with the group, rafting on the River Corrib was selected as the activity of choice.

This accessible and inclusive outdoor recreation activity requires no wetsuits and provides an ideal opportunity for team building, confidence development and social connection during the summer months. The programme was delivered in partnership with Galway Rafting on Thursday 16th July, accommodating six youth participants and two group leaders. This initiative represents an important step in broadening Galway Sports Partnership's Women in Sport engagement with

underrepresented groups and creating positive, inclusive opportunities for participation in physical activity.

AQUA AEROBICS PROGRAMME



A six-week Aqua Aerobics programme was delivered in partnership with Swim Ireland and Galway City Partnership at Kingfisher, University of Galway. Twenty women from the Westside and Ballinfoile communities participated free of charge through joint funding from Swim Ireland and Galway Sports Partnership. The programme supported participants to improve their physical health, wellbeing and confidence while increasing engagement with disadvantaged communities.

WOMEN'S LEARN TO CYCLE PROGRAMME

A six-week Learn to Cycle programme was delivered in partnership with An Mheitheal Rothar and Cycling Ireland on the University of Galway campus. The women-focused initiative provided participants with an opportunity to develop cycling skills and confidence in a safe, traffic-free environment. The programme promoted active travel, independence and increased participation in physical activity.

SANCTUARY SWIMMERS PROGRAMME

The Sanctuary Swimmers programme was delivered in partnership with Swim Ireland in Salthill. The six-week programme provided participants from the IPAS community with an inclusive opportunity to develop swimming skills and confidence in an open-water environment.

SANCTUARY PADDLERS PROGRAMME

The Sanctuary Paddlers programme concluded following a successful six-week introduction to kayaking for IPAS participants. Delivered in partnership with Galway Kayak Club, Canoeing Ireland and Galway City Partnership, the programme supported participants to work towards Canoeing Ireland Level 1 proficiency and provided a pathway into local club membership and ongoing participation.

OPEN WATER SWIMMING LESSONS

A second block of Open Water Swimming Lessons was delivered in partnership with Swim Ireland in Salthill and Loughrea. The programme catered for participants of all ability levels, focusing on confidence building, technique development and increased participation in

outdoor swimming. Qualified Swim Ireland coaches and lifeguards delivered the sessions, supported by Galway Sports Partnership through promotion and participant engagement.

CLUB OSAAT (ONE STEP AT A TIME)

July marked a major milestone as Club OSAAT completed its first full year of operations since launching in July 2025. To celebrate, participants completed a series of Padel sessions at Project Padel, delivered via a strategic partnership with Compass and the Western Region Drug and Alcohol Task Force (WRDATF). Research from the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health highlights that racket sports like Padel are highly effective for social rehabilitation due to their low entry barriers and high social interaction.

Additionally, the female participants expanded their activities by commencing horse riding sessions this month, with plans to continue in the future. Studies in *Frontiers in Psychology* confirm that regular equestrian interaction significantly reduces stress levels and improves emotional regulation, directly supporting vulnerable groups in building trust and self-esteem

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

JOYCE COUNTRY & WESTERN LAKES UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS TRAINING COURSE

The Geopark's Tourism Officer attended the International Intensive Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks: Reconsecration, Sustainable Tourism and Local Development, hosted by the University of the Aegean and Lesvos UNESCO Global Geopark in Greece. The course provided valuable insights into international best practice in sustainable tourism, geopark management, visitor dispersal, educational tourism and community engagement. It also strengthened links within the European and Global Geoparks Networks and identified opportunities to further integrate the Irish language and cultural heritage into the visitor experience. The knowledge and examples of best practice gained will inform the development of the Joyce Country & Western Lakes Geopark Tourism Strategy 2026–2030.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Engagement commenced with RUNDA Hospitality & Tourism Solutions regarding the delivery of a Business Development Programme for tourism and hospitality enterprises within the Geopark area, subject to LEADER funding approval. The proposed programme will support up to 20 participants through enterprise development, networking and the creation of new visitor experiences based on the area's natural, cultural and linguistic heritage. It will include a study visit to another Irish UNESCO Global Geopark to observe successful tourism businesses in operation, together with follow-up mentoring in collaboration with the Local

Enterprise Office. The initiative will strengthen the local tourism offering and support sustainable economic development within the Geopark.

HERITAGE DEMONSTRATION

On 16 May 2026, the Geopark supported a traditional iron smelting demonstration in Corr na Móna, delivered by Irish Bloomery Iron. The event provided an engaging interpretation of the area's geological and cultural heritage through a live demonstration of iron production using traditional methods. It attracted strong public interest and highlighted the Geopark's role in delivering educational experiences that connect geology, history and science while enhancing the visitor experience.

These activities demonstrate the Geopark's continued commitment to sustainable tourism development, community engagement and enterprise support. They also strengthen international partnerships, promote the area's unique geological, cultural and linguistic heritage and contribute to the ongoing development of a high-quality visitor experience across the Geopark.



LESVOS COURSE

IRISH BLOOMERY EVENT, CORR NA MONA, CO. GALWAY



TOURISM BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT AND MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES

The Tourism Office continues to support tourism businesses across the county by promoting a wide range of marketing opportunities, business supports, funding programmes, training initiatives and sector updates.

Key promotional opportunities included encouraging businesses to participate in the Good Food Ireland® Best Irish Seafood Experience Award 2026 and to maximise their visibility through Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland by updating business listings, registering for

promotional campaigns and utilising available marketing resources, including the Shoulder Season Toolkit and Content Pool.

The Tourism Office also highlighted opportunities for businesses and communities to engage with national initiatives, including the Census of Social Enterprise, and promoted practical resources such as Fáilte Ireland's Practical Guide to Organising Outdoor Events and Tourism SOS support information for international visitors.

A calendar of festivals, food festivals, arts and cultural events, heritage initiatives and community celebrations taking place throughout the county. These events support destination marketing, encourage visitor dispersal, extend the tourism season and generate economic benefits for local communities.

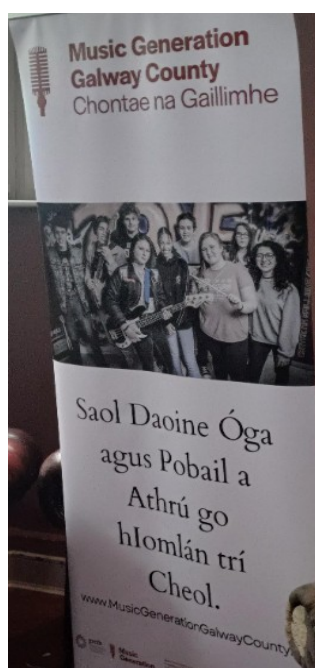
Collectively, these activities support sustainable tourism development, strengthen the visitor economy and provide valuable opportunities for tourism businesses to increase their profile, develop new markets and enhance the overall visitor experience across County Galway.

DUNGUAIRE CASTLE

Further to ongoing engagement and meetings with relevant stakeholders, including the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the Office of Public Works and the Shannon Airport Group, and on account of its exceptional heritage value, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is, with OPW, exploring the acquiring of title of Dunguaire Castle by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The Members will be kept updated on this process.

INTEGRATION



Following recent tragic events at the IPA centre in Clifden, the Integration team have liaised with FORUM Connemara, the Irish Red Cross and the Jesuit Refugee Service to access mental health supports for the residents of the Centre.

We are also engaging with the Children and Young Persons Services Committee and local services to coordinate support for the young residents of the Centre.

Refugee Week was marked across the County in June, with events being delivered by Music Generation, the Make a Difference Club, FORUM Connemara and Gort Resource Centre, supported by Galway County Integration Team. Refugee Week 2026 centred around the theme of "Courage". The nationwide initiative celebrated the resilience of those seeking safety and the compassion of local communities.



HEALTHY COUNTY GALWAY

DEMENTIA CAFÉ PROJECT UPDATE

The Dementia Café Project continues to provide valuable opportunities for people living with dementia, their families and carers to come together in a welcoming and supportive environment.



The recent launch of the Dementia Café at Tearmann Éanna, An Tulach was very well attended, with participation from both carers and people living with dementia. Attendees expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to socialise, connect with others and participate in a range of activities including a breathwork session facilitated by Marion Ní Chonghaile, bun icing, and refreshments including tea and coffee.

The Carna Memory Café was also officially launched and attracted a strong turnout from the local community. Transport was provided to support attendance, ensuring that those who may otherwise have experienced barriers to participation could take part. Staff from Carna Nursing Home also facilitated residents to attend the café, providing an opportunity for meaningful social interaction and community connection. Activities included arts and crafts, music, and light refreshments, all of which contributed to a positive and inclusive atmosphere.

Feedback from participants, carers and families has been very positive, with many highlighting the importance of having a regular local space where people affected by dementia can meet, engage in activities and reduce social isolation. The cafés are helping to strengthen community supports for people living with dementia and their carers across Connemara.



MEN'S HEALTH WEEK 2026

Men's Health Week 2026 was a significant success across County Galway, with strong engagement from men of all ages and backgrounds. A range of wellbeing events and activities took place in Athenry, Clifden, Headford, Clonbur and Maam Cross, providing opportunities for men to connect socially, access information and avail of important health and wellbeing checks and supports, and engage in physical activity.



The events demonstrated the important role that community-based initiatives play in supporting positive mental health and encouraging men to engage with health and wellbeing services in an informal and welcoming environment.

Healthy County Galway also supported the Men's Health Walk, music and lunch in Clonbur



for the Men's Sheds, another event which helped ensure the success of the week's programme. The strong attendance and positive engagement experienced throughout Men's Health Week further underline the demand for initiatives that support men's health and wellbeing at community level.

LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

The Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) continued to progress key actions throughout June, with a focus on structure, research and consultation for the community safety plan. Activity centred on establishing a format for the upcoming public meeting in September, public consultations, promotion of safety survey, the implementation of the Tuam MD Drinking Bye-laws.

ACJRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

Members of the Galway County LCSP pictured with Grainne Berrill, National Director of Community Safety, attended the ACJRD Annual Conference 2026, themed 'Prevention First: Designing Safer Communities from Systems to Streets' in the Aisling Hotel, Dublin. The



conference provided a strong evidence-based overview of modern community safety approaches, with a clear emphasis on prevention, early intervention, and multi-agency collaboration.

The event highlighted the need to move away from reactive responses to crime, focusing instead on addressing root causes such as inequality, social exclusion, and lack of opportunity. It reinforced that effective community safety depends on integrated work across sectors, including policing, health, education, and local authorities.

The conference aligns closely with the development of the Galway County Community Safety Plan. Key implications include:

- Positioning prevention and early intervention as central to the plan
- Strengthening the LCSP as a delivery-focused, multi-agency partnership
- Using existing data to develop focused, evidence-based priorities
- Prioritising youth-focused interventions and targeted area-based actions

Overall, the conference provides a strong foundation to support the LCSP in developing a practical, prevention-led, and collaborative 3-year Community Safety Plan.

PCSA POLICING PRIORITIES 2026–2028

The LCSP Coordinator attended the launch of the PCSA Policing Priorities 2026 – 2028 report which set out the national focus for An Garda Síochána under three core areas:

- Working in partnership to meet community needs
- Providing a consistent, supportive, quality service
- Enabling the frontline through improved systems, resources and training

The PCSA report reinforces the LCSP role as a multi-agency partnership supporting Garda delivery at local level. It also supports development of a prevention-focused, collaborative Community Safety Plan. The report highlights the need for joint responses to local issues, particularly those affecting vulnerable individuals and communities.

The PCSA priorities align closely with the LCSP model and provides a clear framework for partnership-based, locally driven community safety delivery.

PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS & FOCUS GROUPS

During June, LCSP held a public consultation in Clifden aimed at gathering community feedback to inform local safety priorities. As well as focus groups with Older Peoples Council and AkiDwA at their 'Leaving No One Behind' event.

TUAM MD DRINKING BYE-LAWS

The Municipal District of Tuam Control of Consumption and Possession of Alcohol in Public Places Bye-Laws 2026 were formally adopted on 8th June 2026 and came into effect on 7th July 2026.

Signage has been erected in consultation with the Senior Executive Engineer, Community Wardens and An Garda Síochána.

A notification has been published in the local newspapers for public information and to raise awareness of the bye-laws.

The drinking bye-laws are available to view at the Tuam Library and the Tuam MD office.



SERGEANT DENISE KELLEHER, CLLR.
SHAUN CUNNIFFE, CATHAOIRLEACH
OF COUNTY GALWAY AND
CHAIRPERSON OF THE LCSP CLLR.
ANDREW REDDINGTON, TUAM
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CATHAOIRLEACH
CLLR. MARY HOADE, INSPECTOR
STANDISH O'GRADY AND CLLR.
SIOBHAN MCHUGH RYAN.

JACINTA FAHY PHOTOGRAPHY

The Control of Consumption and Possession of Alcohol in Public Places Bye-Laws 2026 have been introduced by Galway County Council following concerns raised around public drinking, anti-social behaviour, littering and the impact on public amenities and community spaces.

The bye-laws originated from a motion brought forward by Councillor Shaun Cuniffe and seconded by Councillor Mary Hoade at a meeting of Tuam MD. The proposal received the support of the Galway County Local Community Safety Partnership and other elected members of Tuam MD.

The process also involved engagement with An Garda Síochána and local communities, with concerns raised around public safety, damage to amenities and the impact on residents, businesses and visitors.

Under the new bye-laws, the consumption of alcohol in designated public places will be prohibited, along with the possession of alcohol where there is an intention to consume it in those areas.

The bye-laws will be enforced by Galway County Council's Community Wardens and An Garda Síochána.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS THIS MONTH

- Increased awareness of the LCSP through public consultations and focus groups
- Continued to contact for various agencies and improve collaboration
- Progress the community safety plan in collaboration with the 'working group'
- Increased visibility of LCSP activities within the community through attending events, sending out introductions emails, and continuous social media content.

ONGOING WORK

- Schedule further public consultations and focus group sessions
- Continue with quality research that will contribute to the community safety plan
- Progress the communication plan to reach broader community audiences
- Support ongoing enforcement and awareness of Tuam MD Drinking bye-laws
- Continue working with the working group to seek a consultant to carry out analysis and progress the community safety plan.

HUMAN RESOURCES, CITY & COUNTY LIBRARIES & ENVIRONMENT

LIBRARY SERVICES

ATHENRY LIBRARY

June was an exceptionally busy and productive month at Athenry Library, with a varied programme of events and activities engaging children, families, schools and adult readers throughout the community.

Our weekly Duplo Freeplay sessions continued every Wednesday morning and remained a popular feature of our early years programme. Attendance averaged between six and eight children each week, providing opportunities for creative play, social interaction and the development of fine motor and problem-solving skills in a welcoming library environment.

As part of Cruinniú na nÓg, Ireland's national day of free creativity for children and young people, Athenry Library hosted two well-attended workshops on Saturday, 6 June.

Participants enjoyed an engaging Origami Workshop, where children learned the art of paper folding and created a variety of colourful designs. This was followed by a Summer

Flower Catchers Workshop, during which families created decorative summer-themed craft pieces. Both events generated great enthusiasm and provided valuable opportunities for children to express their creativity while celebrating the arts.



WORKSHOPS FOR
CRINNIÚ NA NÓG

Our Adult Book Club met on the second Wednesday of the month to discuss *The Authenticity Project* by Claire Pooley. Fourteen members attended an engaging and lively discussion, sharing their perspectives on the novel's themes of friendship, community and personal connection. The group has now commenced its annual summer break and will reconvene in September.

We also welcomed a number of school visits during June. Two classes from Athenry National School, comprising approximately 45 pupils in total, visited the library to learn about the range of resources and services available to them. These visits provided an opportunity to promote reading for pleasure, introduce students to library membership and encourage regular use of the library.

In addition, we welcomed a group of 11 students from a local secondary school. The visit allowed students to explore the library, become familiar with its facilities and resources, and engage with staff in a supportive and inclusive environment.

Overall, June was a vibrant month for Athenry Library, highlighted by strong community participation, successful creative events, active engagement with local schools and continued support for readers of all ages.

BALLYBANE LIBRARY

June brought glorious sunshine to Ballybane, making it possible for our eagerly anticipated school visits to return in full swing. We were delighted to welcome five classes from Scoil Chaitríona, with a total of 119 pupils, as well as 24 pupils from Castlegar NS. Each group enjoyed an engaging storytelling session and an introduction to the many resources, activities and opportunities available through the library. We also continued our weekly visits from the ASD units in Scoil Chaitríona and Merlin Woods. The first two weeks of July are shaping up to be particularly busy, with visits planned from the Special Provision Classes of Castlegar NS, Scoil Chaitríona, Gaelscoil Dara, Radharc na Mara and Merlin Woods.

This month, the Renmore Active Retirement Group is showcasing its wonderful artwork in the library. Their exhibition launch, held on Saturday, 6 June, attracted an audience of more than 40 people and was officially opened by local Councillor Shane Forde.

Our Wednesday Music Generation parent, baby and toddler sessions continue to be a great success, with an impressive total attendance of 237 throughout the month. Meanwhile, our four book clubs—two adult groups, one teen group and one children’s group—enjoyed lively and engaging discussions before taking a summer break. All are looking forward to returning in August.

The Thursday morning *Ciorcal Comhrá* also continues to thrive, meeting weekly at 10am. It has become especially popular with those who are eager to practise their *cúpla focal* but may lack confidence in speaking Irish. Participants are discovering that they are among friends, where mistakes are welcomed with good humour and encouragement. The group continues to grow steadily each week.



June also saw children’s jewellery-making workshops flourish in our Makerspace. Demand proved so strong that additional sessions had to be added, highlighting the enthusiasm and creativity of our young participants.

BRACELET MAKING WORKSHOP IN BALLYBANE LIBRARY

LEABHARLANN NA CEATHRÚN RUA

AN CEART CHUN LÉITHEOIREACHTA

AM SCÉALAÍOCHTA

Bhí dhá am scéalaíochta againn an mhí seo. Bhí an ghnáth Am Scéalaíochta agus Ealaíne againn ar an 20 Meitheamh. Léigh Tara scéal dóibh agus ansin rinne siad éisc as plátaí páipéir.

Ansin, ar an 27 Meitheamh, tháinig Nóirín Ní Cheannabháin (agus a cara Séamasín!) isteach chun am scéalaíochta speisialta a dhéanamh. Bhain na páistí an-spraoi as na scéalta greannmhara a d’inis Nóirín dóibh. Bhí neart gáire acu!

CUAIRTEANNA EILE Ó SCOILEANNA & GRÚPAÍ ÁITIÚLA

Bhí cuairteanna rialta an mhí seo againn ón mbunscoil áitiúil, ó na scoileanna speisialta agus na heagraíochtaí cúraim. Bhí na ranganna ón scoil ag tabhairt na leabhair ar ais agus iad ag fáil réidh do laethanta saoire an tsamhraidh. Freisin, chuir muid fáilte roimh Naíonáin Bheaga ó Scoil Mhic Dara ar an 19 Meitheamh. Ní raibh cuid acu ag an leabharlann ariamh cheana! Tá súil againn iad a fháiltiú isteach arís sa mbliana scoile nua.

Bhí áthas orainn an mhí seo fáilte a chur roimh ranganna ó Scoil Mhuire, An Tuairín ar an 18 Meitheamh. Thug na Naíonáin, Rang a hAon agus Rang a Dó cuairt ar an leabharlann. Bhí Am Scéalaíochta acu le Tara agus ansin chuaigh siad ag brabhsáil. Bhí 43 duine againn don chuairt.

Bhí cuairt againn freisin ó ghrúpa as campa samhraidh as Leitir Móir ar an 23 Meitheamh.

Bhí cuairt againn freisin ó campa samhraidh as Leitir Mealláin ar an 25 Meitheamh. Rinne siad leabharmharcanna i seisiún ealaíne, agus bhí spraoi acu ag déanamh tóraíocht taisce i rannóg na bpáistí. Bhí 18 duine againn.

ÉIRE SHLÁINTIÚIL/SCILEANNA DON SAOL

ÍOGA DO CHÚRAMÓIRÍ

Bhí Sinéad McKiernan anseo ar maidin gach Máirt chun séisiúin íoga a chur ar fáil do chúramóirí, tuismitheoirí agus daoine atá ag obair mar SNA. Bhain na mná a tháinig ag na seisiúin tairbhe astu. Beidh briseadh beag acu, ach tosaíodh na seisiúin arís i lár mí Iúil. Buíochas ó chroí leis an Galway Autism Partnership a chur an maoiniú ar fáil.

SCÉALTA EILE

CRUINNÍÚ NA NÓG

Spreagadh na páistí chun teacht chuig Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua ar an 6 Meitheamh le dhá ócáid speisialta do Chruinniú na NÓg.

Bhí an t-ealaíontóir Lauren Lee linn ar maidin chun ceardlann ealaíne a réachtáil. Bhí ar na gasúir greannáin a dhearadh bunaithe ar an lá is fearr a d'fhéadfadh a bheith acu. Bhain na healaíontóirí óga sult as an seisiún. Bhí ochtar i láthair.

Ansin sa tráthnóna bhí Sinéad McKiernan sa leabharlann chun ceardlann aireachais a chur ar siúl do pháistí idir 5 agus 8 mbliana d'aois. Thosaigh an grúpa le gníomhaireachtaí séimh agus ansin rinne na páistí beagán dathú. Bhain siad an-taitneamh as. Bhí ochtar i láthair.

RIGHT TO READ

STORYTIME

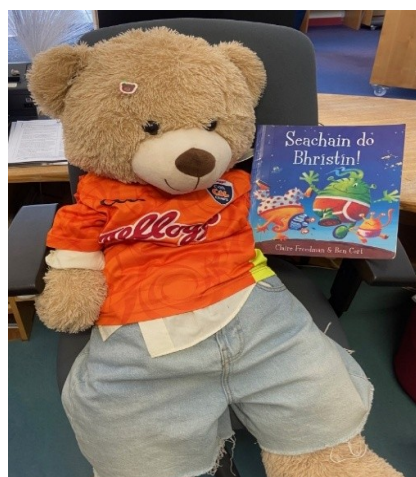


We had two storytime events this month. We had our normal storytime and art session on June 20th. Tara read a story and then the children made fish out of paper plates.

NA HÉISC A RINNEADH AG AM SCÉALAÍOCHTA AGUS EALAÍNE/ COLOURFUL FISH WHICH WERE MADE AT A STORYTIME AND ARTS SESSION

On June 27th, Nóirín Ní Cheannabháin (and her friend Séamasín!) came to do a special storytime. The children had great fun with the funny stories Nóirín told them. There was plenty of laughter!

SÉAMASÍN AN TEIDÍ/SÉAMASÍN THE TEDDY



VISITS FROM SCHOOLS AND OTHER GROUPS

We had regular visits this month from the local primary school, from the special schools and care groups. The school classes were all bringing books back as they prepared for the summer holidays. Also, we welcomed Junior Infants from Scoil Mhic Dara on June 19th. Some of them had never been to the library before! We are looking forward to welcoming them back to the library in the new school year.

We were happy to welcome classes from Scoil Mhuire, An Tuairín on June 18th. Junior Infants, Senior Infants, First Class and Second Class all came to visit the library. They had storytime with Tara and then they went browsing. We had 43 in for the visit.

We had a visit from a summer camp from Leitir Móir on June 23rd.

We also had a visit from a summer camp from Leitir Mealláin on June 25th. They made bookmarks in an art session and had great fun doing a scavenger hunt while browsing in our children's section.



AG DÉANAMH
LEABHARMHARCANNA LE
GASÚIR ÓN CAMPA
SAMHRAIDH I LEITIR
MEALLÁIN/ MAKING
BOOKMARKS WITH
CHILDREN FROM THE
SUMMER CAMP IN LEITIR
MEALLÁIN

HEALTHY IRELAND/SKILLS FOR LIFE

YOGA FOR CARERS

Sinéad McKiernan was here every Tuesday morning to provide yoga sessions for carers, parents and SNAs. The women who came said they benefited a lot from the sessions. They'll have a short break, but the sessions will start again in mid-July. Many thanks to the Galway Autism Partnership who provided the funding.

OTHER NEWS

CRUINNÍÚ NA NÓG

Children were encouraged to visit Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua on the 6th of June, with two lovely events running for Cruinniú na nÓg.



Artist Lauren Lee was with us in the morning to run an art workshop. The children designed comics based on the best day they could possibly have. The young artists very much enjoyed the event.

During the afternoon, Sinéad McKiernan ran a mindfulness workshop for children between the ages of 5 and 8. The group started with gentle movement and then the children did some colouring. They had a great time.

EACHTRAÍ DO CRINNIÚ NA NÓG/ EVENTS TO CELEBRATE CRINNIÚ NA NÓG

CLIFDEN LIBRARY

June marks the first anniversary of My Open Library in Clifden Library. The Leaving Certs of 2026 continued to utilize the service during the Leaving Cert examinations. Parents have mentioned how beneficial My Open Library service was for their child, allowing them access to a quiet, safe and comfortable environment to study. We look forward to welcoming more students next September.

A sunny June in Clifden started with our Cruinníú Na nÓg event. Lynn Saoirse joined us and filled the library with music and stories. After Storytime there was an interactive music element where children got to experiment with musical instruments which they really enjoyed, especially the harp.

We were thrilled to start handing out the fun filled Summer Stars reading adventure pack, and we look forward to seeing the filled in workbooks.

The library facilitated a public consultation for the Galway County Council Community Safety

Team. The purpose of the survey carried out on the day was to gather feedback directly from the community to help inform future planning and actions to improve safety and wellbeing locally.



Later in June, to celebrate Summer Stars, we held a paper craft event. It was wonderful to see all the creative juices flowing. There were some amazing creations and lots of laughter which is always good to hear. We learned you can never have enough glitter glue!

LEAVING CERTIFICATE STUDENTS AVAILING OF MY OPEN LIBRARY ACCESS



GALWAY CITY LIBRARY



Galway City Library hosted a Europe Direct event 'Gardening for Biodiversity & Wellbeing'. The session focused on growing in small spaces such as balconies or small gardens, and supporting biodiversity through plant choice, building bee and insect hotels, and attracting birds.

GARDENING FOR DIVERSITY AND WELLBEING- EVENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EUROPE DIRECT

Students from the Galway Adult Basic Education Service attended a presentation on Galway Public Libraries language resources for individuals who use English as a second language. The students comprised adults from Ukraine, Brazil, France, and Italy. The students all signed up for library cards and will be using library



resources such as Transparent Language, Libby, Borrowbox, and Universal Class, as part of their summer learning, and language skills development.



STUDENTS FROM
GALWAY ADULT
BASIC EDUCATION
SERVICE ON A VISIT
TO GALWAY CITY
LIBRARY

The *Stop Dreaming, Start Writing* workshop funded by Creative Ireland, and facilitated by author Órfhlaith Foyle, commenced on 23 June. This 5-week series will bring novice writers from conception of an idea to producing a finished 500-word piece.

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP FUNDED BY CREATIVE IRELAND CREATIVE COMMUNITIES

The *Creative Re-use*
Slow Stitching
workshops with artist
Joyce Little
commenced with an



introduction to textile-waste and the importance of re-using fabrics and other materials. The series will teach participants to upcycle old clothing in creative ways.



SLOW
STITCHING
WORKSHOP
FUNDED BY
CREATIVE
IRELAND
CREATIVE
COMMUNITIES

Summer Stars
workshops for

the month of June included an Ozobots workshop, teaching children how to code using mini-robots, mandala painting, and air-clay workshop.



SUMMER STARS
WORKSHOPS-
MANDALA PAINTING
AND AIR-CLAY
CREATIONS



HEADFORD LIBRARY

June was a highly active and successful month at Headford library, highlighted by our engaging Cruinniú na nÓg celebrations. We were thrilled to host two fantastic events for the National Day of Creativity, featuring wonderful sessions with artist Kathy Ross and author Katherine Scanlon. Additionally, we welcomed a local preschool group for a special library visit, introducing our youngest patrons to the joy of reading. The momentum continued



throughout the month as we kicked off our summer initiatives, resulting in a fantastic surge of registrations for the Summer Stars reading programme.

ART WORKSHOP WITH ARTIST KATHY ROSS

VISIT BY LOCAL PRESCHOOL FOR CRINNIÚ NA NÓG



WORKSHOP WITH GALWAY AUTHOR KATHERINE SCANLON

LOUGHREA LIBRARY

June was an exceptionally busy and rewarding month in Loughrea Library, with a strong emphasis on literacy, creativity, community engagement and intergenerational participation. The library welcomed a wide range of visitors throughout the month, from preschool children experiencing the library for the first time to established book club members, craft enthusiasts and community groups who continue to make the library a vibrant and welcoming space.

A significant part of the month was devoted to supporting reading and literacy through our Right to Read activities. We were delighted to welcome numerous classes from local schools, particularly from St. Ita's National School, whose pupils visited the library throughout the month. These visits gave children the opportunity to explore the library environment, discover new books, learn about library services and develop positive connections with reading. Younger pupils enjoyed specially tailored storytime sessions led by library staff, where stories, conversation and imaginative play created a relaxed and enjoyable introduction to the world of books. We were also pleased to welcome children from Bullaun National School and a Summer Provision group from Kilnadeema, who spent time enjoying LEGO, board games and other engaging activities. These visits continue to play an important role in fostering a lifelong love of reading and ensuring that children view the library as a place of learning, creativity and enjoyment.

June concluded with another meeting of the Loughrea Library Book Club, which remains a valued and active part of our adult programme. The gathering provided members with the opportunity to share opinions, exchange insights and enjoy thoughtful discussion in a

welcoming and relaxed environment. The monthly book club continues to attract readers who appreciate the social aspect of reading and the opportunity to discover a wide variety of authors and genres.

The highlight of the month was undoubtedly Cruinniú na nÓg, which transformed the library into a lively centre of creativity, storytelling and play. Throughout the day, families dropped in to enjoy free-play LEGO and DUPLO activities, while board games provided opportunities for children and adults to play together, collaborate and socialise. A particularly memorable feature of the programme was *Scéal agus Ceol* with Julie Anne De Brún, which combined storytelling and music through the Irish language. The session created a warm and engaging atmosphere and offered children and families a fun and accessible way to experience Irish culture, language and creativity.



SCÉAL AGUS CEOL LE JULIE ANNE DE BRÚN

ELVES AND FAIRIES WORKSHOP TO CELEBRATE CRINNIÚ NA NÓG

Also proving hugely popular was the enchanting Elves and Fairies Workshop presented by Rachel Allkins of *Away with the Fairies*. The library was filled with imagination as children immersed themselves in a magical world of creativity, storytelling and artistic exploration.



BOOK ART MONSTERS WORKSHOP WITH HAYLEY ALDOUS

Later in the day, participants enjoyed the Book Art Monsters Workshop with Hayley Aldous, where old books were transformed into imaginative creations, encouraging children to see books and art in entirely new ways. The success of all three events highlighted the continued appetite for high-quality cultural and creative programming within the community.



Our regular Family Time at the Library activities continued throughout June, providing families with informal opportunities to spend time together in a welcoming and educational

environment. Storytime sessions encouraged a love of books and language from an early age, while LEGO and DUPLO play fostered creativity, problem-solving and social interaction. Board game afternoons and family gaming sessions added another dimension to the programme, creating opportunities for people of all ages to connect, collaborate and enjoy leisurely time together. These activities continue to demonstrate the importance of the library as a shared community space where learning and recreation go hand in hand.

Supporting older members of the community remains a key priority for Loughrea Library, and our Age Friendly initiatives continued to provide meaningful opportunities for engagement and social connection throughout the month. The weekly adult craft group offered participants a chance to develop creative skills, share ideas and enjoy conversation in a relaxed setting. These sessions have become an important social outlet for attendees and contribute significantly to community wellbeing.

Building on this commitment to social inclusion, the library also hosted a Community Social Morning, inviting people to drop in for conversation, refreshments and companionship. Visitors enjoyed time chatting, reading newspapers, tackling crosswords and playing games, highlighting the library's growing role as a welcoming community hub where people can connect informally and combat social isolation. The event reinforced the importance of accessible public spaces that encourage interaction, friendship and a sense of belonging.

The library was also delighted to host a new exhibition developed by YouthWorks Ireland Galway. The *Younger and Louder Photography Programme* exhibition showcases the talents and perspectives of local young people through a striking collection of photographs. The display brings colour, creativity and youthful energy to the library space and provides an excellent platform for emerging photographers to share their work with the wider community. The exhibition will remain on display throughout July, offering visitors an opportunity to appreciate the creativity and achievements of young people in the area.

Overall, June was a month characterised by strong community engagement, vibrant cultural activity and meaningful educational experiences. From school visits and family programmes to creative workshops, book discussions, social initiatives and exhibitions, Loughrea Library continued to provide an inclusive and welcoming environment where people of all ages can learn, connect, create and participate in community life. The breadth and variety of activities delivered throughout the month demonstrate the library's continuing role as a dynamic cultural and social resource at the heart of the community.

ORANMORE LIBRARY

Oranmore Library has been a hive of activity in June. We hosted all our regular events; Storytime, DUPLO morning, LEGO workshops, Reading Clubs for Adults, our new Children's Comic Book Club, Poetry Reading Group in addition to celebrating Cruinniú na nÓg and launching the Summer Stars Reading Programme.

We hosted 2 Arts & Crafts Workshops at Oranmore Library for Cruinniú na nÓg; Marbling Art and Natural Art both facilitated by Aoife Munn. The children really enjoyed these workshops and engaged with the process, learning new skills and having lots of fun!



MARBLING ART WORKSHOP FOR CRINNIÚ NA NÓG

NATURAL ART WORKSHOP WITH ARTIST AOIFE MUNN



Staff member, Jayme created this fantastic display aided by young artists, to celebrate the launch of the Summer Stars Reading Programme. Children can come into Oranmore Library and take a photo with our butterfly wings, transforming from caterpillar into butterfly!

The first meeting of our new Children's Comic Book Club was held on June 10th from 3.30-4.30pm. Staff members Anne Marie and Heather organised this event. The children discussed two comic books and completed some related activities as well. It was a great success. We have been inundated with queries about joining this Book Club since. Numbers are limited and we have created a waiting list.



The Marine Institute based in Oranmore very kindly gave us Activity Packs for children to mark World Ocean Day. Staff members created this display to highlight the occasion.



DISPLAY TO MARK WORLD OCEAN DAY



DISPLAY TO
CELEBRATE CARERS'
WEEK



MEN'S HEALTH WEEK, JUNE 15TH -21ST WAS HIGHLIGHTED
BY A BOOK DISPLAY CREATED BY STAFF.



LIGHT READING FOR
THE SUMMER

PORTUMNA LIBRARY

June was another lively and colourful month at Portumna Library, with something happening for every age group and interest!

Our Ciorcal Comhrá continues to thrive, bringing together Irish speakers and learners on the second Tuesday of each month for a relaxed and welcoming hour of *craic, comhrá agus tae*. Whether fluent or just starting out, everyone is encouraged to join the conversation in this friendly, age-friendly setting.

As part of Cruinniú na nÓg, we were delighted to host three fully booked Arts & Crafts workshops with Laurie from *The Learning Garden*. Young participants got creative, explored their artistic talents, and left with plenty of colourful creations and happy memories.

Early in the month, we welcomed a visit from Derryhober Preschool, whose enthusiastic young visitors enjoyed discovering the library, exploring books and sharing stories together.

Our adult Book Club gathered once again for a lively discussion on *Old God's Time* by Sebastian Barry. The novel sparked thoughtful conversations and plenty of differing viewpoints, making for a particularly engaging session.

The ever-popular Corrib Coding workshops continued throughout June, with young coders enjoying hands-on opportunities to learn new digital skills in a fun and supportive environment.

Our Community Jigsaw Table remains one of the library's most unexpected successes! A challenging 1,000-piece puzzle has attracted a steady stream of contributors, with visitors regularly stopping by to place a few pieces and see how the picture is progressing.

Fridays continue to be buzzing with activity, featuring Freeplay LEGO and DUPLO sessions, along with story times whenever staffing allows. These informal sessions provide a wonderful space for creativity, imagination and play.

Visitors of all ages can also enjoy a wide variety of everyday activities, including puzzles, word searches, colouring sheets and other self-guided challenges that make every library visit a little different.

Our well-used Games Shelf has become a gathering point for many library users, encouraging social interaction, friendly competition and new connections among visitors.

We always enjoy welcoming the members and staff of Ability West's Portumna Hub, whose weekly visits bring great energy and enthusiasm to the library. Their continued engagement is a valued part of our weekly routine.

Our Print Service remains in high demand and continues to introduce new visitors to the library. Many people who first come through our doors to print, scan or photocopy often discover all the other services and resources available to them.

June also saw two enjoyable Summer Provision visits from Portumna National School and Kilbarron National School. Pupils took part in a range of activities including colouring, games, LEGO and DUPLO building, with plenty of smiles and laughter throughout the visits.

Above all, it's wonderful to see the library continuing to fulfil its role as a free, welcoming and inclusive community space—somewhere people can drop in without an appointment, spend time with others, learn something new, or simply enjoy a quiet moment. Whatever the reason for visiting, there's always a place for everyone at Portumna Library.

TUAM LIBRARY

June was another busy and engaging month at Tuam Library, with a wide variety of activities bringing members of the community through our doors every week. Our popular regular programmes continued to thrive, creating welcoming spaces for people of all ages to learn, connect and enjoy library life. Weekly Baby and Toddler Rhyme Times delighted our youngest visitors and their parents, while Storytimes encouraged primary school children to discover the joy of reading and imagination. Adult craft sessions provided opportunities for creativity and social connection, and our Saturday Lego Free Play sessions remained a favourite with children who eagerly gathered to build, create and collaborate.

Reading and lifelong learning continued to flourish through our established book clubs. Two adult book clubs and our young adult reading group met regularly throughout the month, generating lively discussions around books, ideas and shared experiences. We were also pleased to host the monthly breastfeeding support group, facilitated by the Tuam Public Health Nurse, which provides a valuable source of information and support for local families.

June also saw a welcome increase in school engagement, with eight visits from local primary and secondary schools. These visits gave students the opportunity to explore library resources, discover new books and learn more about the many services available to them. Beyond the library walls, staff member Margaret Garvey continued her invaluable outreach work, delivering books to housebound patrons and ensuring that access to reading and library services remains available to members of the community who cannot visit in person.

Music lovers gathered on 25th June for another successful instalment of **Soundbites**, Tuam Library's monthly community music event. With an audience of 15 attendees, the event once again showcased the power of music to bring people together, providing an enjoyable and relaxed evening of entertainment and community spirit.

A particularly memorable visit took place when Tuam Educate Together's **"NEWSIES"** team visited the library. The group of budding young journalists, who produce their school's magazine, spent time exploring the library, learning about its services and discovering the



many resources available to support reading, research and creativity. Inspired by their experience, the students went on to write an article about their visit for publication in their school magazine, helping to share the value of the library with an even wider audience.

'NEWSIES' TEAM OF ASPIRING JOURNALISTS FROM TUAM EDUCATE TOGETHER

Local history enthusiasts gathered at the library on the evening of 4th June when the Old Tuam Society hosted a fascinating lecture by Martin Curley. Drawing on the recently released 1926 Census, Martin explored the lives and stories of people from Tuam and the surrounding areas a century ago. The event attracted 29 attendees and sparked considerable interest and discussion among those present, highlighting the community's enduring connection to its local heritage and history.

MEMBERS OF THE OLD TUAM SOCIETY



As part of the national Cruinniú na nÓg celebrations on 6th June, Tuam Library hosted two imaginative and inspiring events for children and young people. The first was a storytelling and creative writing workshop led by local children's author Katherine Scanlon. Through engaging storytelling activities and writing exercises, participants were encouraged to



develop their creativity, explore their imaginations and express themselves through words.

STORYTELLING WITH KATHERINE SCANLON

The celebrations continued with the colourful and engaging multidisciplinary workshop “Welcome to the Land of Breda”, facilitated by Ana Aguilar Estrada. Combining art, storytelling and creativity, the workshop invited children to enter a magical world of imagination where stories came to life through artistic expression. Fifteen children participated enthusiastically, creating artwork, sharing ideas and immersing themselves in a unique creative experience that perfectly captured the spirit of Cruinniú na nÓg.

Overall, June was a month filled with learning, creativity, culture and community engagement at Tuam Library. From supporting early literacy and fostering a love of reading,



to celebrating music, local history and children's creativity, the library continued to serve as a vibrant hub where people of all ages could gather, learn, connect and be inspired.

WELCOME TO THE LAND OF
BREDÁ

WESTSIDE LIBRARY

WESTSIDE LIBRARY

June was a busy and community-focused month at Westside Library, with activities promoting literacy, creativity, inclusion, environmental awareness, and lifelong learning. Through a varied programme of events and partnerships, the library welcomed people of all ages and backgrounds, continuing to strengthen its role as a vibrant community hub. As the school year ended and some regular groups' programmes paused for their summer break, the month also provided an opportunity to celebrate achievements, recognise ongoing engagement, and look forward to their return in the autumn.

We were delighted to welcome 1st Class pupils from Scoil Bhríde, Shantalla for their final visit before the summer holiday, one of our regular visitors throughout the year. As a special surprise, the children brought handmade thank-you cards for library staff, a thoughtful gesture that was greatly appreciated and a lovely way to mark the end of their visits for the school year.



PUPILS FROM
FIRST CLASS
SCOIL BHRÍDE ON
FINAL VISIT
BEFORE SUMMER
HOLIDAYS

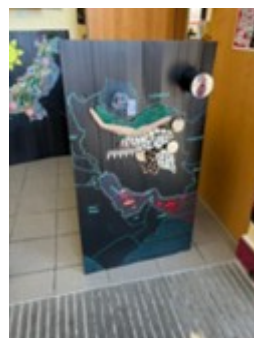
SEVERAL ARTS-BASED INITIATIVES TOOK PLACE DURING THE MONTH.

Westside Library hosted the "Favourite Memories, Future Dreams" art workshops with 2nd Class pupils from Scoil Bhríde, Shantalla. Part of this year's Westside Arts Festival, this 2-part project encouraged creativity, imagination, and personal expression, with the children producing impressive artwork inspired by their memories and aspirations. A special thank you to Anna Rozanska-Batra and the pupils for the enthusiasm, creativity, and hard work they brought to the project. We look forward to seeing the finished pieces showcased as part of the Westside Arts Festival.



"FAVOURITE
MEMORIES, FUTURE
DREAMS", ART
WITH PUPILS FROM
SECOND CLASS
SCOIL BHRÍDE

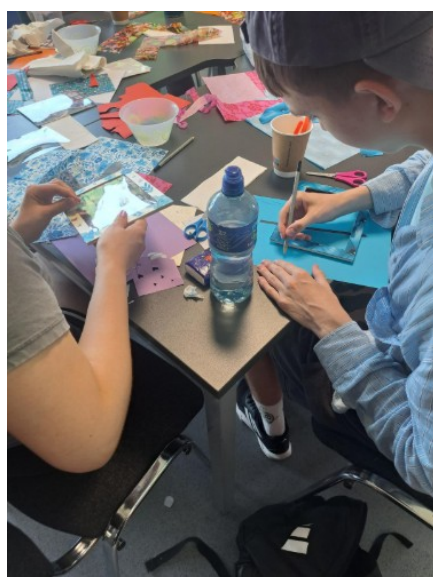
A three-part series of workshops was also delivered for groups participating in the Climate Inspirations Festival, using art as a medium to explore environmental themes and community action.



WORKSHOPS AS PART OF THE CLIMATE INSPIRATIONS FESTIVAL

Secondary Students from Coláiste Muire Máthair took part in a picture frame decoupage workshop, developing artistic skills in a fun and collaborative setting.

STUDENTS FROM COLÁISTE MUIRE MÁTHAIR PARTICIPATING IN A DÉCOUPAGE WORKSHOP





The library also welcomed "Brush Strokes", a new exhibition by Tuam artist Brendan McHugh. The collection features 11 artworks created during Brendan's recovery following a stroke, exploring themes inspired by his hospital experience alongside influences from horror and science fiction. Developed through his participation in the Saolta Arts programme, the exhibition was previously showcased in the Arts Corridor at University Hospital Galway and offers a powerful insight into the role of creativity in recovery and personal expression.

Supporting wellbeing and personal development remained a priority throughout June. In partnership with Europe Direct, the library hosted a 'Gardening for Biodiversity and Well-Being' event, highlighting the benefits of sustainable gardening practices for both the environment and personal wellbeing.

GARDENING FOR BIODIVERSITY AND WELLBEING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EUROPE DIRECT



The library also commenced the "Your Money, Your Future" programme, a comprehensive series of workshops, delivered by Evelyn Cormican (Blueprint Coaching) which provides participants with practical knowledge and skills to support informed financial decision-making and personal wellbeing. Held in Westside Library and Loughrea Family Resource Centre as part of the Skills for Life initiative, this programme is funded by the Collaboration and Innovation Fund and Galway County Council and delivered in partnership with Galway Rural Development and Galway City Partnership.



"YOUR MONEY, YOUR FUTURE PROGRAMME" PART OF THE SKILLS FOR LIFE INITIATIVE

Westside Library continued to strengthen relationships with diverse community groups and local organisations. The library hosted a committee meeting of the Galway Filipino Irish Community, supporting community connection and engagement. The monthly meeting of Grúpa Tuismitheoirí agus Leanaí, facilitated by Julie Ann De Brún, provided an important opportunity for Irish-language family engagement and peer support.

In partnership with The Bridge Project, we marked World Refugee Day with a special community celebration inspired by this year's theme of courage. To explore this theme in an engaging and memorable way, families had the opportunity to meet a variety of animals at a mini zoo, including lizards, millipedes, tarantulas, snakes, owls, rabbits, and tortoises. For many participants, it was a chance to step outside their comfort zone, try something new, and experience courage first-hand.

The event also featured face painting, balloon twisting, and plenty of fun and laughter in the sunshine. With over 200 attendees representing a wide range of nationalities, the day was a vibrant celebration of diversity, inclusion, and community spirit.



WORLD REFUGEE DAY IN WESTSIDE LIBRARY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BRIDGE PROJECT

ENVIRONMENT

BURIAL GROUNDS

BURIAL GROUND MAINTENANCE GRANT SCHEME 2026

The Burial Ground Maintenance Grant Scheme for 2026 is now open for applications from voluntary burial ground committees and community groups throughout the county. The aim of this funding scheme is to acknowledge and support voluntary activity in the

maintenance of local burial grounds in the ownership of Galway County Council. The scheme contributes to the day-to-day expenses of keeping a burial ground tidy and grants will range from €250 to €2,500. Committees have been notified of this year's Scheme by email and post as well as via the PPN Member Groups and Elected members and further details are also available on our website. The closing date for receipt of applications is 30 September 2026.

All applications are subject to an assessment process, which will consider issues such as the number of burial grounds maintained by the applicant, level of voluntary activity and sustainability of expenditure. Policy alignment will also be an important consideration, particularly in historic graveyards, where a sensitive, low-intervention approach can help protect and enhance their unique character. This includes preserving valuable features such as wildlife habitats along hedgerows and walls, as well as promoting native grasses and wildflowers, thereby supporting biodiversity and the natural heritage of these sites.

BURIAL GROUND IMPROVEMENT WORKS 2026

The Burial Grounds Improvement Grants Scheme was introduced in 2026 to facilitate works at burial grounds which are outside of the remit of the annual maintenance grants, with a particular focus on works that enhance accessibility and safety. The Burial Ground Engineering Team is currently engaging with six local committees/groups and their appointed contractors to progress improvement projects at Abbeyknockmoy, Annaghdown, Cill Chiaráin, Clonbern, Kilclooney (Tuam), Killalaghton and Woodford cemeteries, with a view to achieving completion of all works by November 2026.

DOG CONTROL

PROMOTION OF RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

741 dog licences were purchased during the month of June, 522 of which were purchased at local post offices. 4,532 licences have been purchased year to date.

Our dog warden service carried out responsible dog ownership campaigns in a number of housing estates in the Athenry and Tuam areas during the month of June.

The Council continues to partner with MADRA on Millie's Fund, the neutering scheme for both male and female dogs in the county. This scheme has made a significant contribution to preventing unwanted litters throughout County Galway, promoting responsible dog ownership and animal welfare. The scheme continues to receive a strong level of interest, with 55 applications submitted by dog owners across the County to date in 2026.

DOG CONTROL & ENFORCEMENT

Four fixed penalty notices were issued by the Council's dog warden service during the month of June. 29 fixed penalty notices have been issued year to date by the dog wardens,

with 4 paid in full, 7 partially paid through agreed payment plans with files sent to the law agents to initiate legal proceedings in respect of 4 unpaid fixed penalty notices. The remainder of the notices issued are being processed through the system.

Galway County Council dog warden service attended Tuam District Court on 9th June last in relation to an outstanding fixed penalty notice issued for an offence under the Control of Dogs Act 1986 As Amended. The matter was subsequently struck out with no order by the judge.

With the announcement of an increase in fines for dog fouling from 1st September 2026, Galway County Council has been notified of a new fund financed through the Circular Economy Fund, aimed at supporting local authorities to improve dog fouling infrastructure at public amenities such as beaches, parks, greenways and other public locations regularly used by dog walkers. The Environment Department will liaise with all stakeholders to prepare a funding proposal for submission to DCCE (Department of Climate Energy and the Environment) by 1st September 2026.

DOG SHELTER

Eight dogs came through the Council's dog warden shelter during the month of June.

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING & ENFORCEMENT

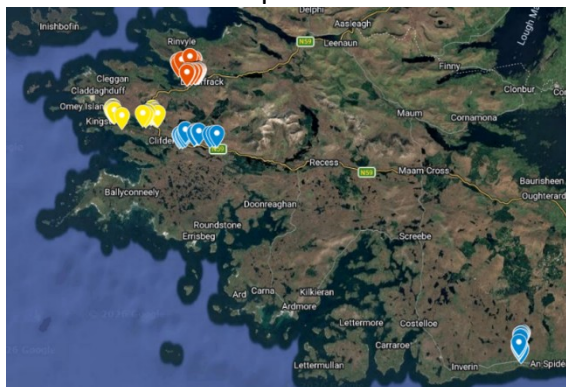
LITTER ENFORCEMENT

Four fines were issued by the Council's Community Warden service for offences under the Litter Pollution Act during the month of June. 82 fines under the Act have been issued in the year to date with 40 paid in full, 3 being paid through agreed payment plans, 11 referred to the law agent to initiate legal proceedings and a further 19 still being processed through the system. A litter case appeared before the Courts in June 'for mention'. There was no appearance by the defendant, and the case was adjourned for hearing until the 26th November.

WATER POLLUTION MONITORING & ENFORCEMENT

A Section 10 Court Order under the Water Pollution Act was served on the owner of a business discharging wastewater without any wastewater treatment facilities. This case had been in court after a Notice under Section 12 had not been complied with. Our enforcement officer requested that a Court Order be issued also as this orders activity to cease so that wastewater is no longer being generated. Vehicle washing, etc. has stopped on site since this order was served.

87 septic tank inspections were carried by Galway County Council inspectors under the National Inspection Plan at the end of May into June. Following this all the inspections were uploaded to the EPA portal EDEN. 51 advisory notices were issued in June to all households whose septic tanks or Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems failed the inspection. The notice issued outlined the specific reasons for failure, the measures required and a timeframe for compliance with the notice. The remaining 36 households were issued with a



Certificate of Compliance as their Septic tanks or Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems were compliant on the day of the inspection.

AREAS WHERE SEPTIC TANKS WERE INSPECTED IN MAY/JUNE 2026

CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

The annual EPA Water Conference took place in the Galway Bay Hotel on the 17th and 18th June. Much of the conference focused on catchment management, with talks including:

- Department update on implementation of the Water Action Plan
- Registration of small wastewater discharges – a new regulatory approach
- Review of the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems
- Delivering local water quality projects with local communities
- Developments in the evidence base to target and track measures
- Waters of LIFE: issues and actions for high status rivers
- Wild Atlantic Salmon: A species in crisis and a beacon of hope

TRAINING

GDPR training in relation to environmental complaints took place with the council's Data Protection Officer to ensure the following:

- Accuracy and appropriate information and context when creating Notes to File / Inspection Reports
- Handling any requests for correction or clarification of records from a data subject
- Managing the level of information that can be shared with complainants about investigation outcomes

ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS

Galway County Council 2025		
Waste	Illegal Waste Activities	●
	Construction & Demolition Material	●
	Household Waste	●
	Commercial Waste	●
	Plastics & Producer Responsibility Initiatives	●
Water	Agriculture (Farmyards)	●
	Agriculture (Farmland)	●
	Discharge Licences / Misconnections	●
	Local Water Quality Pressures	●
Air & Noise	Solid Fuel	●
	Air Quality Monitoring & Data Use	●
	Environmental Noise Directive	●
	Local Air & Noise Investigations	●
Governance Processes	Planning for Environmental Inspections	●
	Data Recording & Reporting	●

● Not Applicable ● Excellent ● Strong ● Moderate ● Limited

The EPA report on Environmental Enforcement Performance for 2025 was finalised. Galway County Council met the required standard in 13 of the 15 performance areas, 9 strong and 4 excellent.

LOCAL AUTHORITY PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK – 2025 RESULTS

HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS

An internal audit of the ISO 45001 Health and Safety Management System in the Environment Section was carried out by Quadra Consulting, with full compliance being

achieved. For example, a check was carried out on the procedures followed for appointing a Project Supervisor for Construction Stage for a reed cutting project at Portumna bathing area.



TRUXOR BOAT FOR CUTTING WATER REEDS

BATHING WATERS & WATER SAFETY

LITTER ENFORCEMENT

Four fines were issued by the Council's Community Warden service for offences under the Litter Pollution Act during the month of June. 82 fines under the Act have been issued in the year to date with 40 paid in full, 3 being paid through agreed payment plans, 11 referred to the law agent to initiate legal proceedings and a further 19 still being processed through the system. A litter case appeared before the Courts in June 'for mention'. There was no appearance by the defendant and the case was adjourned for hearing until the 26th November 2026.

HOUSING

HOUSING MAINTENANCE

VOIDS AND TURNOVER OF PROPERTIES

The turnover of a unit occurs when a tenant vacates a property, and the property is prepared for a new tenancy. This includes inspecting the property, completing minor and major refurbishments and any necessary repairs required prior to the allocation of the property to a new tenant.



A void unit is a property that is currently unoccupied. The property undergoes all necessary refurbishment work to ensure it meets the current required standards before a tenant occupies the property. These works are completed by direct

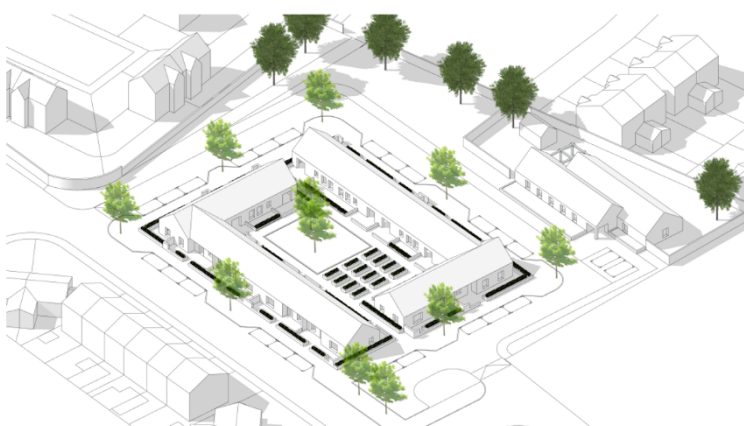
labour and through the appointment of contractors. The level of works required varies from property to property and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage allocates a maximum of €11,000 per property, on a once-off basis, to such works with the balance funded through Galway County Council's own resources.

Galway County Council completed turnover works on approximately 21 void properties between January 2026 and June 2026. Works will continue further voids in 2026, depending on the availability of funding.



INISHNEE, ROUNDSTONE – BEFORE AND AFTER TURNOVER

CONTRACT SIGNING FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IN CULLAIRBAUN, ATHENRY



A contract signing ceremony for the Cullairbaun Residential Development, Athenry took place in Áras an Chontae on 16 July 2026, marking a significant milestone in the delivery of new housing and care accommodation within the county.

The development is a Galway County Council housing project being delivered through a Design and Build contract and will provide 12 new residential homes together with a purpose-built community care home facility. The residential element comprises four one-bedroom units and eight two-bedroom units, while the care facility will accommodate five residents and include communal living and support spaces.

The project also incorporates all associated site development works, including roads, footpaths, car parking, public lighting, landscaping and utility infrastructure. With an overall construction value of approximately €4.7 million, including VAT, the scheme represents a substantial investment in housing and community infrastructure in the Athenry area.

Following a competitive procurement process, C&N Higgins has been appointed as the Design and Build Contractor for the project. The contractor's design team comprises:

Studio PKA – Lead Architects

MMP – Quantity Surveyors

SDS Consulting Engineers – Civil & Structural Engineers

CBS Consulting Engineers – Mechanical & Electrical Engineers

The development will deliver high-quality, energy-efficient accommodation designed to meet local housing needs while also providing specialist care accommodation within the community. The project supports Galway County Council's ongoing commitment to increasing housing supply, enhancing housing choice and delivering sustainable developments that contribute positively to local communities.

The contract signing represents the formal commencement of the project delivery phase, with construction expected to commence shortly thereafter. Upon completion, the scheme

will provide an important addition to both the housing stock and care facilities available in Athenry and the surrounding area.

This contract signing is one of a number of significant housing projects progressing through procurement and pre-construction stages, with further contract signing ceremonies expected to take place over the coming weeks as Galway County Council continues to advance its housing delivery programme across the county.

HOUSING DELIVERY ACTION PLANS (HDAPS) FOR 2027–2030



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

Housing Delivery Action Plans 2027-2030

The Department has commenced the preparation of new Housing Delivery Action Plans (HDAPs) for 2027–2030. Local authorities will be assigned social housing and starter home delivery targets and will be required to prepare updated delivery plans outlining how these targets will be achieved.

The Circular places a strong emphasis on increasing local authority and AHB housing delivery, securing sufficient land to support future housing supply, and ensuring that the housing needs of older persons, people with disabilities and Traveller households are appropriately addressed.

Housing Delivery Action Plans must be submitted to the Department through the HDCO portal by 25 September 2026, with final plans to be agreed and published before the end of November 2026. Officers are currently reviewing the requirements of the Circular and will commence engagement with relevant delivery partners to inform the preparation of Galway County Council's HDAP.

PRIVATE HOUSING GRANTS

Housing Grants has provided information sessions in both Clifden & Kilconly Co. Tuam in recent months. These information sessions provide one to one guidance for potential applicants, clarity regarding application criteria and the application process. Information on housing grants and home loans has been provided in-person at the Loughrea, will run similar information sessions in all Municipal Districts by the end of July.

Housing Grants continues to remain an extremely busy public service. The number of grants paid out in 2026, to date, are up 42% on the same period for last year. In Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of this year, applications paid totalled €2,894,905 compared to €2,071,260 for the same period last year (up 39%- 2025/2026). Throughout 2025 the housing grants totalling the value of €5,317,270 were issued. It is anticipated that this amount will be exceeded in 2026. The funding allocation for private housing grants from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has been increased to €5,616,691 for 2026. The number of Housing Aid for Older People Grant Applications processed to end of June 2026 has increased from 316 to 427 the same period last year (up 35.13%).

The number of Housing Adaptation Grants & Mobility Aid Grant applications processed to the end of June 2026 has increased year on year from 191 applications to 230 (up 20.41%). the total number of private housing applications processed to end of June has increased by 29.58% year on year. The Housing Grants and Home Loans Section has had an extremely busy year, aided by the efforts of Councillors and local supports within the community.



STAFF OFFICER, ANDREA MCDERMOTT, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AT HOUSING GRANTS STAND FOR FORUM CONAMARA OLDER PERSON INFORMATION DAY, CLIFDEN

ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER, JOHN MOORE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AT HOUSING GRANTS STAND FOR COMMUNITY COMEBACK DAY, KICONLY, TUAM.



ACTIVE TRAVEL



BALLINASLOE ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME

- Tender for Consultancy services competition for phases 5 to 7 has been undertaken, and a consultant is being appointed.
- Submitted EU JTF START Funding application for the Construction of the scheme, circa €4.7M value.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING IN PORTUMNA

Works are ongoing, with civil works completed. Awaiting ESB connection to switch on pedestrian crossing lights.

ATHENRY ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME

Gateway 2 approved. Preparing non-statutory consultation on Emerging Preferred Option expecting to go live on Consult.ie mid-July.

HEADFORD ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME

Headford Active Travel Scheme has commenced.



LOUGHREA ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME

Feasibility and Options report along with PEP were submitted to NTA for preview for Phase 2 Gateway approval on PRTS.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL



SCOIL ÍOSA, ORANMORE – SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAMME

The Safe Routes to School project at Scoil Íosa, Oranmore is nearing completion and has already delivered significant positive outcomes for the school community. Feedback received from students and families indicates increased confidence in active travel, greater independence among pupils, and an enhanced sense of safety when travelling to and from school.

The success of the project is reflected in the strong community response, with a number of students presenting letters of appreciation to the Project Lead Engineer, Tom Coleman, in recognition of the improvements delivered.

The project has also received national recognition. An overview highlighting the scheme, its objectives and the positive impacts achieved has been selected for publication in the National Transport Authority's Summer Newsletter, showcasing the project as an example of successful delivery under the Safe Routes to School programme.



SCHOOL PRINCIPAL MAEVE MEENEGHAN, TOM COLEMAN, ACTIVE TRAVEL, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, GARDA ALAN KEAN, FR. DIARMUID HOGAN AND STUDENTS FROM SCOIL ÍOSA, ORANMORE.

EXTRACT OF LETTER
RECEIVED ON BEHALF
OF THE SCOIL ÍOSA
STUDENT COUNCIL



CALASANCTIUS COLLEGE & GAELSCOIL DE HIDE- CONSTRUCTION HAS COMMENCED
ON BOTH PROJECTS



R2 SRTS

Scoil na bhForbacha – Tender for assessment report currently being undertaken.
Scoil Sailearna - Phase 5 detail design is progressing.

R3 SRTS

8 number schools – Tender assessment report to establish most economically advantageous tender to be undertaken.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

SAFETY (HAZARD) ALERTS

Three Safety Alerts were issued as part of this update:

- HSE Safety Alert - Tick Bites and Lyme Disease
- HSA UV & Sun Exposure at Work
- HSA Silica Dust at Work

All Safety Alerts (current and past) are on the Intranet/SharePoint for reference and action.

HSA NATIONAL SUN EXPOSURE AND SILICA DUST AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) has launched two national occupational health awareness campaigns relevant to outdoor and construction-related work activities. The National Sun Exposure Campaign, running from May to September 2026, highlights the increased risk of skin cancer among outdoor workers and the need for effective protective measures in the workplace. In June, the HSA, together with HSENI, also launched an all-island Silica Dust Awareness and Inspection Campaign, focusing on the health risks associated with exposure to respirable crystalline silica dust during activities such as cutting, grinding, drilling and demolition involving concrete, stone, brick and other sand-based materials.

Relevant GCC departments were asked to share both campaign messages and materials through toolbox talks and to review local controls where applicable.

LOCAL AUTHORITY SAFETY OFFICERS GROUP (LASOG) CONFERENCE

The Health and Safety Team attended the LASOG Annual Health & Safety Conference in Kilkenny on 26 and 27 May 2026. The programme covered a range of current occupational health and safety topics and supported ongoing professional development.

The conference also provided a valuable opportunity to network with health and safety colleagues across other local authorities, share practical experience, and identify common challenges and approaches that may inform future health and safety planning within Galway County Council.

QUADRA - INTERNAL SYSTEM AUDITS

The ISO45001 Internal Audit Schedule 2026 is available on the Intranet/SharePoint. Internal audits were completed with HR and Rural Water in May, and with Environment and Roads (Ballinasloe MD) in June. Departments are progressing close-out of any actions raised, with

support from the Health and Safety team where required. The planned audit with the Regeneration Team has been postponed until November 2026, when the team will have a live project in place. There are no further internal audits scheduled until August.

HSA / NSAI AUDITS

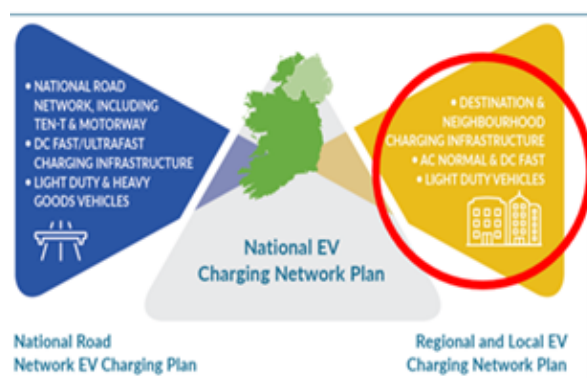
HSA visits have commenced. Six visits took place in June across Connemara MD locations. Actions and observations are being reviewed for immediate close-out where possible, or progression through an agreed action plan. The formal response to the HSA is due by 30 July 2026, and progress will be monitored through operations meetings.

The NSAI surveillance audit took place on 21 May 2026 as scheduled. Audits were completed with NRPO, Galway City Fire Station, and Galway City Library. Due to time constraints, the planned audits with Housing and Roads Administration did not proceed and will be revisited when the auditor returns in November. Actions arising from the NSAI audit are being progressed for close-out.

HEALTH CHECKS 2026

Free, confidential staff Health Checks are being delivered countywide by Medmark Occupational Healthcare. County Hall appointments have now been completed, and Centre Point appointments are currently underway, with the final day taking place on Friday 3 July. Uptake has been very positive to date. Municipal District health check dates are scheduled from 5-23 October, with appointments to be opened closer to the time. Staff are asked to keep an eye on emails for further booking information. We are planning to invite Medmark to the Annual Admin H&S Seminars in Q4 to provide an anonymised summary of overall GCC results and practical health and wellbeing advice for staff.

EV CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE (ZEVI)



Zero Emissions 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. The following projects are currently underway:

1. The Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy for Galway County, 2026-2030, which is being developed by Systra in conjunction with ZEVI and Galway County Council, is in the final stages of completion and a final draft document will issue in the coming weeks. Once a final version of the Strategy has been ZEVI-approved, a series of updates will be issued to all elected members followed by consultation and public engagement.
2. An Audit of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure across Galway County is continuing with over 50% of EV Charging Stations visited and recorded. This includes EV Charging points at petrol stations, hotels, train stations, tourist locations, etc. A detailed record of each charging point has been captured and uploaded to a national EV database. This EV charging data, and its subsequent analysis, will lead and drive strategies and plans to enable specific, efficient and timely delivery of EV Charging Infrastructure across the County.
3. Work continues to progress on a proposed Pilot EV Charging Scheme for Oughterard, Co. Galway. The environmental screenings and reports will complete over the coming weeks. ESB Networks has confirmed available grid capacity at this location with an estimated timeline of 3-4 months to complete works. Next steps are to agree on an EV Charging Station operating model and to issue a request for tender to Charge Point Operators accordingly.
4. EV Charging Site Selection - A desktop survey to identify suitable sites for installation of EV Charging Infrastructure across Galway County is now currently underway. ZEVI has issued a Site Selection Guidelines document against which potential locations across the 5 MDs will be identified. The locations will be assessed against various criteria such as land availability, power grid capacity, accessibility to amenities, availability to the public, etc and a project plan for EV Charging Infrastructure installations will be developed from this. It is intended that projects will be delivered on a phased basis between now and 2030.

Any Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure queries for County Galway can be emailed to ZEVI@galwaycoco.ie.

OPERATIONS

The new rescue boat for the Salmon Weir has been delivered. We are currently waiting for Galway City Council to carry out modifications to the agreed mooring site at the OPW compound at the Salmon Weir. Tenders have been received for ancillary equipment and training and will be presented for agreement at the next City Water Safety Group meeting at City Hall in mid-July 2026. Training for operators is planned to commence in September. An



official handover and demonstration is scheduled for mid-July, subject to agreement on a suitable date between Galway County Council, Galway City Council and Claddagh Watch.

NEW RESCUE BOAT - SAMON WEIR

NEW HAZARDOUS MATERIALS UNIT

The new hazardous materials (HAZMAT) unit has been completed at Sidhean Teo in An Spidéal. Fitting out of our existing HAZMAT equipment has commenced and new equipment has been ordered.

NEW HAZARDOUS MATERIALS UNIT



ROSENBAUER RM35 ROV

The unit will include a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) for remote firefighting at high-hazard acetylene and other gas incidents. Training for the ROV deployment has commenced and is due to be completed by the end of July 2026.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

LOUGHREA FIRE STATION

The tender of Burns Construction and Civil Engineering Ltd has been accepted. It is planned to hold the contract signing on the 20 July at County Hall. Formal approval to proceed to the construction stage has been granted by the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management (NDFEM).



PROPOSED NEW FIRE STATION LOUGHREA

BRIGADE MECHANICS WORKSHOP ATHENRY

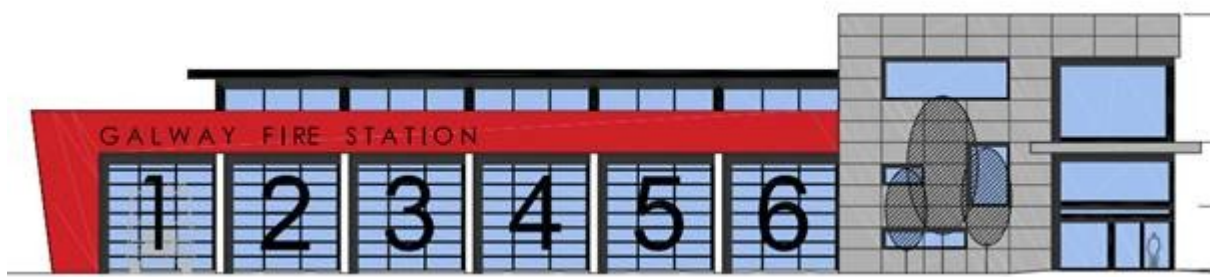


The Part 8 planning application will be submitted and advertised on the 03 July 2026.

PROPOSED NEW BRIGADE MECHANICS WORKSHOP ATHENRY

HEADQUARTERS AND GALWAY CITY FIRE STATION

Permission for the appointment of a design team for the development of preliminary design proposals was received from the NDFEM. The variation of the City Development Plan is still scheduled to go forward for public consultation in early July 2026, with a decision expected by Galway City Council in September 2026. Work is continuing in relation to the process for the appointment of the design team. An additional round of consultations is expected to be completed by end of July 2026.



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

TRAINING

NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE (USAR) PROJECT

Urban Search and Rescue training continues. 4 students undertook USAR confined space drone training at the Abbeyleix training centre on the 23 and 24 June 2026. Building stabilisation monitoring equipment training and buried service detection equipment training is scheduled for Abbeyleix training centre on 02 July 2026.



NDFEM USAR DRONE COURSE – ABBEYLEIX

Specialist training including timber shoring and USAR instructor courses are scheduled to commence at the end of Q3 at the Abbeyleix training centre involving a total of 5 students. Additional USAR National Rope Access and Confined Space Rescue (RACSR) 1 courses are scheduled to be conducted at the end of Q3 and early Q4 at Carnmore training centre. A remotely operated vehicle (ROV) operator course is also scheduled to be conducted in Galway at the end of Q3.

USAR specialist equipment and vehicle deliveries to USAR regional hubs are continuing. GFRS had placed contracts for the supply of remotely operated vehicles, steel training rigs and rescue from height equipment. Steel training rigs have been delivered to all USAR Hubs. Post delivery and training this rope rescue equipment will be distributed to regional hubs.

Tenders for confined space rescue equipment have been received and are currently being assessed, with a view to equipment orders being placed in mid-July 2026.

New USAR ROV equipment was delivered at the end of June 2026. GFRS have received a replacement and upgraded Avenger Fire ROV. This ROV now includes 6 fully integrated



hazardous materials sensors. Enquiries have been received by Dublin Fire Brigade (DFB) and An Garda Síochána for the potential use of the equipment during the EU Presidency as this capability is the first of its kind anywhere in Ireland and the UK.

NEW AVENGER FIRE ROV WITH INTEGRATED SENSORS

COMPLETED TRAINING (MARCH – PRESENT)

QQI FIREFIGHTING SKILLS COURSE 6-27 MARCH 2026

- Attendees: 3 x retained fire service personnel (2 x Portumna, 1 x Gort)
- Location: Sligo Fire Station
- Purpose: The programme aims to equip learners with the underpinning knowledge, skills, understanding and attitudes to enable them efficiently, effectively, safely and competently perform the role of firefighter, as an individual, and as part of a team, in responding to a diverse range of operational incidents.

LITHIUM BATTERY FIRE CONFERENCE 25 MARCH 2026

- Attendees: 2 x rostered senior fire officers
- Location: online webinar
- Purpose: This conference presented information on the topic of fires involving lithium batteries, with insights from fire officers, insurers, technical experts, and safety professionals. It examined the real risks, the latest science, and the practical steps that can be taken to manage lithium batteries safely across workplaces, public buildings, and manufacturing settings.

NDFEM FIRE SERVICE TRAINER (ASSESSMENT) COURSE 08-10 APRIL 2026

- Attendees: 2 x full-time fire service personnel
- Location: Tullamore Fire Station
- Purpose: This training aimed to further develop participant's skills/knowledge in the management and delivery of training at fire authority level. The module primarily focused on the principles and practical application of the assessment process. The

GFRS participants demonstrated a high level of skill, knowledge and ability and are now considered to be at a competency level appropriate for the delivery and assessment of training activities on national programmes such as QQI Firefighting Modules, NDFEM Officer Development or other instructor courses.

NDFEM URBAN SEARCH & RESCUE 2 COURSE 13-24 APRIL 2026

- Attendees: 1 x retained & 1 x rostered senior fire officer fire service personnel
- Location: Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service Learning & Development Centre, Liverpool, UK
- Purpose: to assist fire authorities in developing and updating their ability to manage an incident involving significant structural collapse and other USAR type incidents. This module builds on the initial core skills and knowledge acquired by learners on the corresponding Technician 1 course.



USAR TRAINEES LIFTING & MOVING HEAVY
CONCRETE RUBBLE USING A PARATECH SYSTEM

USAR TRAINEES ACCESSING CONFINED
SPACES DEEP WITHIN A COLLAPSED
STRUCTURE



C CLASS DRIVING LICENCE TRAINING

- Location: Galway city.
- Details: training delivered to firefighters so that they will be deemed competent to drive C Class category vehicles (e.g. fire appliances).
- Attendees: 4 x retained firefighters

NDFEM FIRE SAFETY WORKSHOP 22-23 & 28-29 APRIL 2026

- Location: Portlaoise
- Attendees: 2 x senior fire prevention officers
- Details: 2-day training course
- Aim: The aim of these workshops was to assist Fire Authorities to discharge their role in respect of fire safety and provide an opportunity for the continuing professional development of officers working in statutory fire safety.

NDFEM FIRE STATION TRAINER COURSE 18-22 MAY 2026

- Attendees: 1 x retained station officer
- Location: Newbridge Fire Station
- Purpose: to assist fire authorities in developing and updating their ability to deliver efficient and effective fire and rescue services. The course provided learners with the skills and knowledge necessary to facilitate them to effectively deliver fire service training, including fire service drills, facts and skills lessons at station level.

NDFEM MANAGING FIRE SERVICE INCIDENTS MODULE 1 COURSE 24-28 MAY 2026

- Location: Tullamore Fire Training Centre
- Details: 5-day training course
- Aim: to assist fire authorities in their ability to deliver efficient, effective and safe services by developing fire service officers with the relevant and necessary skills and knowledge. This course facilitated the participants to effectively develop and fulfil the command and officer-ship roles assigned to them at small-scale fire service incidents.
- Attendees: 1 x acting Driver Mechanic

WOMENS FIRE SERVICE NETWORK NATIONAL EVENT/ TRAINING 26 MAY 2026

- Attendees: 1 x retained fire personnel
- Location: Navan, Co. Meath

ENGINEERS IRELAND DRONE LEGISLATION CONFERENCE 06 JUNE 2026

- Attendees: 1 x drone operator
- Location: online webinar
- Purpose: This conference presented information on the topic of the use of drones and associated legislative requirements.

WINCH OPERATOR TRAINING 12 & 22 JUNE 2026

- Attendees: Inis Mor fire personnel & An Cheathrú Rua fire personnel
- Location: Cill Rónáin & An Cheathrú Rua
- Purpose: to equip learners with the underpinning knowledge, skills, understanding and attitudes to enable them efficiently, effectively, safely and competently use

vehicle mounted and portable winches, as an individual, and as part of a team, in responding to a diverse range of operational incidents. These two training events were the initial events of a service wide winch training roll out programme which will deliver winch training to all Galway fire brigades during 2026.

EFFECTIVE DECISION-MAKING TRAINING 16 & 17 JUNE 2026

- Attendees: 3 x retained fire personnel
- Location: Hydra Suite, Clonmel Fire Station
- Purpose: to enhance the ability of fire authorities to deliver efficient and effective fire and rescue services, by providing fire service officers with the opportunity to explore critical decision making relating to their role.

RECRUITMENT

Recruitment of retained firefighters is ongoing to both replace recent retirees and to achieve a minimum of 12 retained firefighters in each retained fire brigade. To date in 2026, two new recruit firefighters have commenced duty in Portumna fire brigade and one new recruit in Gort fire brigade. A third recruit firefighter for Portumna fire brigade will commence duty shortly after having recently successfully completed his recruits firefighting skills training.



Recruitment of retained firefighters is ongoing. A new system of work-related testing has recently been introduced as an additional element of the recruitment process. The aim of this approach is to identify and recruit candidates who are best suited to the role and demands of a retained firefighter. Work related testing was conducted on 12 and 13 May 2026 at Carnmore Fire Training Centre, from which a total of 21 candidates progressed to the interview stage of the recruitment process, which will commence in the first week of July 2026.

RECRUIT CANDIDATE UNDERGOING WORKING AT HEIGHTS TESTING AT CARNMORE

RECRUIT CANDIDATE UNDERGOING EQUIPMENT CARRYING TESTING AT CARNMORE



NDFEM HIGH VOLUME PUMPING UPDATE

In 2024 the NDFEM commenced a process to establish a national capacity for the pumping of high volumes of water at incidents such as flooding and large-scale fires. It is a project similar in nature to the Urban Search & Rescue project. As part of this project, specialist pumping equipment and associated equipment will be provided to a number of strategically located hubs (fire authorities), of which Galway is one.

The equipment to be provided to each hub will include the high-volume pump, a prime mover, a support crew cab van, an all-terrain vehicle and trailer, along with a range of personal protective equipment (PPE). The equipment is currently under construction / procurement and factory acceptance testing of the first completed high volume pump took place on 23 June at the manufacturer's location in Holland. Delivery of the equipment will be over a phased / hub by hub basis. With respect to the hub in Galway, strategic decisions will need to be made regarding the deployment, operation and upkeep of this equipment. A significant amount of initial training and ongoing training will be required, which will place additional demands on both Fire Service management and Fire Service personnel. Due to the extent of the new equipment being acquired as part of the high-volume pumping



project and the UASR project (comprising of 3 prime movers, 2 x vans, 1 x teleporter, 1 x ATV & trailer) it will be located in Hangar A of Old Galway Airport, as there are no other appropriate storage locations available.

HIGH VOLUME PUMP UNDERGOING FACTORY ACCEPTANCE TESTING

HIGH VOLUME PUMP UNDER CONSTRUCTION



COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY / #YOURCOUNCILDAY

26 June 2026 was Your Council Day across all Local Authorities nationally. To mark the day, the following stations opened their doors and held station open days where members of the public could come in, talk to the fire fighters, see the equipment we use and hear about the services we provide and get advice on home fire safety. An Cheathrú Rua, Galway City, Athenry and Inis Mór were open on the 25 June and Gort, Loughrea, Ballinasloe, Clifden and Mountbellew were open on the 26 June. There was good footfall on both days with great interest shown in the fire service and the work we do.

PREVENTION

The information in the following is based on the June 2026 figures. The Fire Authority received 12 Fire Safety Certificate applications and issued decisions on 15 applications. 4 Disability Access Certificate applications were received, and decisions made on 9 applications. 12 new licences were issued in June, and 32 inspections were conducted.

CIVIL DEFENCE

ACTIVITIES

Units provided medical/first aid cover at various events across the city and county in support of their communities each weekend. This included Shearfest in Mountbellew and the Galway v Westmeath Gaelic Football game at Pearse Stadium.

Volunteers provided three safety boats and first aid/medical cover at the Tribesmen Triathlon, held at the University of Galway and on the River Corrib.

Galway Civil Defence participated in the EPA National Radiation Exercise 2026. Soil and grass samples, along with gamma radiation readings, were collected from two locations (one city and one county site) and sent to the Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring in the Environmental Protection Agency for analysis.

Four members were awarded Long Service Medals at a ceremony held in McKee Barracks, Dublin. The awards recognised three members for 30 years of service and one member for 40 years of service to Civil Defence.

The Civil Defence Officer attended the quarterly MEM Voluntary Emergency Services Group meeting, in their capacity as Vice-Chair. The meeting was hosted by Galway County Council at County Hall.

The Civil Defence Officer and Assistant Civil Defence Officer attended multiple meetings and tabletop exercises with stakeholders in relation to several large events planned over the coming months.

Galway Civil Defence participated in the Emergency Services Schools Day at Gaelscoil Mhic Amhlaigh, Knocknacarra. The event was hosted by An Garda Síochána's Galway City Community Engagement Officers. All emergency services were represented and displayed some of their equipment.

Galway Civil Defence search crews assisted Clare Civil Defence in the search for a missing person in the North Clare area.

TRAINING

Volunteers who attended an Emergency First Response (EFR) course and Cardiac First Response Advanced (CFR-A) training over the past few weeks have now completed their assessments. Congratulations to those who dedicated many hours of voluntary training to the courses. They now join the pool of Emergency First Responders (EFRs) available to support their communities and units.

Seven volunteers completed a Water and Floodwater Awareness Course, certified by Rescue 3 UK and delivered by a Galway Civil Defence Volunteer Instructor. This training provides volunteers with essential safety knowledge when working near water.

Eight volunteers completed their assessments in Emergency First Response (EFR) and Cardiac First Response Advanced (CFR-A) after many weeks of study and practical scenario-based training.

CLIMATE ACTION

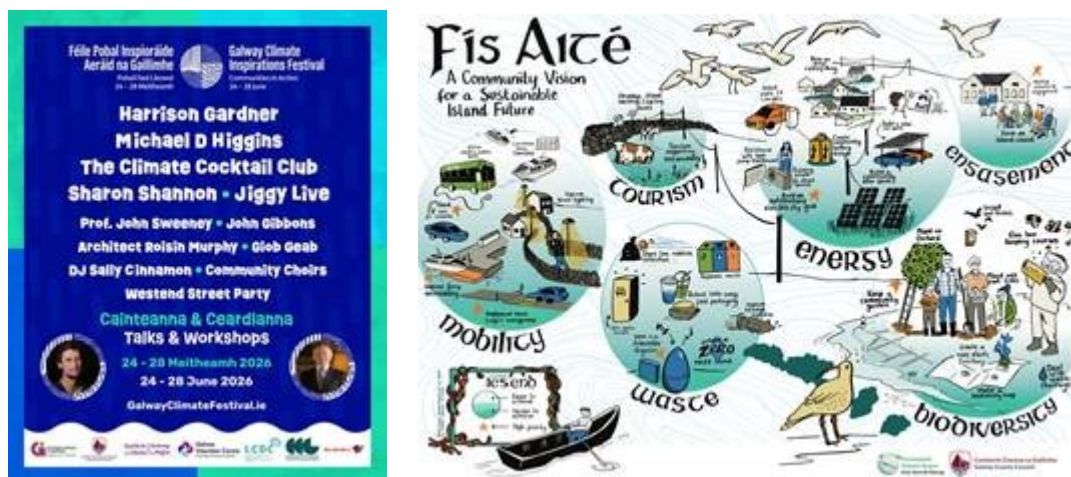
COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION

CLIMATE INSPIRATIONS FESTIVAL

The Climate Unit was delighted to support the award-winning Galway Climate Inspirations Festival, which returned to Galway City in June with its strongest programme to date, featuring more than 30 events over five days. The festival brought together communities,

businesses, academics, artists and climate practitioners to share ideas, showcase local action and inspire climate leadership.

In addition to the provision of funding support, the Climate Unit participated in a range of festival events, helping to highlight climate action initiatives taking place across County Galway. A series of videos highlighting community projects funded by Galway County Council was produced and showcased throughout the festival featuring Ballinderreen, Ballygar, Oileáin Árann and Brigit's Garden.



FÍS ÁITE WORKSHOP – OILEÁIN ÁRANN DECARBONISATION ZONE

The Climate Unit, in partnership with Comharchumann Fuinnimh Oileáin Árann Teoranta (CFOAT), hosted a Fís Áite (Placemaking) Workshop in Inis Mór. The workshop brought together stakeholders from the three islands to explore priorities for sustainable island living and to help shape future climate action and funding opportunities within the Oileáin Árann Decarbonisation Zone. Through presentations, discussion and an interactive placemaking exercise, participants identified community-led ideas relating to energy, transport, resilience, biodiversity, health and quality of life. It was an excellent opportunity for engagement between local communities, island organisations and Galway County Council, helping to inform future climate action projects and support the development of a shared vision for a more sustainable and resilient future.

ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Galway County Council has successfully achieved certification to I.S. EN ISO 50001:2018, the international standard for Energy Management Systems. The certification, issued by NSAI in June, confirms that the Council has implemented a robust energy management system covering the energy used across its operations, including vehicles, public lighting and Council-owned and leased facilities. This achievement demonstrates the Council's commitment to continual energy performance improvement and reduced energy consumption.



PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL PLANNING DATA

Key Statistics 1 st January – 30 th June 2026	
Applications Received/Valid	1267/977 (77%)
Granted	750
Grant Rate	84%
Refused	145
Breakdown of Decisions Granted Outline (3)	
Permission (570)	
Retention (152)	
Permission Consequent (4)	
Extension of Duration (21)	
Percentage of applications received via Portal/Hardcopy	87%
Stage 1LRD	1
Stage 2 LRD	2
Major Meetings	7
SID Meetings	
Red III Applications	10

Key Statistics 1st January 2026 – 30th June 2026	
Exempted Development Applications (under Section 5)	93
Exempt	46
Not Exempt	28

FI	4
Withdrawn	1
Decision Pending	8
Appealed	4

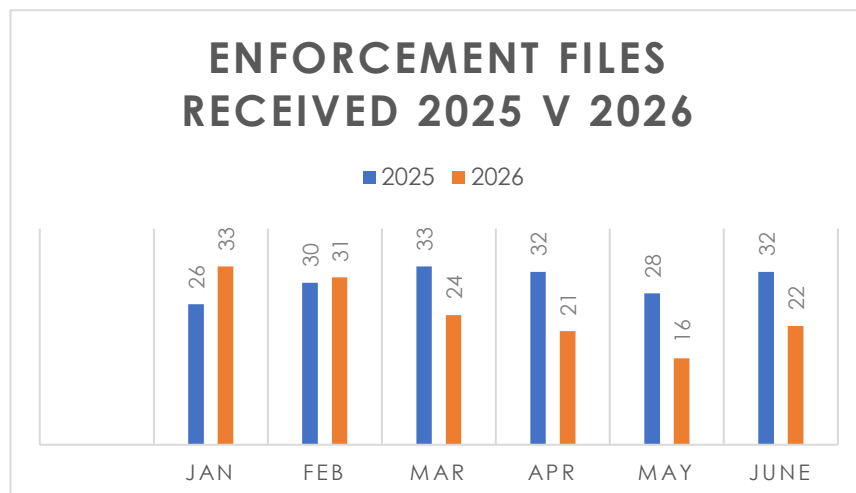
Commencements & Completions COMMENCEMENTS AND COMPLETIONS 1 st JANUARY – 30 th June 2026	
Submitted and Validated Commencement Notices	459
Submitted and Validated Certificates of Completion	71

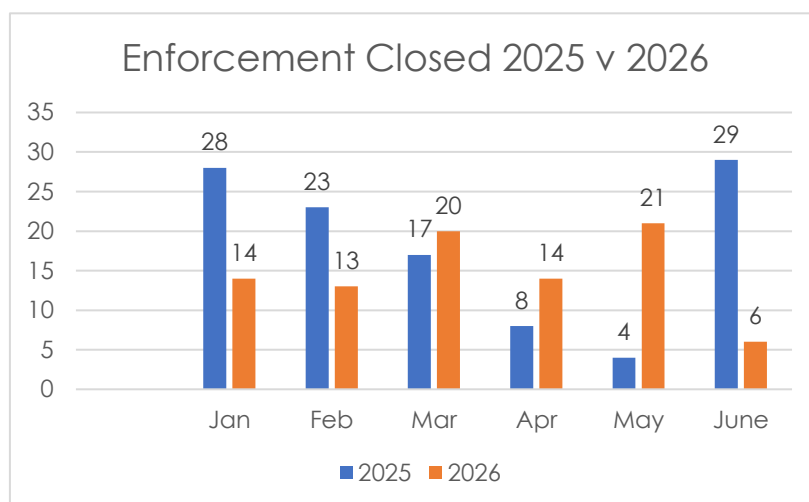
PLANNING MEETINGS BY MONTH 2026

PPM per MD per Month	January	February	March	April	May	June
Athenry/Oranmore	3	3	3	4	0	0
Ballinasloe	0	4	1	7	2	0
Connemara N & S	7	0	8	6	2	5
Loughrea	5	1	5	9	4	1
Tuam	2	0	2	7	1	0
Total per month	17	8	19	33	9	6

ENFORCEMENT

There are 24 cases listed for court hearing and mention to date in July





KEY PLANNING UPDATES

CDP MONITORING REPORT

The CDP Monitoring Report is now completed, and the Environmental Reports are being considered. It is anticipated that the report will be furnished to the Members in early Q4 for their consideration.

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.

URDF

Carpark design option and associated construction costs currently being assessed 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.

Main rail infrastructure works (Passing Loop; Platform) have commenced at Oranmore Train Station.

REGIONAL SPATIAL AND ECONOMIC STRATEGY

The review of the RSES commenced in March with the publication of the Pre-Draft Consultation. As part of the pre-draft consultation, Forward Planning Policy Unit made a submission to the NWRA in May. The NWRA are currently preparing the Directors' Report on this initial consultation.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Joint SPC with City Council was held on 16th June where progress and consideration of the issues were addressed. Drop-in session for all Elected Members of Galway City Council and Galway County Council took place on 16th June with a significant number attending.

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, now in the context of the recent ACP decision on the N6GCRR.

DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

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

CAHEROYN URBAN FRAMEWORK PLAN (ATHENRY)

Works progressing to deliver draft Caheroyn Urban Framework (Athenry). Discussions with Irish Rail regarding dis-used level crossing are completed. Completion of Framework Plan expected at end of Q3.

UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

Student placements with students from MA in Planning and Development at UG completing a 12-week work placement programme across the Planning Section is currently underway.

GREATER GALWAY FORUM

Meeting took place in Aras an Chontae Council Chamber in June with the Economic Development Strategy discussed and comments noted.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE GALWAY

LEO Galway is the first stop shop for anyone seeking information or advice on starting, growing or expanding a business in Galway City and County. This month, LEO Galway continued to support small and micro businesses through their range of financial / soft supports and advisory services.

TRAINING COURSES & PROGRAMMES

SHORT TRAINING COURSES

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

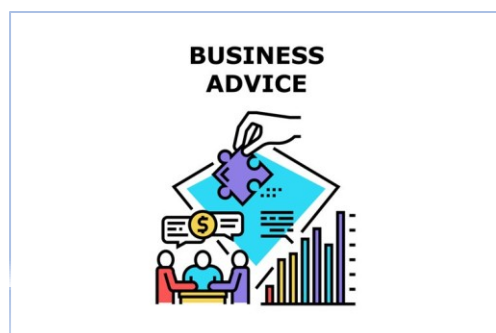
Our short training courses have finished for the Summer months. However, the full Autumn training schedule, including dates and registration details, is available on the Local Enterprise Office Galway website.

BUSINESS ADVISORY CLINIC

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

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

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



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

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

MENTORING

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

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

START YOUR OWN BUSINESS PROGRAMME (SYOB)

LEO Galway runs a Start Your Own Business (SYOB) programme, providing aspiring entrepreneurs with practical guidance and support. Each programme accommodates up to 16 participants, ensuring an interactive and focused learning environment.

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



Our next SYOB program will commence after the Summer.

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.

LEAN PRODUCTIVITY ACCELERATOR

The LEAN Productivity Accelerator is a practical programme supporting Galway-based SMEs to improve productivity, reduce inefficiencies and strengthen day-to-day operations. It combines a full-day interactive workshop, structured follow-up activities and two days of on-site mentoring to ensure improvements are implemented effectively within each business.

Participants first attended an in-person workshop on June 11th where they focused on understanding workflow, identifying wasted time and resources, and applying practical improvement tools. This will be followed by structured in-company work to establish baselines, identify priorities and define success measures.

Each business then receives two days of tailored on-site mentoring to review operations, agree and implement improvement actions, and measure progress against initial baselines.

The programme concludes with a final session where participants present outcomes, share learnings and identify next steps.

Overall, the programme emphasises practical application, measurable improvements and sustained change within participating businesses.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LOCAL FOOD & CRAFT GIFT FAIR 2026

The Local Food & Craft Gift Fair will return to the Black Box Theatre from November 24th to 29th 2026. The event is expected to be the largest and most vibrant fair to date, providing a platform for artisan food producers and craft businesses from across Galway City and County to showcase and sell their products.



The fair will feature a diverse range of high-quality locally produced goods, including Homemade and artisan foods, ceramics and pottery, handcrafted jewellery, textiles and woodwork and blacksmith creations.

The event aims to support local enterprise, promote Galway's creative and food sectors, and provide exhibitors with an opportunity to connect with customers during the Christmas shopping season. The application deadline for exhibitors is Friday, 7th August 2026. Efforts are ongoing to promote the opportunity and encourage participation from local food and craft producers throughout the county.

PAST EVENTS

NETWORK IRELAND GALWAY BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Local Enterprise Office Galway was pleased to sponsor the Solo Businesswoman Category at the Network Ireland Galway Businesswoman of the Year Awards.

Congratulations to Jackie Gibney, founder of Jackie Gibney Food Safety, who was announced as the category winner. Jackie is a highly experienced Food Safety Consultant, Auditor and Trainer with over 25 years' experience in food safety management.



NETWORK IRELAND NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2026

The Network Ireland National Conference 2026 was officially launched by the Mayor of the City of Galway, Cllr Helen Ogbu, at an event held in Blackrock Cottage, Salthill, on 1 July 2026. Stephanie Colombani attended the launch on behalf of the Local Enterprise Office Galway.

LEO Galway is a sponsor of the conference, which will take place at DEXCOM Stadium, Galway, on Friday, 18 September 2026. The event will run from approximately 9:30am to 3:30pm and will feature keynote speakers, workshops, panel discussions, exhibition stands, and both formal and informal networking opportunities.

IDEASLAB – START100

Stephanie Colombani, Local Enterprise Office Galway, attended the University of Galway IdeasLab *Start With Us* Pitch Day and Showcase on 3 July 2026, where students presented their business ideas competing for the Overall Winner which granted them funding of €5,000.

Participants in the University of Galway IdeasLab *Start With Us* programme took to the stage to showcase the ideas they had spent the previous six weeks exploring, testing and developing. Throughout the programme, participants challenged assumptions, engaged with potential users, explored opportunities, refined their concepts, and stepped beyond their comfort zones to progress their ideas. During the showcase event, they presented their key learnings, outlined the progress they had made, and shared their plans for future development.

The event, held in the O'Donoghue Theatre, celebrated six weeks of curiosity, creativity and action, while recognising a group of students who chose to develop and pursue innovative ideas. Well done to the winners on the day.

Congratulations to the Start With Us Award winners 2026:

- Overall, Winner - Start100 Winner (commercial) Katie Browne with Native Matcha
- SoStart Winner (social) - Caoimhe with Catch
- One to Watch - Reena, Tanushree & Kishor with DripIQ
- Audiences Choice - John with SkillSwap



PICTURED IS KATIE BROWNE, NATIVE MATCHA, THE OVERALL WINNER

NATIONAL ENTERPRISE AWARDS

Celtic Dynamics Engineering Ltd, a Galway City–based energy and technical consultancy, achieved national recognition at the National Enterprise Awards by securing the West Regional Award at a ceremony in Dublin’s Mansion House on June 18th, following its earlier success at the Galway Enterprise Awards. Supported by Local Enterprise Office Galway, the company delivers energy audits, sustainability services, and specialist engineering support to commercial and industrial clients, with experience spanning 34 countries and over 1,900 clients. The achievement highlights the strength of Galway’s micro-enterprise sector, with local authority leaders and LEO Galway emphasising the critical role of support programmes in enabling ambitious, innovative businesses like Celtic Dynamics to grow, compete internationally, and contribute to regional economic development.

LEFT TO RIGHT: LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL; MÉABH CONAGHAN, ENTERPRISE IRELAND; DYLAN WALSH AND ADAM COURTNEY, CELTIC DYNAMICS; CAROLINE MCDONAGH & MAIREAD HERLIHY, LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE GALWAY; RICHIE MCCARTHY, GALWAY CITY COUNCIL



BAY BUSINESS - GALWAY BAY FM

Dylan Walsh, founder of Celtic Dynamics, shared his experience on Bay Business, Galway Bay FM as he prepared to represent Galway at the National Enterprise Awards. Joined by Caroline McDonagh, Head of Enterprise at LEO Galway, the podcast explored Dylan’s journey in building a leading energy services company that helps organisations reduce costs and carbon emissions through advanced engineering solutions.



The interview provided a valuable insight into the innovation emerging across Galway and highlighted the role of LEO Galway in supporting businesses to start, scale and succeed.

CAROLINE MCDONAGH (HEAD OF ENTERPRISE, LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE GALWAY), BRED A FOX (BAY BUSINESS, GALWAY BAY FM) AND DYLAN WALSH (FOUNDER OF CELTIC DYNAMICS)

BLAS NA HÉIREANN JUDGING AT BIA INNOVATOR CAMPUS

Sandra Regan represented LEO Galway at a Blas na hÉireann judging session hosted at BIA Innovator Campus, Athenry on June 17th. The session brought together industry experts to assess entries for the national Irish Food Awards, which culminate annually in Dingle, where LEO Galway sponsors the “Best in County Galway” category. This event provided a valuable opportunity to support and engage with Ireland’s food and drink sector, highlighting quality,



innovation, and emerging talent. It also strengthened LEO Galway’s visibility within the national food awards ecosystem and reinforced collaboration with BIA Innovator Campus and industry stakeholders.

SOME ATTENDEES AT BLAS NA HÉIREANN

SÍORGHLAS INVESTMENT SUMMIT X WESTERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Sandra Regan of Local Enterprise Office Galway attended the summit on June 19th, where leading founders from the West of Ireland shared candid insights behind their success. They reflected on early uncertainties, key turning points, investor engagements and scaling internationally. The programme explored founder journeys, the investor perspective, and opportunities to harness regional strengths. Discussions also highlighted global growth from the West across key sectors. A strong focus was placed on regional resilience and future competitiveness.



SOCIAL STATISTICS

FACEBOOK:	8.6k Likes	Reach: 8.7k
INSTAGRAM:	3.8k Followers	Reach: 6k
LINKEDIN:	1.8k Followers	Impressions: 3.3k
X (TWITTER)	1.9k Followers	

WESTERN REGIONAL ENTERPRISE PLAN

A team from the West of Ireland were among 14 teams from across Europe, the UK and Kosovo selected to participate in the 'EKIP Culture and Creative Industries Academy' in Tallinn, Estonia from 01st to 04th June. The successful team were made up of Ainslie Peters from the creative enterprise hub, CREW, Caitriona Morgan from Galway City Council and Kenny Deery, Regional Enterprise Plan programme manager.



The focus of the academy was using evidence from 'Telliskivi Creative City' on the real impact culture and creative industries can have on urban development, on policy, on delivery of ambitions and executing plans. Participants undertook a rigorous four-day series of facilitated workshops involving design thinking, interrogating policy development, challenging bureaucracy and execution of ideas.

On return the focus is to apply learnings in an intentional way to facilitating workshops, policy development and working closely with the culture and creative industry to positively influence outcomes across all our plans.

L-R: CAITRIONA MORGAN, GALWAY CITY COUNCIL; H.E. AMBASSADOR JAMES SHERRY, IRISH EMBASSY ESTONIA; DEPUTY MAYOR OF CULTURE & SPORT IN TALLINN MONIKA HAUKANÓMM; KENNY DEERY, WEST REGIONAL ENTERPRISE PLAN MANAGER & AINSLIE PETERS, CREW ENTERPRISE HUB. THE FOURTEEN TEAMS PARTICIPATING IN THE ACADEMY AND THE PANEL OF FACILITATORS.



While in Tallinn, the Irish Ambassador to Estonia H.E. James Sherry and the Deputy Mayor of Tallinn for Culture and Sport Monika Haukanómm hosted a reception in honour of the team from Galway. This

was particularly significant given the pairing of Galway with Estonia for the EU Presidency. Kenny Deery made a presentation to the Ambassador and the Deputy Mayor of art pieces from Galway County Council.



ALBERT DOLAN, TD; CLLR MICHAEL CONNOLLY, BRIAN MCENERY, PRESIDENT CATHERINE CONNOLLY, CLLR ANDREW REDDINGTON, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, CLLR PETER KEAVENEY, CLLR DR EVELYN PARSONS, CATHAOIRLEACH, BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT AT THE ALEEN CUST SYMPOSIUM, MOUNTBELLEW AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE. PHOTO CREDIT: CLLR ANDREW REDDINGTON

PRESIDENT CATHERINE CONNOLLY OPENS LANDMARK ALEEN CUST SYMPOSIUM AS MORE THAN 200 GATHER TO CELEBRATE VETERINARY AND HERITAGE EXCELLENCE

More than 200 people attended the highly successful Aleen Cust Symposium, "She Led the Way: Women at the Heart of Veterinary Heritage and Agricultural Progress", at Mountbellew Agricultural College on Friday, 3 July. The landmark event brought together veterinary professionals, academics, farmers, heritage enthusiasts, community groups and members of the public for a unique celebration of the extraordinary legacy of Aleen Cust, the world's first female veterinary surgeon.

The symposium proved to be a remarkable fusion of veterinary science, agricultural innovation and community heritage, showcasing how the story of Aleen Cust continues to inspire new conversations about leadership, education, equality and rural life. Delegates travelled from across Ireland and beyond to participate in a programme featuring distinguished speakers, expert panels and an impressive exhibition of heritage and vintage displays.



ATTENDING THE ALEEN CUST SYMPOSIUM WERE CLLR DR EVELYN PARSONS, CATHAOIRLEACH BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, CLLR ANDREW REDDINGTON, CATHAOIRLEACH GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL; DR EDNA CURLEY, MOUNTBELLEW AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, CLLR MICHAEL CONNOLLY, MARIE MANNION, HERITAGE OFFICER, BERNIE DOHERTY, GALWAY COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGIST, ITA GORDON, CLERICAL OFFICER, ANNE POWER, SENIOR STAFF OFFICER AND MARTINA CREAVEN, SENIOR STAFF OFFICER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL. PHOTO CREDIT: JACINTA FAHY

A particular highlight of the day was the honour of welcoming President Catherine Connolly, who officially opened the symposium and spent time visiting the heritage and vintage exhibitions. Her presence underlined the national significance of Aleen Cust's legacy and the contribution of communities who have worked tirelessly to ensure her story is remembered. The President's visit to the exhibition spaces provided an opportunity to engage directly with the volunteers and organisations preserving Galway's rich heritage.



CONOR JOHNSTON, OLIVER DONNELLAN AND EVELYN DONNELLAN, BALLINASLOE AND DISTRICT HERITAGE, CLLR DR EVELYN PARSONS, CATHAOIRLEACH BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, CLLR MICHAEL CONNOLLY AND CLLR ANDREW REDDINGTON, CATHAOIRLEACH GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL VISITING THE HERITAGE AND VINTAGE EXHIBITIONS AT THE ALEEN CUST SYMPOSIUM. PHOTO CREDIT: JACINTA FAHY.

The symposium featured a top-class line-up of lecturers and speakers, including Marie Boran, University of Galway; Professor Maura Farrell, University of Galway; internationally renowned animal welfare expert and autism advocate Temple Grandin; Lorna Kennedy of Kepak; Professor Patrick Pollock of Atlantic Technological University; Dr Doreen Corridan, STEM Woman of the Year 2025; Aoiheann O'Brien of FoodCloud; Mike Burke and Rebecca Reynolds of Vets Without Borders Ireland, together with many other distinguished contributors from the veterinary, agricultural and academic sectors.



CLLR DR EVELYN PARSONS, CATHAOIRLEACH BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT; MARIE MANNION, HERITAGE OFFICER; PROFESSOR GRAHAM HEASLIP, ATLANTIC TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY, DR EDNA CURLEY, MOUNTBELLEW AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, BRIAN MCENERY, PRESIDENT CATHERINE CONNOLLY, DONAL CONNOLLY, ALEEN CUST SOCIETY, DR CHRISTY CUNNIFEE, CLLR ANDREW REDDINGTON, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, CLLR PETER KEAVENEY, CLLR GERALDINE DONOGHUE, ALBERT DOLAN TD; SENATOR VICTOR BOYHAN, CLLR MICHAEL CONNOLLY AND SOME OF THE ATTENDEES AND LECTURERS AT THE ALEEN CUST SYMPOSIUM, MOUNTBELLEW AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE. X

PHOTO CREDIT: JACINTA FAHY

The community heritage and vintage exhibition area attracted huge interest throughout the day and was widely acknowledged as one of the event's outstanding successes. Spectacular displays were presented by Mountbellew Vintage, North Galway Vintage, Kiltullagh Vintage, Mountbellew and District Heritage, Moylough Heritage, Skehana and District Heritage, Woodlawn Heritage, Ballinasloe and District Heritage, Irish Workhouse Centre Portumna, Galway Family History Society, Woodford Heritage, Lackagh Heritage, Kiltullagh and Killimordaly Heritage, Williamstown Heritage, Milltown Heritage, Fohenagh and District Heritage, Old Tuam Society, Oyster Country Heritage, Moycullen Heritage, Oughterard Heritage, Past Time Conamara and Galway Community Archaeology. Their displays demonstrated the richness, diversity and passion of Galway's heritage sector and provided visitors with a fascinating insight into local history, traditions and community life.



ANTOINETTE LYDON, OUGHTERARD HERITAGE, CLLR ANDREW REDDINGTON, CATHAOIRLEACH GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, MARY MULLINS, MOYOUGH HERITAGE, MARIE MANNION HERITAGE OFFICER, CLLR DR EVELYN PARSON, CATHAOIRLEACH, BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, DONAL CONNOLLY, ALEEN CUST SOCIETY AND CLLR GERALDINE DONOGHUE AT THE ALEEN CUST SYMPOSIUM.
PHOTO CREDIT: JACINTA FAHY

Cllr Andrew Reddington, Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council, said:

"The Aleen Cust Symposium was a tremendous success and a wonderful example of what can be achieved when heritage, education, agriculture and community come together. The attendance of over 200 people demonstrates the enormous interest in Aleen Cust's story and the importance of preserving and celebrating our local heritage. I commend everyone involved in organising this outstanding event."



CLLR MICHAEL CONNOLLY, MARICHU WHYTE, JOHY WHYTE, MOYLUGH HERITAGE, CLLR ANDREW REDDINGTON, CATHAOIRLEACH GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, GERALDINE LYONS AND MARY MULLINS, MOYOUGH HERITAGE AND CLLR DR EVELYN PARSON, CATHAOIRLEACH, BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, DONAL CONNOLLY, ALEEN CUST AT THE ALEEN CUST SYMPOSIUM. PHOTO CREDIT: JACINTA FAHY

Dr Edna Curley, Principal of Mountbellew Agricultural College, said:

"We were delighted to welcome such a large and engaged audience to Mountbellew Agricultural College. The symposium showcased the tremendous contribution of women to veterinary medicine and agriculture while also highlighting the importance of education, innovation and community collaboration. It was a privilege to host this important event and to welcome President Catherine Connolly to the college."



ANN WALSH, OYSTER COUNTRY HERITAGE, CLARINBRIDGE WITH CLLR ANDREW REDDINGTON, CATHAOIRLEACH, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL; CLLR MICHAEL CONNOLLY AND MARIAN CONNOLLY, KINVARA HERITAGE AT THE ALEEN CUST SYMPOSIUM. PHOTO CREDIT: JACINTA FAHY

Donal Connolly, Aleen Cust Memorial Society, said:

"What began as a mission to ensure that Aleen Cust's remarkable life would not be forgotten has grown into something truly special. Seeing over 200 people gather to celebrate her legacy, learn from leading speakers and engage with our rich heritage is immensely rewarding. Aleen Cust's story continues to inspire new generations and reminds us of the importance of recognising pioneers who changed the world."



CLLR MICHAEL CONNOLLY, CLLR ANDREW REDDINGTON, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, CLLR DR EVELYN PARSONS, CATHAOIRLEACH BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WITH MEMBERS OF MOUNTBELLEW VINTAGE CLUB. PHOTO CREDIT: JACINTA FAHY

Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Galway County Council, said:

"This symposium was a powerful celebration of heritage, resilience and achievement. The enthusiasm shown by the heritage groups, vintage clubs, community organisations and delegates created a very special atmosphere throughout the day. It was wonderful to see so many people engaging with Aleen Cust's story and appreciating the extraordinary contribution of local communities in preserving and sharing our heritage."



EMMA LAFFEY, SKEHANA AND DISTRICT HERITAGE, CLLR DR EVELYN PARSONS, CATHAOIRLEACH BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, CLLR MICHAEL CONNOLLY, CLLR ANDREW REDDINGTON, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL. PHOTO CREDIT: JACINTA FAHY

The symposium was organised through a partnership involving the Aleen Cust Memorial Society, Galway County Council Heritage Office, Mountbellew Agricultural College and Atlantic Technological University (ATU). The organising committee wishes to acknowledge the significant contribution of Dr Edna Curley, Principal of Mountbellew Agricultural College, Dr Orla Flynn, President of Atlantic Technological University, and Professor Graham Heaslip, ATU, whose involvement and commitment to collaboration across education, research, agriculture and heritage were instrumental in the success of the event. The event highlighted not only the enduring legacy of Aleen Cust but also the strength of community collaboration across County Galway.



HAZEL MORRISON, MAIGH CUILINN HERITAGE, EMMA LAFFEY, SKEHANA AND DISTRICT HERITAGE, MÁIRTÍN DAVY, PASTIME CONAMARA, ANTOINETTE LYDON, OUGHTERARD HERITAGE AND PAULA LYDON, MAIGH CUILINN HERITAGE SHOWCASING THE RICH HERITAGE OF THEIR AREAS AT THE ALEEN CUST SYMPOSIUM. PHOTO CREDIT: JACINTA FAHY

As delegates departed after a memorable day of learning, discussion and celebration, there was a shared sense that the Aleen Cust Symposium had successfully honoured a remarkable trailblazer while creating new connections between the worlds of veterinary medicine, agriculture, heritage and community life.

The date for the Aleen Cust Symposium 2027 is 2 July 2027



CLLR ANDREW REDDINGTON, CATHAOIRLEACH GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL TESTING OUT THE 'HI-NELLY' AT THE VINTAGE DISPLAY AT THE ALEEN CUST SYMPOSIUM. PHOTO CREDIT: JACINTA FAHY

BETTER PUBLIC SERVICES AWARDS 2026 – GALWAY COMMUNITY MONUMENTS STORYMAPS SHORTLISTED



MARIE MANNION,
HERITAGE OFFICER,
MICHAEL
MACDONAGH,
CHIEF
ARCHAEOLOGIST,
NATIONAL
MONUMENTS
SERVICE AND
BERNIE DOHERTY,
GALWAY
COMMUNITY
ARCHAEOLOGIST
AT THE BETTER
PUBLIC SERVICE
AWARDS. PHOTO
CREDIT: MICHAEL
MACDONAGH

Galway County Council received national recognition when the Community Monuments StoryMaps project was shortlisted in the Innovation at Scale category of the Better Public Services Awards 2026. The project was submitted jointly by Galway County Council and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and progressed through a highly competitive national evaluation process.

The Better Public Services Awards recognised outstanding achievements in innovation, collaboration and service delivery across the civil and public service. The 2026 awards attracted applications from all Government Departments and 64 public service bodies. More than 160 volunteer evaluators from across the civil and public sectors reviewed, evaluated and scored submissions before drawing up shortlists of projects in each category. A final

evaluation committee selected the shortlisted projects based on the evaluators' recommendations.

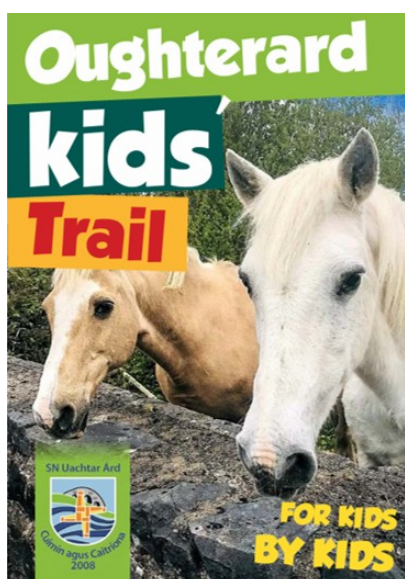
The Community Monuments StoryMaps project transformed how archaeological heritage in County Galway was communicated, accessed and understood by the public. Developed alongside Conservation Management Plans prepared for archaeological sites funded under the Community Monuments Fund, the initiative presented the county's cultural, built and archaeological heritage through an accessible digital platform. The project integrated GIS mapping, authoritative research, photographs, films, podcasts, survey reports, conservation plans and community knowledge into a single public-facing resource.

The project was led by Galway County Council in collaboration with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the Heritage Council, specialist consultants and local communities. It established a joined-up public service model by bringing together national and local datasets with community-generated knowledge, while also supporting conservation, planning, education and sustainable tourism objectives.

The nomination recognised the project's success in democratising access to archaeological heritage, strengthening community stewardship of historic sites and creating a scalable model for digital heritage communication. The initiative also demonstrated strong alignment with national policy frameworks, including Heritage Ireland 2030, and contributed to a number of UN Sustainable Development Goals through its support for education, innovation, heritage protection and partnership working.

The shortlisting represented a significant achievement for Galway County Council and its project partners and highlighted the innovative work being undertaken through the Galway Community Archaeology Programme to make heritage more accessible, engaging and relevant for communities, schools, researchers and visitors throughout County Galway.

OUGHTERARD KIDS' HERITAGE TRAIL AND PODCAST PROJECT



Galway County Council's Heritage Office was delighted to support and assist with the development and delivery the Oughterard Kids' Heritage Trail and Podcast Project, an outstanding community heritage initiative led by Fourth Class pupils from Scoil Chuimín agus Caitríona, Oughterard and Antoinette Lydon, Oughterard Heritage. Officially launched by Minister for Education and Youth, Hildegard Naughton TD, the project showcases Oughterard's rich heritage through a trail guide and a series of student-produced podcasts exploring sixteen local heritage sites and the stories behind them.



FOURTH CLASS PUPILS FROM SCOIL CHUIMÍN AGUS CAITRÍONA, OUGHTERARD, THEIR TEACHERS, GUESTS, ANTOINETTE LYDON, OUGHTERARD HERITAGE, MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND YOUTH, HILDEGARDE NAUGHTON TD, MINISTER SEÁN KYNE TD, CLLR EILEEN MANNION AT THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF OUGHTERARD KIDS' HERITAGE TRAIL AND PODCASTS. PHOTO CREDIT: OUGHTERARD HERITAGE.

A key strength of the project was the central role played by the schoolchildren, who researched local history, interviewed community members, photographed heritage locations, wrote the trail content and produced six podcast episodes. Through this hands-on approach, the students developed valuable research, teamwork and digital media skills while becoming active custodians of their local heritage.

The project originated through the vision and commitment of Antoinette Lydon and the Oughterard Heritage Group, whose extensive work in documenting and promoting the heritage of Oughterard provided the foundation for the initiative. Working closely with teacher Ms. Clóna McNamara, podcast producer Barbara Nic Dhonnacha and Galway County Council's Heritage Office, Antoinette helped guide the students in uncovering and sharing the stories that make Oughterard, the "Gateway to Connemara", such a distinctive and historically significant place

Funded by Galway County Council and iCAN, the project has created a lasting educational and community resource that will help future generations connect with and appreciate the unique heritage, landscapes and traditions of Oughterard.

The digital version of Oughterard Kids' Heritage Trail and podcasts are available through the Oughterard Heritage website <https://www.oughterardheritage.org/>

CONAIR OIDHREACHTA LEANAÍ BHAILE CHLÁIR



The Baile Chláir Kids' Heritage Trail is a wonderful bilingual community heritage project created by children, for children, celebrating the rich history, heritage and sense of place of Baile Chláir. Researched and written by Fourth Class pupils of Baile Chláir Educate Together National School under the

guidance of teacher Helen Fahy, the trail showcases 18 heritage, cultural, sporting and community sites across the parish, encouraging young people and families to explore their local area and discover the stories that have shaped the community.



FOURTH CLASS PUPILS OF BAILE CHLÁIR EDUCATE TOGETHER NATIONAL SCHOOL WITH CLLR DAVID COLLINS, CATHAOIRLEACH, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, MINISTER FOR EDUCATION HILDEGARDE NAUGHTON AND NOEL GREALISH, TD. AT THE LAUNCH OF THEIR BI-LINGUAL HERITAGE TRAIL BOOKLET. PHOTO CREDIT: CLLR DAVID COLLINS.

The project was supported by the Heritage Office, Galway County Council, with assistance from Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, and was funded through the Galway County Council Community Support Scheme Heritage Grant. The publication is a wonderful example of collaboration between the school, the Heritage Office and the wider community. Special recognition is due to Helen Fahy for her vision, leadership and commitment, and above all to the children themselves, whose research, writing and enthusiasm brought Baile Chláir's heritage to life for a new generation.

The bi-lingual heritage trail booklet was officially launched during school celebrations attended by Cllr David Collins, Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council, Minister for Education Hildegard Naughton TD, and Noel Grealish TD, highlighting the importance of engaging young people with their local heritage and fostering community pride.

PLANNING

REGENERATION SCHEMES

TOWN CENTRE FIRST (TCF) PROGRAMME

ATHENRY

The Athenry Town team have been working closely with the TRO and Consultants LUC in the final stages of completing the TCF plan. The plan is now going through environmental screening and will be formally launched in August.

BALLINASLOE

The Regeneration team launched the Ballinasloe Town Centre First Plan on Monday, 29 June, in the Ballinasloe Enterprise Hub, Society Street, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. The event marked an important milestone in the ongoing regeneration of Ballinasloe town centre and brought together local representatives, community stakeholders and project partners involved in shaping the plan.



The Ballinasloe Town Centre First Plan has been developed through the Government's Town Centre First Policy and funded by the Northern and Western Regional Assembly through the European Regional Development Fund under the THRIVE programme. The plan provides a community-led, plan-based framework for revitalising the town centre, supporting

economic and social development, addressing vacancy and dereliction, and strengthening Ballinasloe's role as a key urban centre in east County Galway.

The Ballinasloe Town Centre First Plan is a non-statutory framework that aligns with the Galway County Development Plan 2022–2028 and the Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2022–2028. Its purpose is to help prioritise and sequence the delivery of town centre objectives in a coordinated and phased manner, creating a strong pipeline of regeneration projects that can be progressed through appropriate funding opportunities.

The plan was developed in partnership between Galway County Council's Town Regeneration Officer and

Regeneration Team, the Ballinasloe Town Team, consultants The Paul Hogarth Company, elected members of the Ballinasloe Municipal District, and the wider local community.

Public engagement formed a central part of the process and helped shape the projects and priorities identified in the final plan.



DOUGHERD

The Town Regeneration Officer (TRO) is continuing to support local communities in establishing Town Teams. A formal Oughterard Town team has now been established following an EOI process with the first meeting taking place in July.

The TRO continues to support additional Town teams in Oranmore, Gort and Headford.

TOWNS AND CITIES REGENERATION INVESTMENT FUND

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, James Browne TD announced a new Towns and Cities Regeneration Investment Fund to replace the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) which will provide greater focus on disadvantaged areas and widen the scope of eligibility to include more smaller towns.

We await the announcement from the Minister on the successful applications under the funding stream. Galway County Council submitted 6 applications, two in each of the eligible towns of Tuam, Oranmore (Garraun) and Ballinasloe.

PORTUMNA

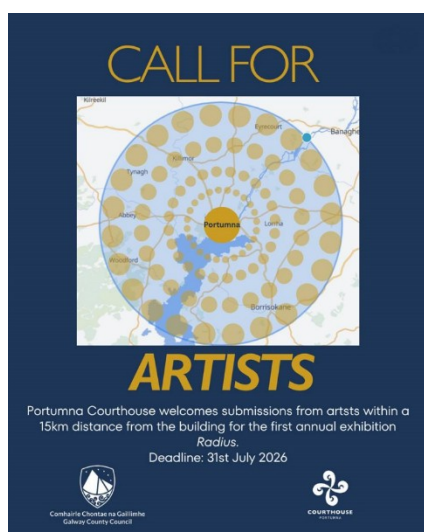
PORTUMNA COURTHOUSE

New monthly activities started in the Courthouse in June with the first Monthly Market on 12th June, featuring 12 local vendors. A call for applications was published in April, with 30 vendors submitting for a total of 11 tables, reflecting the need for similar opportunities in the area.

The launch date was a huge success with several vendors selling out of products and community members coming to browse the stalls right up until closing time. Music was provided by StringBound Music which helped set a lively tone for vendors and visitors alike. The market will return on the first Friday of each month until Christmas.



MONTHLY ARTIST MEETUPS & COMMUNITY EXHIBITION



The first Artist Meetup event was held on 21st May 2026 with six local artists in attendance. The event was an opportunity for local creatives to get together in a casual capacity and discuss opportunities to collaborate. Plans for a local exhibition formed during the 25th June Artist Meetup, with a theme and general approach determined.

Radius will run for 10 days in August and feature artists living and working within 15km of the Courthouse. The call will remain open until 31st July 2026.

PORTUMNA PUBLIC REALM

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

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

LOUGHREA

RRDF PROJECT – LOUGHREA TOWN HALL

Finna Construction are progressing with works internally and to the rear of the site with a projected completion date of early October 2026. The Regeneration team gave senior Management Team a tour of the site during June to review ongoing progress with the development as well as future plans for Church Street



Expressions of Interest are now being accepted for the rental of desks and office pods on the enterprise floor.





COTTAGE ON CHURCH STREET, LOUGHREA

It is proposed to develop the site of the derelict cottage on Church Street, Loughrea. The proposal will include the replacement of the existing cottage, which dates back to the early 1800's, with a 'shadow' structure of the cottage itself. The intention is to retain the presence and form of the cottage which contributes to the character of the street. The new structure will form a gateway to the open space to the rear which will be shared with the town hall and potentially be the location of the trader's market and community events. The facade of the new structure will fold back so as to form a covered, outdoor traders space. When the facade is in the closed position it will secure the gateway to the site beyond. A structural report has been prepared which recommends the removal of the cottage. A planning application for the replacement structure will be lodged in the coming weeks.



RRDF LONG POINT

The Regeneration team submitted a Part 10 Planning Application to An Coimisiún Pleanála 27/09/2024 and a response to further information sent in July 2025, the planning approval was signed on the 19/05/2026. The planning approval was subject to a number of conditions which will require amendments to the project design. The Regeneration Team are working with the project Architects to prepare the scheme to go forward for Category 1 capital funding, under the sixth Call for Funding of the Rural Regeneration Development Fund at the end of July.

ATHENRY

RRDF PROJECT – PUBLIC REALM ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

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

The detailed design of the public Realm scheme (drainage, m&e, alignment, pavement) continues, led by Tobin Engineers. Liaison with Usice Eireann and ESB to facilitate the construction of public realm scheme in parallel with works required by these statutory undertakers.

The project will be divided into two separate contracts given the requirements of ESB for undergrounding their services and incorporating SIRO broadband services. The project should commence Q3 2026.

RRDF PROJECT – ATHENRY COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE HUB

Fire Safety and Disability Access Certificates have been granted with tender documents currently under review. Approval has been granted from the DRCDG to proceed to tender and the project will be advertised on e-tenders.



PROPOSED SHOPFRONT

PROPOSED MULTI-PURPOSE
MEETING / SEMINAR ROOM



CAR PARK SITE

Design works are progressing on the site and a Part 8 planning application is due for submission in Q3 2026.

TUAM

TUAM TOWN HALL

Decisions pending on Fire Safety and Disability Access Certificates and tender documents are currently being developed.

PROPOSED MULTI-FUNCTION SPACE

TUAM STATION BUILDING: REPURPOSING, RENOVATION AND EXTENSION

The renovation and extension of the Tuam Station Building has been designed in-house by the Regeneration Team. Funding was sought and granted by the NWRA through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) THRIVE of €6.6 million euros. The project will now go through the formal tender process and contract award is expected by Q3 2026.

CLIFDEN

The Clifden Part 10 planning application to An Coimisiún Pleanála was approved in November 2025. Phase 1 of the project, the Beach Road Quay and Harbour Park are now undergoing costing and detailed design to submit for capital funding under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) in July 2026.

GORT

GORT PUBLIC REALM

The Gort Public Realm scheme was granted planning permission by An Coimisiún Pleanála in January and is now subject to a Judicial Review by an individual, which has held the project in abeyance until the case has proceeded through the courts. In the interim, the car park site at Barrack Street.

BARRACK STREET, GORT.

Archaeological Testing at site GA 122-097 recorded as the potential site of King Guaire's Castle. Through Time Ltd Archaeology has been appointed to conduct excavations at the site to determine if King Guaire's Castle was indeed located at the former military barracks parade ground. There is no record of previous excavations having been undertaken at the site and therefore this is a brilliant opportunity to uncover an important piece of the history of Gort Inse Guaire.

Halfway through the six days of excavations no evidence of the castle has been found, however a variety of interesting discoveries have been made which piece together an intriguing picture of post-medieval and 17th century life on Barrack Street.

A shard of post-medieval glass has been discovered which predates the military barracks. The location of the water pump, which was surrounded by cut stone flags, clay brick drainage channels, and cobbles, has also been discovered.

Sisters of Mercy Convent

The Regeneration Team submitted a successful application for funding under Category 2 of the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund to purchase the former Convent and Primary School in Gort Town Centre. This project was identified as a priority within the Gort TCF Plan. The property purchase is now going through the conveyancing process and is anticipated to be completed later this year. The Regen Team will then progress to the design stage of the project, engaging further with key stakeholders as well as the broader local community.

ORANMORE

RINVILLE PARK SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The plan for Rinville is currently going through environmental screening and the final document is projected to be published by Q4 2026.

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
- Works
- 13 Restoration Maintenance (RM) projects, with a total allocation of €550,598
- Micros surfacing Completed – Surface dressing Ongoing
- 5 Discretionary Grant projects, with a total allocation of €83,467
- Works ongoing

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 for a selection of these works.

Surfacing works complete in Tonegurraun

Micro surfacing completed in Killoughter

Crews have also remained focused on network maintenance; Drainage works complete in Corrundulla and direct labour roadworks in planned for Western area starting next week.

Following are sample photos of ongoing works:



CORRUNDULLA DRAINAGE
WORKS,

SURFACE DRESSING WORKS, CRUMLIN



MICRO SURFACING, KILLOUGHTER



RESURFACING WORKS, TONEGURRAUN

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS
WORKS, CASTLE STREET ORANMORE



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS
WORK AT GEALSCOIL IN ORANMORE

ROUNDBOUT UPGRADE, ORANBEG
ROUNDBOUT





.....
 ROUNDABOUT UPGRADE,
 CARROWMONEASH, ORANMORE

BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

During June 2026 Ballinasloe MD continued to deliver the primary elements of the annual roadworks programme, restoration improvement (RI) and restoration maintenance (RM).

An outline of the current status is presented here, along with photos of works completed below.

- 36 no. Restoration Improvement Grant (RI) projects - 26 overlays Complete (72%)
- 40 no. Restoration Maintenance Grant (RM) projects – 19 Complete (50%)
- 5 no. Discretionary Grant (Local Tertiary Roads) – 4 Complete (80%)

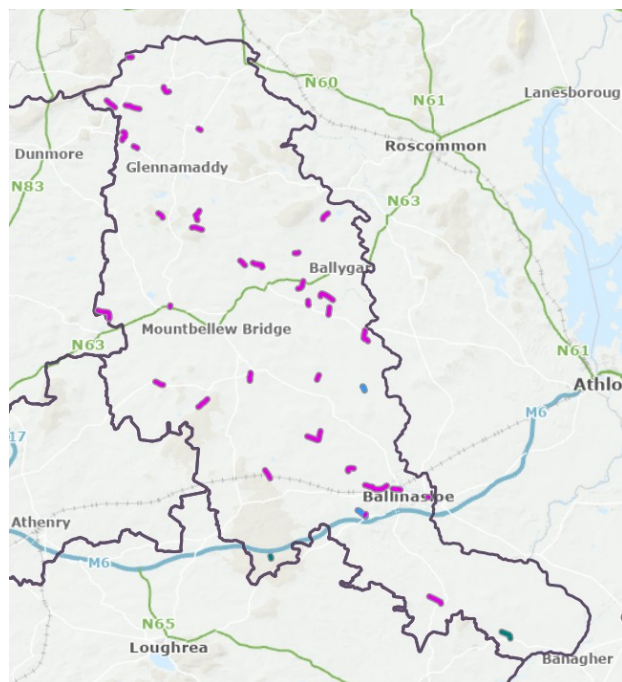
Separately, roadworks projects granted funding in 2026 under Strategic Rehabilitation Regional Roads(1), LIS (2), CIS(5), Climate-Change(3), Low-Cost-Safety(2), are all being prepared by the MD technical teams and by MD crews on site.

RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT GRANT WORKS

RI Contract Project Name	Status
Ballinasloe North	
BN-26-03 - Rushestown	Complete
BN-26-04 - Rockfield	Complete
BN-26-05 - Boherbannagh	Complete
BN-26-07 - Cappagh	Complete
BN-26-10 - Muckloon	Complete
BN-26-13 - Kingstown	Complete
BN-26-14 - Beagh	Complete
BN-26-15 - Rathbawn	Complete
BN-26-16 - Mounthazel	Complete
BN-26-18 - Ballinlass	Complete
BN-26-22 - St Brendan's	Complete
BN-26-23 - Cloonminda	Complete
BN-26-24 - Corralough	Complete
BN-26-26 - Ballybaun Ballinamore br	Complete
BN-26-27 - Islands	Complete
BN-26-30 - Kilmore	Complete
BN-26-31 - Boyounagh	Complete
Ballinasloe South	
BS-26-03 - Cartrondoogan	Complete
BS-26-04 - Kilcloony	Complete
BS-26-05 - Lissyegan	Complete
BS-26-07 - Ballinakill	Complete
BS-26-08 - Ochilbeg, Laurencetown	Complete
BS-26-12 - Curragh/Grange	Complete
BS-26-14 - Donaree, Cappataggle	Complete
BS-26-16 - Kilgarve Gardens	Complete

RI Contract & Direct Labour Project Name	Status
Ballinasloe North	
BN-26-01 - Moylough	Not yet Started
BN-26-08 - Menlough	Not yet Started
BN-26-11 - Cashel	Not yet Started
BN-26-12 - Lisquill	Not yet Started
BN-26-17 - Shanballymore (Direct Labour)	Not yet Started
BN-26-21 - Hollygrove (Direct Labour)	Not yet Started
BN-26-25 - Cooloo (Direct Labour)	Not yet Started
BN-26-32 - Lissacarha (Direct Labour)	Not yet Started
Ballinasloe South	
BS-26-01 - Garbally Demense, Ballinasloe	Not yet Started
BS-26-06 - Lowville (Direct Labour)	Not yet Started
BS-26-10 - Killuremore Lenafin	Not yet Started

MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF RI WORKS
ACROSS THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT





COMPLETION OF OVERLAY WORKS AT BN-26-22 - ST BRENDAN'S, BALLINASLOE NORTH ENGINEERING AREA.

CIVIC RECEPTION

Ballinasloe Municipal District members held a Civic Reception on the 13th May 2026 to recognise the achievements of Siobhán Divilly in recognition of her individual sporting achievement in being named AIB Ladies Gaelic Football Club Player of the Year 2025 / 2026.

In bestowing the Civic Honour, Cllr. Peter Keaveney, Cathaoirleach of the Ballinasloe Municipal District recognised the exceptional achievements of Kilkerrin/Clonberne Ladies Gaelic Football Team and the leadership displayed by Siobhán Divilly which made them



inspirational role models for their communities and county. Siobhán was presented with a specially engraved Galway Crystal Trophy in recognition of their sporting achievements.



CATHAOIRLEACH OF THE BALLINASLOE M.D.
CLLR. PETER KEAVENEY, MS. SIOBHÁN DIVILLY,
MR. DAMIEN MITCHELL DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

VISIT OF MINISTER KEVIN BOXER MORAN

Minister Kevin Boxer Moran, Office of Public Works visited Ballinasloe Municipal District to discuss Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme on 25th of June.



MD COUNCILLORS AND GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICIALS WITH MINISTER KEVIN BOXER MORAN, OFFICE OF PUBLIC WORKS (OPW) AND OFFICIALS OF THE OPW

CONAMARA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

The schedule of Municipal District Works are continuing apace.



CS-RM-04 ROS MUC R340 ROAD –
SURFACE DRESSED AND LINED

CS-RM-04 ROS MUC R340 ROAD – SURFACE
DRESSED AND LINED



EXISTING ROAD MARKINGS REFRESHED AT SCHOOLS AND PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS



SCOIL TUAIRINÍ

SCOIL MHUIRE, MAIGH CUILINN



HEALTHY IRELAND OSI



NEW OUTDOOR SHOWER INSTALLED BY DIRECT LABOUR STAFF AT TRÁ MHÓR, INDREABHÁN

DRCD MINOR CAPITAL WORKS PROJECT ON INIS MÓR

The Area office applied for and were successful in receiving funding to repair the existing graveyard perimeter wall at Cill Éinde, Inis Mór. This project has long been at the top of the list for Islanders for obvious reasons. It is a sensitive location, within a sheltered bay, bounding a Special Area of Conservation and the graveyard is listed as a National Monument.



After a long process involving multiple project stages from preliminary design through environmental screening, consent from the Minister for Housing, LG & Heritage under Section 14 of the National Monuments Act, detailed design and procurement, a contractor was appointed and commenced construction works recently. It is expected to take 6 weeks to complete the project.

LOUGHREA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

PRIMARY FOCUS OF ACTIVITY

Work on the 2026 Roads Programme is progressing well. The 2026 Road Programme includes 53 Restoration Improvement Grant (RIG) projects, 23 Restoration Maintenance Grant (RMG) projects, 9 Discretionary Grant (DG) projects, 4 Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience projects, 6 Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) projects, 3 Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) projects and 4 Low-Cost Safety Improvement (LCSI) scheme projects.

We continue to address NOM and LPT funded projects, complete improvement works at our Depots, carry out localised drainage maintenance, road repairs and all other routine maintenance work as resources allow.

A high-level overview is as follows:

- 53 No. Restoration Improvement Grant projects - 23 Complete (43%)
- 23 No. Restoration Maintenance Grant (RMG) projects – 4 Complete (17%)
- 9 No. Local Tertiary Roads – 2 Complete (22%).
- 4 No. Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Schemes – 3 On-going
- 4 No. Low-Cost Safety Improvement Works – Tenders issued on two projects but construction yet to commence.
- LIS and CIS Schemes – Works commencing

A SAMPLE OF WORKS ON-GOING IS AS FOLLOWS:

LAYING OF BASECOURSE ON L-4219 - KILLOGILLEEN



ESKER L-7157



MANNIN L-4502



ROAD LINING ON R356 FOLLOWING OVERLAY WORKS



ANTI SKID ON APPROACH TO
PEDESTRIAN CROSSING IN
CRAUGHWELL VILLAGE ON THE R446
BEING REFRESHED



REPAIRS TO RETAINING WALL, LOUGHCURRA, KINVARA





REPLACEMENT CULVERT, KILCHREEST





KILCRIMPLE – RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROJECT





KILCRIMPLE VERGE
REPAIR,
LANNAGHT

NPWS SHUTTLE BUS PROJECT, GORT



TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

WORKS CARRIED DURING THE MONTH IN TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

R332 KILBANNON REALIGNMENT

The R332 Kilbannon Road Realignment Scheme is progressing well and is currently 39% complete. Major earthworks, drainage, utility ducting and accommodation works have been substantially advanced across the scheme.

The project is currently approximately two weeks behind programme due to poor ground conditions, utility conflicts and periods of heavy rainfall. Additional resources have been deployed by the contractor to mitigate delays and maintain progress.



Safety performance remains excellent, with no accidents, incidents, near misses or traffic management complaints reported to date. Stakeholder engagement and utility coordination continue, and the project remains on track for delivery despite the challenges encountered.

TUAM ROADS PROGRAMME

The 2026 Tuam Roads Programme continues to progress well, with the direct labour programme approximately 70% complete. A significant number of Restoration Improvement (RI), Restoration Maintenance (RM) and Discretionary Grant schemes have now been completed across the Municipal District, with several remaining schemes either under construction, procured or scheduled to commence in the coming months.

The overlay contract being delivered by Harrington Contractors commenced last month and is advancing well, with 7 of the 11 planned overlay schemes completed to date. The contractor remains on programme and is making good progress across the district.

Overall, the Tuam roads and transport capital programme is progressing satisfactorily, with delivery of the annual works programme continuing across maintenance, restoration and strategic road improvement projects.



COROFIN SAFETY WORKS

Works continued on the Corofin Road through contract and direct labour crews. The scheme was funded through CIS, LCA and NOM. Works included traffic safety measures, sight improvement works and new speed activated signage.



KILCOLGHANS ROAD WIDENING AND PESESTRIAN ACCESS

Works continued on Kilcolghans road which involved widening of existing bridge to allow for pedestrian access on a popular walk route.



TII NATIONAL ROAD SCHEMES

TII has confirmed €3.0 million in additional funding for Galway National Roads in 2026, comprising 14 Defects Management Scheme projects (€482,000), HD28 pavement schemes (€2.191 million), one Emergency Pavement Scheme (€277,000) and one fencing retrofit scheme (€50,000).

The final list of Defects, HD28, EPS and fencing schemes has now been received. Defects funding will be assigned to individual scheme codes and will be reviewed with the relevant engineers over the coming weeks. The final four defects items comprise pavement maintenance works which have already been completed and the associated maintenance budget will be replenished accordingly.

All HD28 schemes have been tendered and contractors are in place. Madden Contractors commenced works at the N67 Oranmore Roundabouts last week, with one roundabout already completed. These works are being undertaken at night to minimise disruption. Madden Contractor will also deliver the N67 Clarinbridge scheme and the N84 Knockroone and N84 Mirehill schemes north of Headford, with works scheduled to commence following the holiday period. The HD28 programme represents over €2.19 million of investment in skid-resistance and pavement safety improvements.



McGrath Quarries will undertake the N83 Bobby Burke Road, Tuam and N84 Corrandulla Cross to Grange Junction HD28 schemes following the holidays. McGrath Quarries have also been appointed to deliver the Emergency Pavement Scheme on the N59 east of Clifden, with final arrangements currently being concluded.

N67 CARROWMONESH ROUNDABOUT
HD28 SCHEME



Mise, le meas,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Liam Conneally". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chief Executive
Galway County Council

22nd July 2026