Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

# TURASCÁIL BAINISTíOCHTA
# MANAGEMENT REPORT



Deireadh Fómhar 2026
October 2026

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

## CORPORATE SERVICES

### OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE CATHAOIRLEACH

#### BALLINASLOE FAIR – 3 FAIRS DINNER

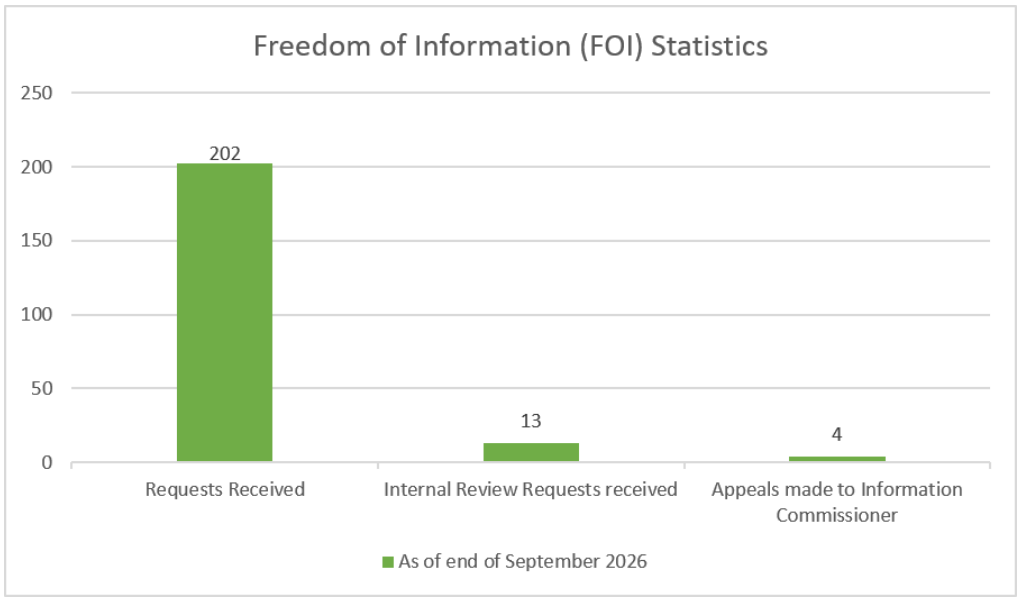


The Three Fairs Dinner served as a fitting celebration of Ballinasloe's rich heritage and strong community spirit. Supported by Galway County Council, the event also highlighted the importance of Ballinasloe's twinning relationship with its partner town in France, reflecting a shared commitment to cultural exchange, friendship, and European cooperation.

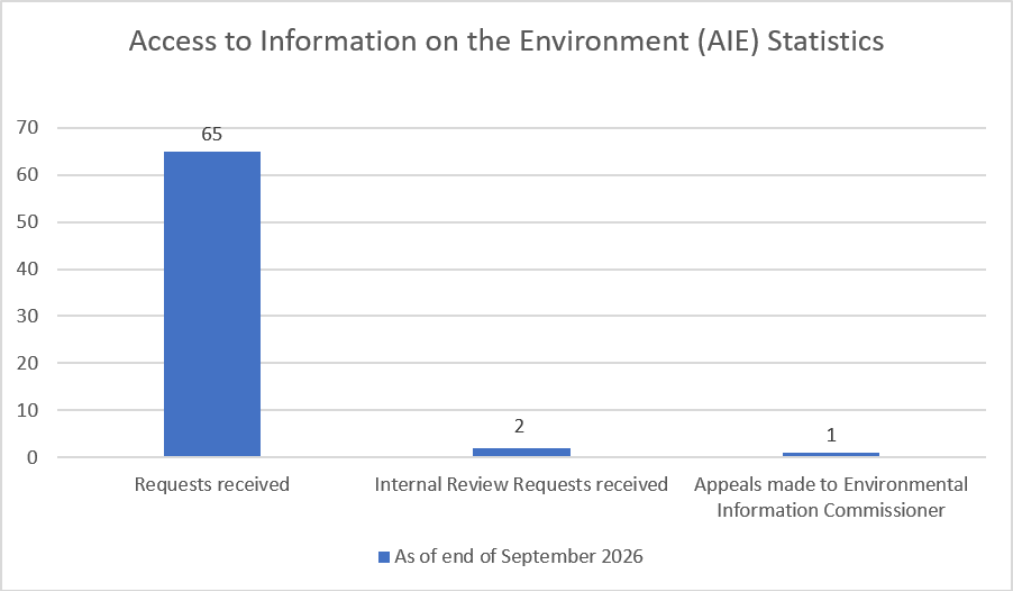
### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION & DATA PROTECTION

#### 2026 YEAR TO DATE STATISTICS TO 30.09.2026

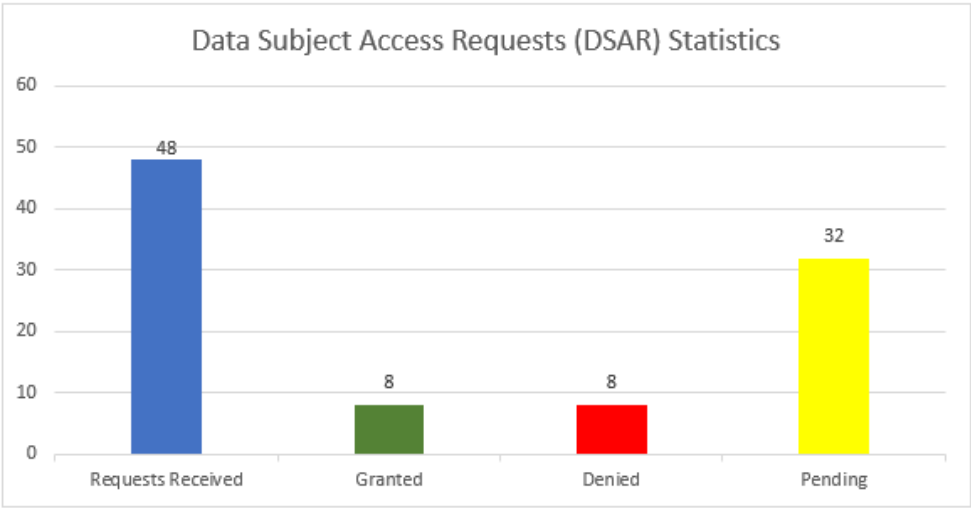
#### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



## ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT




## DATA PROTECTION




48 requests received:

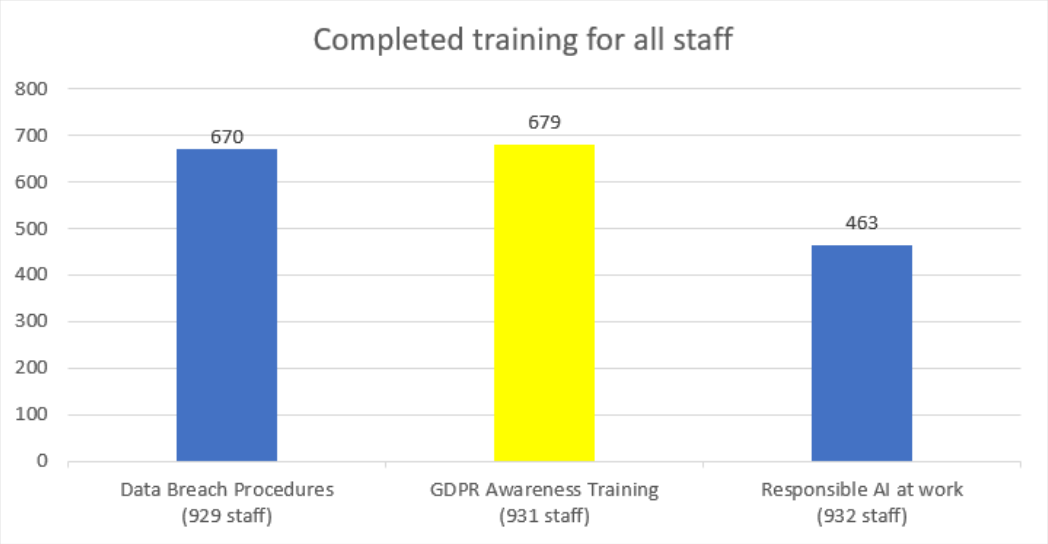
- 45 Subject Access Request
- 1 erasure request
- 2 Third party Subject Access Requests (An Garda Síochána)

8 granted, 8 denied, 32 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. In August, a new training programme, “Responsible AI at work”, was launched and assigned to all staff.

In addition, two role-specific training courses were developed and introduced for Human Resources and Information Technology teams to address unit-specific responsibilities and compliance requirements.




## SOCIAL MEDIA

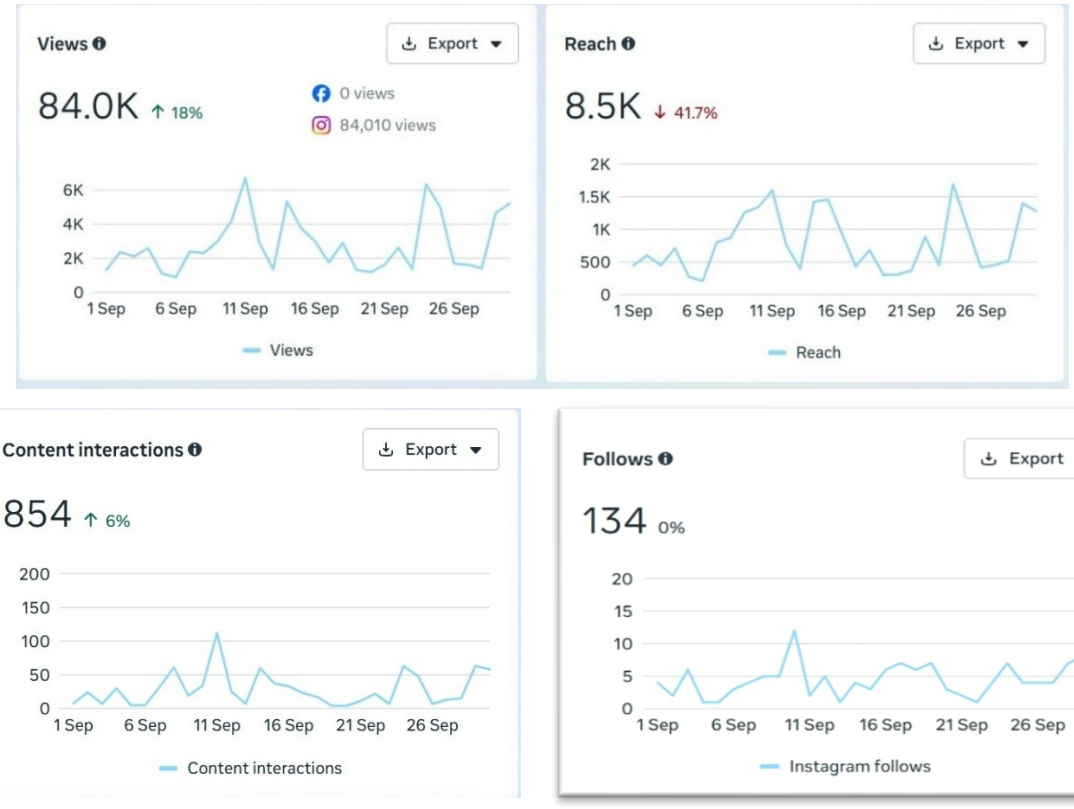
### STATS FOR FACEBOOK




### FACEBOOK TOP THREE POSTS



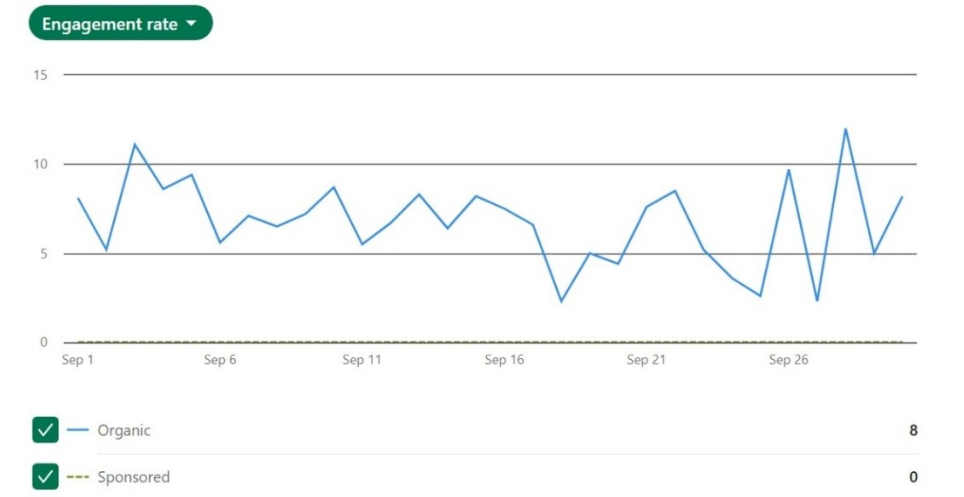
## STATS FOR INSTAGRAM

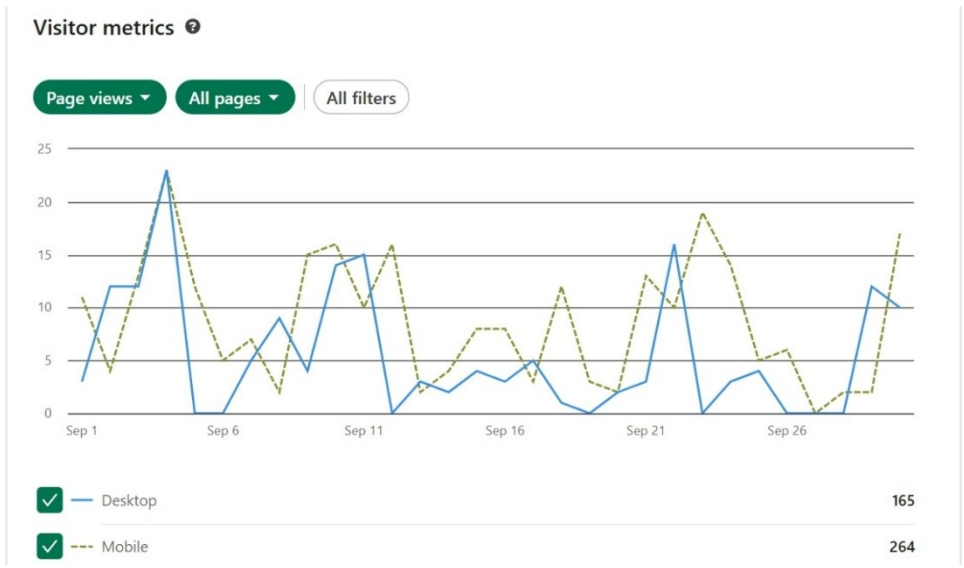


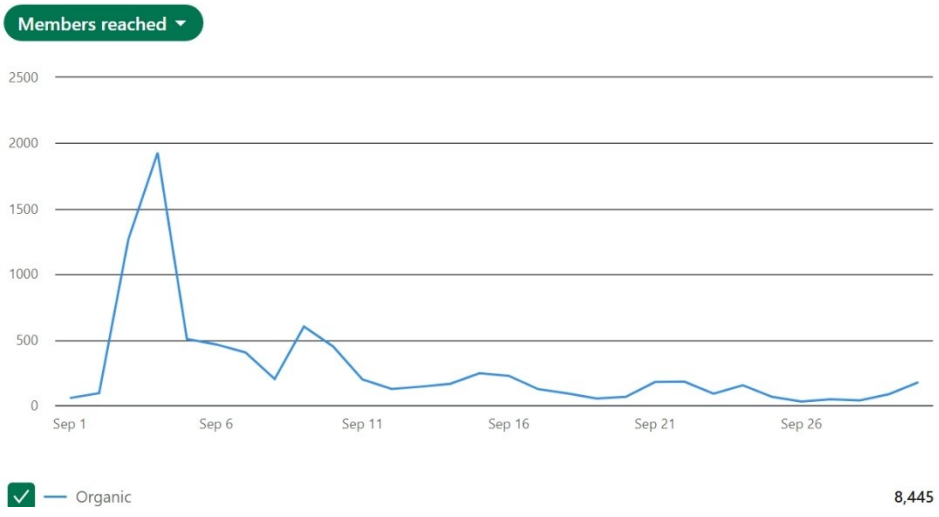

## INSTAGRAM TOP THREE POSTS

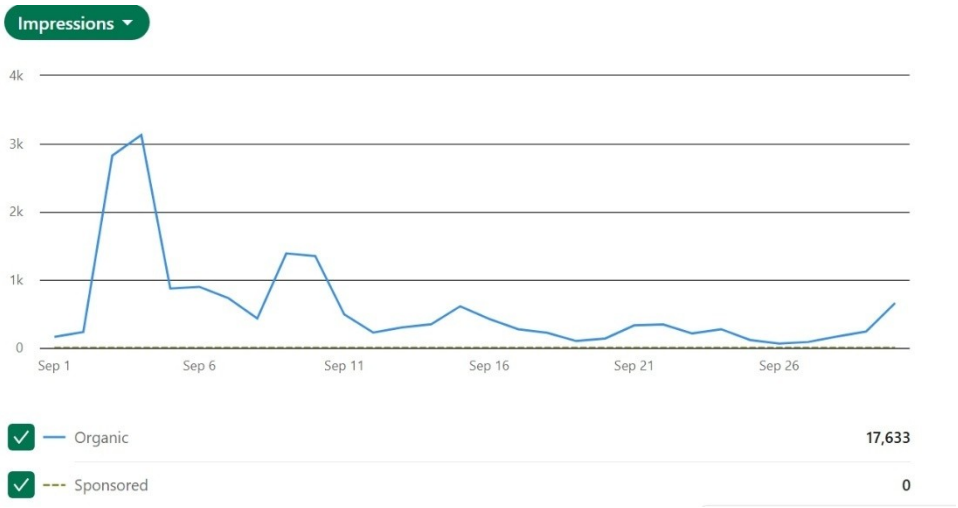


## STATS FOR LINKEDIN






## LINKEDIN TOP THREE POSTS

**Content engagement**

Time range: **Aug 31, 2026 - Sep 29, 2026** Show: 10

| Post title | Reactions | Comments | Reposts | Follows | Engagement rate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| The countdown is on! Phase 2 of Fearann na hEascrach opens at 10:00am on 1 October 2026. ✅ ... Posted by Claire Smith • 9/29/2026 This post type can't be boosted. Boost | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | 3.82% |
| Bí réidh! Osclófar an tairseach an 1 Deireadh Fómhair 2026 ag 10:00 r.n. ✅ Cláraigh do chuntas. ✅ ... Posted by Claire Smith • 9/29/2026 This post type can't be boosted. Boost | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | 6.45% |
| Positive Ageing Week takes place from 25 September to 2 October, celebrating the contribution older... Posted by Claire Smith • 9/28/2026 This post type can't be boosted. Boost | - | - | - | - | - |

## OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY

Total posts on all Social Media Platforms for September were 360, 50% 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. *Content Interactions - 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.

## FACILITIES

### ATHENRY HERITAGE CENTRE CONSERVATION PROJECT



The project is addressing significant water ingress issues and is focused on safeguarding the long-term integrity of this important historic structure.

The works demonstrate Galway County Council's commitment to meeting its obligations under national heritage conservation policies while protecting a valuable cultural asset for future generations.

The Council remain on schedule for completion of these initial works in November 2026, ensuring the preservation of an important part of County Galway's heritage for generations to come.

This successful project reflects the collaborative efforts of the National Monuments Service, Gerry McManus (Conservation Architect), Dominic Delaney (Archaeologist), AnnMarie Cusack (Conservation Officer, Galway County Council), Niall McDonagh Roofing & Rope Access (Main Contractor), Alan Burgess and the Athenry Heritage Centre team, and the Facilities Team within Corporate Services.

### THE BATTLE OF AUGHRIM VISITOR CENTRE - FINALE 2026 SEASON EVENT AND WINTER CLOSURE

The Visitor Centre hosted its finale Summer Series 2026 event on Friday September 18th focusing on the Formidable, Fabulous, Forward-Thinking Women of Galway.

*"Sure That's Women For You"*, presented by a very engaging, Pat Johnston, celebrated the remarkable stories of Galway women who helped shape modern Ireland, including Elizabeth O'Farrell, Úna Watters, Emily O'Shaughnessy, Belle Bilton, Julia Mary Morrissey, Rosaleen Mills, and Dr Ada English.

This was an inspiring talk honouring the courage, resilience and achievements of these women whose contributions deserve to be remembered.




The Facilities team wish to thank all of our 2026 speakers, visitors, volunteers and community partners for making this season so special.

While the Centre is now closed for the Winter period, we are already very much looking forward to and planning an exciting program for 2027 with the Centre due to open earlier in April, to allow for more schools' engagement.

## RECREATION AND AMENTITIES

### RENVILLE PLAYGROUND UPDATE

Galway County Council was delighted to receive funding under the Capital Grant Scheme for Play and Recreation 2026, which enabled the installation of new inclusive musical instrumentation equipment at Renville Playground.

The purpose of this investment was to enhance the range of play opportunities available and to provide innovative, inclusive play experiences that can be enjoyed by children of all abilities. The addition of the musical play equipment supports sensory engagement, creativity, and social interaction, helping to ensure that the playground remains a welcoming and accessible space for everyone.

The playground officially reopened last Thursday following the completion of the installation works, with the new equipment now available for public use. It is hoped that the enhanced facilities will be warmly received by local families and visitors, and that everyone will enjoy exploring and interacting with these exciting new play features for many years to come.

This project represents a positive improvement to the recreational amenities at Renville Playground and demonstrates the value of grant funding in supporting inclusive, accessible, and innovative play opportunities within our communities.



## COMMUNITY, RURAL & TOURISM DEVELOPMENT & INTEGRATION

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

#### LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

An LECP Monitoring Working Group has been set up to monitor the implementation of the Local Economic & Community Plan 2024-2030. The chair of the working group is Frank Dawson, and the group members also include Ann O'Brien, University of Galway, Gillian Buckely, Western Development Commission, Patrick McHugh, Údarás na Gaeltachta and Lorna Baek, Chief Officer of the LCDC.

The purpose of the Group is to provide an independent forum for reviewing progress against the LECP and supporting robust oversight of implementation activity across the county. The Group will complement, rather than replace, the formal governance role of the LCDC and Strategic Policy Committee (SPC), which will retain overall strategic oversight of the LECP.

The Role of the Working Group is to review consolidated LECP KPI and performance data submitted by lead agencies; consider reported progress and RAG (Red-Amber-Green) status assessments; identify emerging risks, issues, gaps or barriers to implementation and recommend matters requiring escalation; oversee the selection of LECP case studies that demonstrate outcomes and impact; support the preparation of biennial monitoring reports for consideration by the LCDC and SPC; and provide an independent perspective on trends, challenges and opportunities arising during implementation.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT CENTRES (CSC)

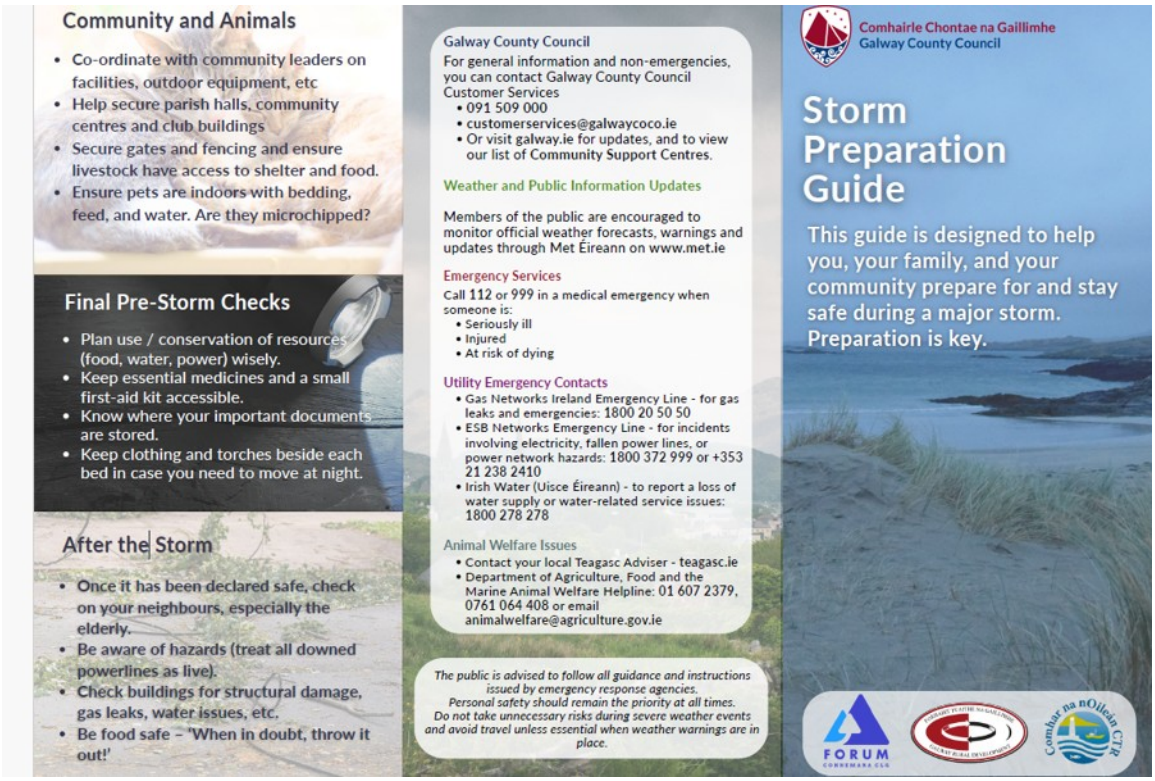
A new GIS mapping tool for Community Support Centres (CSCs) has been added to the Galway County Council website, providing an interactive map showing the locations of designated centres across County Galway. This allows members of the public, community groups and Council staff to easily identify the nearest available centre when required. The map can be accessed at: Community Support Centres Interactive GIS Map

Community Support Centres are locally based facilities that may be utilised during major emergency events such as severe weather incidents, prolonged power outages and other situations where communities may require additional support. Centres are nominated by local groups and must meet a range of minimum requirements, including an established volunteer group, adequate heating, toilet facilities, a kitchen area for providing refreshments, Wi-Fi access, device charging facilities, first aid supplies and suitable gathering spaces.

The full list of designated Community Support Centres is available on the Galway County Council website and is updated on an ongoing basis as new Expressions of Interest are received and approved. This ensures that the register remains current and reflects the growing network of community facilities available to support local resilience and emergency response across County Galway. Community Support Centres | Galway County Council

## HUMANITARIAN SUBGROUP

A Humanitarian Subgroup meeting took place on the 8th October to launch the Storm Preparation Guide. Through stakeholder engagement with the Local Development Companies, the storm preparation guide was developed and created. The Guide is a formal public information resource in tri-fold brochure, digital PDF and accessible Word formats in English, Irish and Ukrainian. The Guide will be distributed to all Community Support Centres, local libraries and MD offices.







## NOAC CUSTOMER SERVICE WORKSHOP 2026 - EXEMPLARS OF GOOD PRACTICE IN CUSTOMER SERVICE

Galway County Council's project "Formalisation of a Community Support Centre Network" was selected by NOAC to be one of the projects presented at the NOAC Customer Service Workshop in Kilkenny Castle on the 1st October 2026. The event showcases a number of examples of good practice in customer service in the local government sector and included

an open Q&A panel discussion with panellists being quizzed by the audience on their projects and the significant changes being faced by local authorities in Ireland.



DECLAN BREATHNACH, NOAC, THERESA DONOHUE , GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, JOHN BYRNE, NOAC, MEATH COUNTY CONCIL, OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL, ALAN MCDERMOT, NOAC, OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL, NOEL HARRINGTON, NOAC

## TIDY TOWNS

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Tidy Towns Seminar**

**Hosted by Galway County Council - Community Section**

**Venue:** Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry.
**Date:** Thursday, 19th November 2026.
**Time:** 7.00pm - 9.00pm

The Community Section of Galway County Council is pleased to advise that we will be hosting a Tidy Towns Seminar on Thursday, 19th November 2026, at the Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry, from 7.00pm to 9.00pm.

This event will provide an opportunity for Tidy Towns groups from across County Galway to hear from guest speakers, and Council staff on initiatives, projects, and supports available to communities.

Separately Tidy Towns 3-5 strategic plans have been commissioned across six locations in the county. These are Tullycross, Kinvara, Headford, Ballymoe, Oranmore and Corofin. It is anticipated that these tidy town areas going forward can more easily identify key projects for development support as funding options arise.

## AGE FRIENDLY

Positive Ageing Week took place from the 25th September to 2nd October. An annual celebration of the vital and varied contributions older people make to their communities, and an opportunity to challenge ageism. This year's theme, **"Connecting Generations"**, is reflected in the stories and contributions of 26 Positive Ageing Local Heroes from across Galway City and County. These inspiring individuals demonstrate what it means to age positively, through volunteering, caring for loved ones, staying active, and continuing to play a vital role in their communities. The Local Heroes Exhibition is an initiative of the Galway Age Friendly Programme, made possible through the support of Galway County Council, Galway City Council, COPE Galway, Galway Rural Development, Galway City Partnership, Forum Connemara, Carers Department, HSE West and North West, Galway Public Libraries, and Comhar na nOileán. Galway Positive Ageing Booklet.pdf



## NATIONAL AGE FRIENDLY RECOGNITION AND ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2026




Healthy County Galway welcomed the national recognition received by the Connemara Dementia Café Initiative through the *Age Friendly Community Innovation Award* at the. The initiative demonstrates the value of cross-sector collaboration in supporting healthy ageing, brain health, social connection and wellbeing across rural communities.




The Connemara Dementia Café Initiative has established a network of Dementia Cafés across Connemara, providing welcoming and inclusive spaces for people living with dementia, their families and carers. Galway County Council has worked closely with Forum Connemara, the Alzheimer Society of Ireland, local community groups, volunteers and service providers to support the establishment and growth of the Dementia Cafés across the region. Through this partnership approach, the initiative has created opportunities for social connection, peer support and increased understanding of dementia within local communities.

A key aspect of the initiative's innovative approach is its focus on brain health and dementia awareness through community engagement, social participation, creative activities and physical activity. Building on its success in Connemara, the initiative continues to expand, with a further Memory Café established in Loughrea in partnership with GRD, Loughrea FRC and the Alzheimers Society of Ireland. This expansion reflects the increasing demand for dementia-friendly supports and demonstrates the potential for community-led initiatives to create meaningful opportunities for connection, inclusion and support for people living with cognitive impairment, their families, carers and the wider community. Memory Cafés also provide a welcoming environment where local communities can come together to increase understanding of dementia and support those affected by the condition.

**Connemara Dementia Cafés 2026 - Activities**

| | Oughterard | Letterfrack | Carna | Clifden | Roundstone | Inverin |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| JAN | Arts & Crafts • Memories • Social | Memories • Music • Tea & Coffee | | Health • Music • Social | Arts & Crafts • Tea & Coffee | |
| FEB | Arts & Crafts • Memories • Social | Arts & Crafts • Entertainment • Social | | Wellness • Movement • Music | Dementia Support • Music • Social | |
| MAR | Movement • Activities • Wellness | Nature • Memories • Social | | Wellness • Movement • Music | Community • Music • Social | |
| APR | Wellbeing • Exercise • Health | Arts & Crafts • Memories • Social | | Gardening • Music • Recreation | Wellbeing • Carer Support • Information | |
| MAY | Brain Health • Information • Support | Arts & Crafts • Memories • Social | | Exercise • Gardening • Wellbeing | Libraries • Wellness • Activities | |
| JUN | Breathing • Wellness • Relaxation | Movement • Wellness • Social | Arts & Crafts • Health Information • Social | Arts & Crafts • Music • Social | Movement • Wellness • Social | Wellbeing • Creativity • Activities |
| JUL | Movement • Wellness • Social | Music • Culture • Celebration | Arts & Crafts • Social • Tea & Coffee | Arts & Crafts • Music • Social | Music • Culture • Celebration | Baking • Creativity • Activities |
| AUG | Health • Information • Wellbeing | Pampering • Wellness • Relaxation | Arts & Crafts • Social • Tea & Coffee | Wellness • Movement • Music | Outdoors • Music • Memories | Games • Activities • Social |
| SEP | Heart Health • Information • Wellbeing | Health • Wellbeing • Nutrition | Music • Singing • Social | Dementia Support • Exercise • Recreation | Wellbeing • Nutrition • Information | Floral Arts • Tea & Coffee • Social |
| OCT | Mindfulness • Creativity • Seasonal Activities | Memories • Music • Wellness | Breathing • Wellness • Social | Breathing • Dementia Support • Music | Halloween • Arts & Crafts • Music | Painting • Seasonal Activities • Creativity |
| NOV | Movement • Wellness • Social | Wellbeing • Balance • Health | Health Information • Social | Wellness • Movement • Music | Seasonal Crafts • Creativity • Celebration | Exercise • Carer Support • Wellness |
| DEC | Christmas • Crafts • Celebration | Christmas • Music • Memories | Arts & Crafts • Tea & Coffee • Social | Gardening • Activities • Social | Christmas • Music • Memories | Christmas • Crafts • Celebration |

This growth reflects the increasing demand for dementia-friendly supports and demonstrates the potential for community-led initiatives to create meaningful opportunities for connection, inclusion and support for people with cognitive impairment, their families, carers and local communities also welcome.




L-R: LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL; KATHLEEN ASPELL MORTIMER, FORUM CONNEMARA; ADELE RANKIN, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL; KAREN MANNION, CEO OF FORUM CONNEMARA; CLLR ANDREW REDDINGTON, CATHAOIRLEACH; MICHAEL OWENS, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES; AND KIERAN COYNE, RURAL, COMMUNITY, TOURISM AND INTEGRATION SECTION, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

## RURAL DEVELOPMENT

### TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME -GORT STREETSCAPE SCHEME

Funding was awarded from the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRCDG) for a Streetscape Enhancement Scheme for Gort Town Centre under Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2023 which was granted on 30th of April 2024.

The project was delivered through a collaborative partnership involving community organisations, Galway County Council departments, technical conservation expertise, and private stakeholders including property owners, business tenants and residents who participated directly in the Streetscape Grant Scheme. A significant thanks is due to the Gort Town Team in assisting with the task of getting applications ready and doing due diligence on ownership of the various buildings. Furthermore, the MD assisted with ongoing photography and locations for signage acknowledging the scheme and the role of DRCDG and Galway County Council.

A total of 86 grants has been awarded and claimed under the Gort Streetscape Enhancement Scheme since its launch in June 2024 and completion at the end of August 2026.

The core aim of this proposal was to upgrade and enhance shopfronts and street façades in Gort Inse Guaire, Co. Galway, in order to create a high-quality and attractive town centre environment through improved building frontages and streetscapes.

A further aim of the project was to support property owners and occupiers in enhancing their premises in a manner that respected and reinforced the distinctive character of the town. To assist in achieving this aim, the Rural Team in implementing the project could further promote the Galway County Shopfront Design Guidelines.

Property owners and occupiers were required to contribute 20% of the cost of eligible works, with grant assistance available from the State to cover up to 70% or 80% of project costs, subject to the maximum funding levels set out in the scheme guidelines. This funding model aimed to encourage local participation and leverage investment in the revitalisation of the town centre.




The Streetscape Enhancement Scheme delivered physical, economic and social benefits for Gort Inse Guaire. The project improved the visual quality of the town centre through enhancements to 86 properties, leveraged over €350,000 in public and private investment, supported local businesses and trades, strengthened community engagement in regeneration reinforced heritage and conservation awareness, and helped build confidence in the wider Town Centre First and RRDF regeneration programme and town and village renewal

## 2026 TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME (TVRS)

The 2026 Town and Village Renewal Scheme is now open for Expressions of Interest

This scheme offers funding to revitalise our towns and villages, making them more attractive and sustainable. Projects can focus on town centre regeneration, plaza development, green

spaces and recreational amenities, streetscape enhancement, town or village centre markets, community centre upgrades, bringing vacant buildings back into use, and supporting vibrant Gaeltacht and island communities

### TVRS 'MAIN' SCHEME

- 1 Application for seeking funding of up to 500,000. -to be considered in this Category you must contact Galway County Council in advance to discuss your Expression of Interest.
- 3 applications seeking funding of €50,000 to €300,000 per application
- 1 additional application seeking funding of €50,000 to €300,000 for Inhabited Off-Shore Islands and /or Gaeltacht areas.

### TVRS PROJECT DEVELOPMENT MEASURE

- 2 applications funding of up to €50,000 per application

EOI Deadline: 23rd October at 11pm

Submit your EOI online at https://galwaycoco.submit.com

## RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Applications under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2026/2027 remain open for Measure 2 and Measure 3, with a closing date of 10 November 2026 for submissions to Galway County Council.

Measure 2 provides funding of up to €200,000 at a 90% rate of aid for medium-scale projects involving the repair, upgrade or development of outdoor recreation infrastructure, including trails and amenities.




Measure 3 provides funding of up to €500,000 at a 90% rate of aid for large-scale strategic trail and amenity development projects, as well as significant repair and upgrade works.

Application forms for the ORIS 2026/2027 Scheme are available on Galway.ie. Access to the application link may also be requested by emailing outdoorrecreation@galwaycoco.ie.

Funding decisions for Measure 1 and Project Development Measure applications are expected in Quarter 1 of 2027.

Development of the Galway County Outdoor Recreation Strategy is progressing and has reached its final stages, with its launch anticipated in Quarter 1 of 2027.

Galway County Council acknowledges the valuable contributions of all those who attended the in-person consultation events and completed the online survey.

## CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

### CULTURE NIGHT

Thank you from Galway County Arts Office to all our event organisers, artists, groups, partners, funders, communities, sponsors and champions of Culture Night for your hard work this year. Culture Night took place on Friday 18 September with over 50 events across the county.

A lot happens behind the scenes in the Arts Office to deliver Culture Night. We're very grateful to our Culture Night team, who are:

Culture Night Coordinator: Ruth Gordon
Social Media and PR Manager: Alex Stewart
Design: Eamonn Shanahan - Pinstripe.ie
Galway County Arts Office: Sharon O'Grady, Amie Lawless, Valerie Kelly and Ramona Burke
Photography: Aengus McMahon and Ciarán MacChoncarraige
Film: Tommy Murphy - TeemLens Media

Click here to see the full list of Culture Night events

Thank you to Courthouse Lates Producers Portumna Arts Group and Noelle Lynsky. A special thank you to our colleague Vicki Clough at Portumna Courthouse.

Thank you to Library Services staff in Athenry, Ballinasloe, Loughrea, Oranmore and Tuam for hosting Culture Night events. Thank you to the LAIT team for their two fantastic events also.

Culture Night 2026 in Galway County was funded by The Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon, Culture Ireland Cultúr 2026 - Culture Programme for Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2026, Creative Ireland, Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, and Galway County Council.



REMEMBERING THE SPACES THAT SHAPED US WITH LUCI KERSHAW AT LOUGHREA LIBRARY. PHOTO: AENGUS MCMAHON



REMEMBERING THE SPACES THAT SHAPED US WITH LUCI KERSHAW AT LOUGHREA LIBRARY. PHOTO: AENGUS MCMAHON



TUÁN Ó BAOILL & MUIREANN NÍ BHAOILL AT MAD YOLK FARM, CRAUGHWELL. PHOTO: AENGUS MCMAHON



CÉILÍ WITH THERESA AND THE STRAWBOYS IN THE VILLAGE INN, KILCREEST. PHOTO: AENGUS MCMAHON



ARTS & CRAFTS WITH FIONA ORMSBY AT THE STARLING CENTRE, LOUGHREA. PHOTO: AENGUS MCMAHON




LOUISE CLARKE, VICKI CLOUGH & NOELLE LYNSKEY AT PORTUMNA COURTHOUSE.



LADY BARBALADE PERFORM AT COURTHOUSE LATES, PORTUMNA COURTHOUSE.



ELM EYE COLLECTIVE: NEW PLAYS OUTLOUD AT MOUNT CARMEL, LOUGHREA. PHOTO: AENGUS MCMAHON



LITTLE WOOLLY WONDERS, CHILDREN FELTING WORKSHOP WITH JOANNE FOLEY. PHOTO: AENGUS MCMAHON



THIS IS ME JUNK JOURNALING WORKSHOP WITH GROUP 8 AT BALLINASLOE LIBRARY. PHOTO: CIARÁN MACCHONCARRAIGE



THIS IS ME JUNK JOURNALING WORKSHOP WITH GROUP 8 AT BALLINASLOE LIBRARY. PHOTO: CIARÁN MACCHONCARRAIGE



BEYOND THE LAKE, OUGHTERARD WRITERS GROUP BOOK LAUNCH AT OUGHTERARD COURTHOUSE.



AN EVENING OF MUSIC & SONG WITH ORANMORE COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN AT ORANMORE LIBRARY.




LE CHÉILE WITH AISTEOIRÍ AN BHAILE, WILDLANDS MHAIGH CUILINN.



WOODFORD TRAD HEADS AT MERCY COLLEGE WOODFORD.

## EIGHT TONNES IN BALLINASLOE

Thank you to everyone who made Eight Tonnes happen on Culture Night.

The weather was against us, but nothing was going to stop this parade. Wet but wonderful - Eight Tonnes at Ballinasloe square was unforgettable, and it wouldn't have been possible without all of you.

To the incredible artists who transformed our tractor parade with your wonderful performances and installations - a huge thank you to Breda Larkin, Kev Freeney, Linda Schirmer, Scott Robinson, Ultan Conlon - musician and In Step Stage School.

A massive thank you to all the audiences who braved the rain and joined us at St. Michael's Square in Ballinasloe.

To our volunteer stewards from the community - we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you!

And of course, huge gratitude to our partners and collaborators, the Ballinasloe Town Hall Theatre, especially Cllr Alan Harney, Aoife Vaughan and Brian Derane, for all their support.

To our community partners In-Step Stage School Ballinasloe, Elaine along with three daughters Ally, Marnie and Nicole O'Hanlon, Galway Macra, Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers'

Association and Mona O'Donoghue Concannon, Ballinasloe & district vintage club (especially Ivan Mullen) and Shearwater Hotel & Spa. Gardaí from Ballinasloe Station, KPW, Galway County Council staff in Ballinasloe and Mark Molloy in Environment.

To the farmers who supported the event with tractors and driving: John Fallon, Paul Green, Sean Kenny, Keith Guinan, Adam Fletcher, Ger Grehan, Niall Stoddart and Quigleys - Agricultural Machinery Sales & Service. And Garry Walsh Agri Contractors for providing tractors to test lights in Cue One Ireland. in Baile Chláir.

This was a one-night-only event, but the memories will stay with us long after the lights went down.

Artists: Breda Larkin, Kev Freeney, Linda Schirmer, Scott Robinson, Ultan Conlon
Creative Producers: Denise McDonagh and Matti Allam, Culture Works
Production Manager: Frank Commins
Production Assistant: Darragh Commins
Sound: Ben Parker
Lighting Engineer: Finnbar Egan
Photography: Ciarán MacChoncarraige
Filming: Tommy Murphy, TeemLens Media



EIGHT TONNES - PHOTO: CIARÁN MACCHONCARRAIGE



EIGHT TONNES – BREDA LARKIN. PHOTO: CIARÁN MACCHONCARRAIGE



EIGHT TONNES – ULTAN CONLON. PHOTO: CIARÁN MACCHONCARRAIGE



EIGHT TONNES – DANCERS FROM IN STEP STAGE SCHOOL. PHOTO: CIARÁN MACCHONCARRAIGE



EIGHT TONNES – DANCERS FROM IN STEP STAGE SCHOOL. PHOTO: CIARÁN MACCHONCARRAIGE



EIGHT TONNES - PHOTO: CIARÁN MACCHONCARRAIGE




EIGHT TONNES - PHOTO: CIARÁN MACCHONCARRAIGE




EIGHT TONNES – PHOTO: CIARÁN MACCHONCARRAIGE



EIGHT TONNES – DANCERS FROM IN STEP STAGE SCHOOL. PHOTO: CIARÁN MACCHONCARRAIGE



EIGHT TONNES – DANCERS FROM IN STEP STAGE SCHOOL. PHOTO: CIARÁN MACCHONCARRAIGE



SCOTT ROBINSON, AMIE LAWLESS, SHARON O'GRADY, ULTAN CONLON, BREDA LARKIN, CLLR. EVELYN PARSONS, LINDA SCHIRMER, MICHAEL OWENS, CLLR. ALAN HARNEY, RAMONA BURKE, KEV FREENEY, DENISE MCDONAGH, PHOTO: CIARÁN MACCHONCARRAIGE

## EU PRESIDENCY CULTÚR 2026 PROGRAMME - TINY MUTINY X BROEI

On Culture Night, Tiny Mutiny x BROEI brought together young creatives from County Galway and Fryslân in the Netherlands for a free, family-friendly event at The Mall Theatre in Tuam. The youth-led arts projects Tiny Mutiny and BROEI showcased original work across music, literature, film, visual art, theatre, poetry and podcasting through performances, screenings, exhibitions and discussions. Participating young artists also took part in workshops exploring their shared creative interests and developing new artistic connections between Galway and Fryslân.

Thank you to Tiny Mutiny x BROEI Producers Jojo Hynes and Midie Corcoran at Sparkcatchers! Thank you to the BROEI team especially Lourens van den Akker.

Tiny Mutiny Artists: Alannah Caddye, Lauren Caine, Liam O'Connor, Harlow Slattery Madden, Abigale Heavey, Lainey Tighe and Lia Mae Coen.
BROEI Artists: Jennisja Palstra, Laura van der Heide, Lise Sophia Bijma, Ramlo Huseen, Roy Heitbrink and Sander Van Den Bogert.
Tiny Mutiny Mentors: Amy Louise O'Callaghan, Méabh McDonnell, Paul McDonnell, Emma Zukovic, Serena Molloy and Tracy Bruen.
Sparkcatchers!: Jojo Hynes, Midie Corcoran and Ruth Gordon.
BROEI: Bobbie Noordman, Femke Wijbenga, Lisa Frenkel, Lourens van den Akker and Nienke Bootsma.
Socials: Aoife Kilkelly - Rogue Media
Light: Enda Burke
Sound: Eoin Melia
Film: Kevin Fahy - Salty Productions
Photography: Liam Carroll
PR: Lisa Regan PR



TINY MUTINY - ABIGAIL HEAVEY. PHOTO: LIAM CARROLL



TINY MUTINY - HARLOW SLATTERY MADDEN. PHOTO: LIAM CARROLL



TINY MUTINY - LIAM O'CONNOR. PHOTO: LIAM CARROLL



JOJO HYNES AND MIDIE CORCORAN CREATIVE PRODUCERS OF TINY MUTINY X BROEI. PHOTO: LIAM CARROLL



BROEI - RAMOLO HUSEEN. PHOTO: LIAM CARROLL



TINY MUTINY X BROEI AUDIENCES AT THE MALL THEATRE TUAM. PHOTO: LIAM CARROLL



SHARON O'GRADY, MICHAEL OWENS, ROY HEITBRINK, JENNY PALSTRA, LAURA VAN DER HEIDE, SANDER VAN DEN BOGERT, LISE BIJMA, LOURENS VAN AKKER, RAMOLO HUSEEN, CATHAOIRLEACH ANDREW REDDINGTON. PHOTO: LIAM CARROLL

## SOMETHING IN THE WATER FESTIVAL - HEADFORD

Congratulations to the team behind Something in the Water Festival in Headford: Aisling Keogh, Anne Kenny, David O'Connor, Marcus Wynne, Martin Eagleton, Lesley Lynch, Matt Coombes, Óisín Carey and Tom Walsh.

Returning for its 4th consecutive year, Something In The Water is Headford's premier community arts festival, ran from Wednesday, September 30th to Sunday, October 4th, 2026. Born out of the Reimagine Headford initiative to tackle small-town dereliction through creative intervention, this vibrant five-day celebration transforms empty buildings and vacant shopfronts across the North Galway town into pop-up cultural hubs. Featuring music, theatre, literature, film, dance, and visual art, the festival welcomes hundreds of artists and thousands of attendees for an inclusive weekend of hands-on workshops, live performances, and community storytelling.




[Click here to see the Something In The Water 2026 programme]

SOMETHING IN THE WATER FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

## BABORÓ INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL FOR CHILDREN - TUAM

All his life Mac has wanted to be an archaeologist, to be an expert in finding things and working out what they mean. If only he could stick to the facts and not get carried away with his highfalutin stories! But in a world where facts and figures mean so much more than fairytale and fantasy, Mac has to dig deeper to prove that what he finds is what he thinks it is.

Will people believe him, or is this just another of his tall tales?

Performer and writer Paul Curley and designer Ger Clancy, in collaboration with director Robert Alan Evans, bring this theatre adventure in archaeology to life. **The Dig** spins a classic yarn into a brand new light that delights audiences young and old.

With support from the Arts Office and SICAP **The Dig** by Paul Curley will tour to Trinity Primary School, Tuam to enthral 360 children.



THE DIG BY PAUL CURLEY. PHOTO: STE MURRAY

## UNESCO CITY OF FILM/ CEANTAR SCANNÁN - UCCN FILM SUBNETWORK MEETING

Galway's creative talent took centre stage on Monday 28 September as poets, musicians, dancers, animators, and game developers from Galway, Belfast, Dublin, and Sligo performed for delegates from 15 UNESCO Creative Cities of Film - the flagship event of the 2026 UNESCO Cities of Film Subnetwork Meeting at St Nicholas' Collegiate Church.

'Talent at the Centre' was attended by the An t-iar-Uachtarán na hÉireann, Michael D Higgins, agus An t-iar-Bhean Sabina Higgins, while the UNESCO Cities of Film representatives were from Sofia, Bulgaria; Gdynia, Łódź, Poland; Bradford and Bristol, UK; Valladolid and Terrassa, Spain; Sarajevo, Bosnia; Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam; Cannes, France; Potsdam, Germany; São Paulo, Brazil; Wellington, New Zealand; Busan, South Korea; Yamagata, Japan; and Qingdao, China.

Andrew Reddington, Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council, highlighted the county's role in the region's film and audiovisual sector.

"County Galway brings something distinctive to international collaboration. Talent can emerge anywhere. A young person in a small town or rural community should be able to see

a pathway into film, television, animation or games. That pathway may begin with a local workshop, a bursary, a mentor, a community screening, an Irish-language project or the chance to meet someone from another creative city."

Guests at St Nicholas' included Galway City Council Chief Executive Leonard Cleary; Lorna Baek, Acting/Director of Services representing Galway County Council; Brian Barret, Head of Economic Development and Culture at Galway City Council; City Arts Officer Ruth Mulhern; and County Arts Officer Sharon O'Grady. Members of Ardán's Board and team attended, along with representatives of Screen Ireland, Culture Ireland, TG4, Gréasán na Meán Skillnet, CREW, University of Galway, Galway Film Fleadh & Fair, Science on Screen, local production companies, Galway filmmakers and City of Film alumni.

[Click here to read the full press release]




LORNA BAEK, ALAN DUGGAN, CATHAOIRLEACH ANDREW REDDINGTON, SABINA HIGGINS, MICHAEL D HIGGINS, DEPUTY MAYOR JOSIE FORDE, LEONARD CLEARY, JULIE MCHUGH. PHOTO: MARC JENNINGS



MICHAEL D HIGGINS & SABINA HIGGINS. PHOTO: MARC JENNINGS




UNESCO CITIES OF FILM SUBNETWORK ATTENDEES. PHOTO: MARC JENNINGS

## CREATIVE IRELAND

October is the final month for Creative Ireland drawdown and as such we have a number of projects coming to a close in the coming days and weeks. Two of the more recent Open Call awardees which have already drawn down are listed below.

### ART ROOM 109 – CREATE AND CONNECT

A regular feature in the Creative Ireland programme, Art Room 109 brought their Inclusive Process-led Art Workshops to the Dolmen Centre in Kinvara. The goal was to support Creative Health in the community, specifically working with those living with intellectual disabilities.

Create and Connect was a seven-week programme of inclusive process art workshops for adults with intellectual disabilities attending Brothers of Charity Services in Kinvara. Throughout the programme, several projects were in progress at the same time, allowing participants to choose activities and work at their own pace. Each week, participants added new layers to a large collaborative canvas, while smaller groups explored collage, collage lanterns, spin art, clay tiles, foam printing and mono-printing. A large amount of artwork was created over the seven weeks. The process-led approach encouraged participants to make independent creative choices and take genuine ownership of their work. It was particularly rewarding to see participants become more relaxed, confident and willing to experiment as the programme progressed, with a strong sense of pride in what they created. The response from participants and staff was extremely positive. Participants were highly engaged and were often disappointed when the sessions came to an end. Staff particularly commented on how valuable it was to see participants creating independently, without carers needing to complete tasks on their behalf. Staff also gained practical, accessible art ideas and techniques that they plan to continue using within the service. The programme was a very positive experience for both participants and staff, and there are now plans to exhibit the work, giving participants an opportunity to celebrate and share what they created.



PARTICIPANTS IN 'CREATE AND CONNECT' WORKING COLLABORATIVELY

## GORT ARTS – FITE FUAITE 4

Another returning grantee, Gort Arts delivered the 4th year of their 'Fite Fuaite' programme. This is an annual series of free creative workshops designed to include all members of the community. The broad range of workshops on offer and targeted sessions for harder to reach groups truly mean that there is something for everyone.

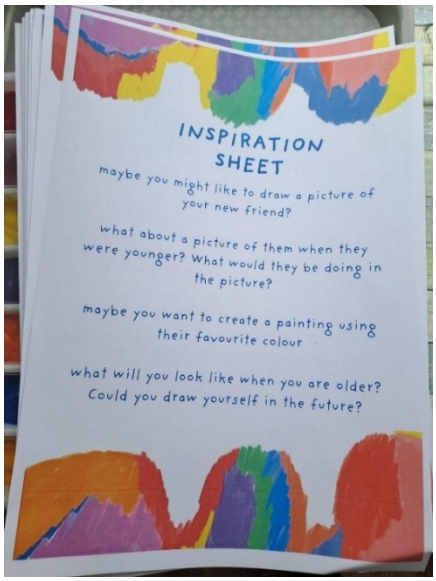
A total of seven workshops were delivered, covering a variety of artistic skills including textiles, sculpture, puppetry and ceramics.

- The Quiet Persistence of Making is an ongoing project by Macken and Magner, in which members of the public are invited to create, using simple stitching on fabric, a piece which is then added to the overall artwork. It was held in Gort Library, allowing people to participate in the creation of art as they went about their days'.
- Gabrielle Murphy taught Punch-needle Embroidery, also in the Library.
- Tommy Baker hosted a workshop in Sustainable Puppetry Making at his studio in Kilbeacanty, using found and recycled materials.
- Belinda Deutinger's workshop in Bas Relief Sculpture included a foraging walk to collect natural materials for incorporation in the work, embodying GortArts focus for 2026 – valuing the natural and built environment available to Artists in Gort. It was held in The Hidden Gem.
- Tricia Kirby's ceramic workshop was delivered exclusively to members of GortArts, allowing artists to develop skills in an alternative art form. The finished, collaborative piece was exhibited at their recent Members Exhibition, For the Love of Gort.

- Kristy Verenga's workshop in Paper-clay Sculpture was held in Gort Family & Resource Centre
- Belinda Reid's workshop in Illuminated Felt Lamps was also held in Gort Family & Resource Centre



PARTICIPANTS IN 'FITE FUAITE 4'




## POLLYANNA JOYCE – YOUNG HANDS, OLD STORIES

This project was from one of our Creativity Newcomers, Pollyanna Joyce. It consisted of a series of art workshops with local school children (both primary and secondary) which took place in St Anne's Community Nursing Unit, Clifden. The project brought the younger and older children into the Nursing Unit on alternating Fridays. The children were first introduced to the staff and the elderly residents of St Anne's. Once they had gotten acquainted, they set to work using the wide variety of art materials provided to create pieces in collaboration with the residents.

The mood in the room was incredibly joyful as children shared stories of their grandparents and learned all about what life was like in Connemara long before they were born.

## JENNIFER CUNNINGHAM – OUR SHARED GROUND

Over the past several months, local artist Jennifer Cunningham has been working with Tuam Tidy Towns members to explore their local biodiversity and respond and connect to it through a creative lens. Together they explored the biodiversity around Tuam, creating artists  books and journals, cyanotype and intaglio prints, AR and stop-motion animation, field sketches, expanded drawing, as well as a large-scale collaborative painting.

The resulting work went on display in two venues- Tuam Library and Connaughton's window as part of Creative Places Tuam artist spotlight.

The creative workshops had roughly 35 participants, many of whom reported a desire to continue to explore their creativity in a collaborative, community-based fashion.



LARGE COLLABORATIVE PAINTING CREATED AS PART OF 'OUR SHARED GROUND'

## SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

### HER MOVES X CIRCUS SKILLS SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

This Dormant Accounts Fund-supported programme is being delivered in partnership with Galway Community Circus and will provide five six-week programmes to teenage girls attending DEIS secondary schools across Galway during 2026.

Earlier this year, programmes were successfully delivered in Archbishop McHale College, Tuam and Coláiste Mhuire Máthair, Galway, with participants providing highly positive feedback. A further three programmes are scheduled for delivery from September in Coláiste Éinde, Galway Community College, and Clonfert College, Ballinasloe.

The programme aims to provide an engaging, creative, and inclusive form of physical activity for girls who are not currently participating in, or are disengaged from, physical education and sport within the school setting. Through circus-based activities, participants are supported to build confidence, develop physical literacy, and increase their overall engagement in physical activity.




MARÍOSA HUME (ARTIST AND EDUCATOR) AND MARJOLEIN WAGTER (HEAD TRAINER) GALWAY COMMUNITY CIRCUS.



## GALWAY COMMUNITY CIRCUS COME & TRY

On 10th September, eight individuals with disabilities participated in a Galway Community Circus Come & Try event. The session was delivered as a pilot initiative to explore interest and accessibility opportunities for future programme development. Participants, supported by carers where appropriate, had the opportunity to engage in a range of circus activities, including swinging, pole work, aerial silks, tightwire, balance exercises, and juggling. Feedback from participants and carers was very positive, highlighting the inclusive and engaging nature of the activities.



The pilot demonstrated the potential of circus-based physical activity as an accessible and enjoyable recreational opportunity for people with disabilities and will help inform future programme planning and delivery.

## INCLUSIVE LEARN TO SWIM

A four-week Inclusive Learn to Swim pilot programme commenced in September at Coral Leisure Tuam, supported through HSE funding.

The programme is supporting six children with disabilities to develop water confidence and fundamental swimming skills in a safe and supportive environment. Each participant is accompanied in the water by a parent or guardian, providing additional support and enabling the child to engage fully in the sessions.

The pilot aims to increase access to swimming opportunities for children with disabilities while building confidence, water safety awareness, and physical activity participation.

## INCLUSIVE LEARN TO CYCLE

A five-week Inclusive Learn to Cycle programme commenced in September, funded through HSE support, with ten children with disabilities participating.

The programme is delivered in Kilcornan, Clarinbridge, with sessions taking place in the car park area and access to an indoor hall when weather conditions require an alternative

venue. Participants use their own bicycles and helmets, helping to build confidence and competence on equipment they are familiar with.
The programme aims to develop cycling skills, independence, confidence, and opportunities for ongoing participation in physical activity among children with disabilities.

## OLDER ADULTS INFORMATION DAYS

During August and September, Galway Sports Partnership participated in a number of Older Adults Information Days across County Galway, promoting opportunities for physical activity, health, and wellbeing among older people.
In partnership with Galway Rural Development, the HSE, and Healthy Ireland, information days were delivered in Dunmore and Portumna, with a further event scheduled to take place in Mullagh on 23 October.



Galway Sports Partnership also attended an information day in Tuam in collaboration with Galway County Council's Health and Safety Department and participated in an event in Athenry in partnership with the Integrated Care Programme for Older Persons (ICPOP) within the HSE.
These events provided an opportunity to engage directly with older adults, raise awareness of local physical activity programmes and supports, and strengthen partnership working across the health, community, and local government sectors to support active and healthy ageing.

## ACTIVATOR POLES PROGRAMME

During September, Galway Sports Partnership, in partnership with the HSE, delivered a four-week Activator Poles programme at the Palace Grounds, Tuam.



The programme took place along the FitSticks Trail in Tuam and was facilitated by Galway Sports Partnership tutor Helen Daly. Activator Poles sessions provide participants with an opportunity to engage in low-impact physical activity that supports mobility, balance, posture, and overall wellbeing.

The programme forms part of Galway Sports Partnership's ongoing commitment to promoting active lifestyles among older adults and increasing opportunities for participation in community-based physical activity programmes.

## ACTIVE ISLANDS COMMUNITY SPORTS HUB

As part of the Active Islands Community Sports Hub, a six-week soccer programme will commence on Inis Meáin in October in partnership with Klaaskickz. This initiative builds on the success of a similar programme delivered on Inis Mór in 2025 and reflects the ongoing commitment to increasing sports participation opportunities for young people living on the islands.

The programme will be delivered in partnership with both the local secondary school and youth club, providing young people with regular access to structured soccer coaching. Through participation, young people will have the opportunity to develop their technical skills, improve fitness levels, build confidence, and enhance teamwork and communication skills in a fun and supportive environment.

In addition, a meeting has been arranged with Canoe Ireland and island-based volunteers to explore opportunities for local volunteers to undertake kayak instructor training and qualifications. The long-term objective is to build local coaching and leadership capacity within the islands and support the establishment of a sustainable community kayaking club. Developing a local kayaking club would create additional opportunities for young people and the wider community to participate in outdoor and water-based activities, while strengthening the range of recreational and physical activity options available across the island communities.

## HEALTHY COUNTY GALWAY

### DEMENTIA AWARENESS TALK




As part of Alzheimer's Awareness Month, a countywide Dementia Awareness Talk was delivered through a strong partnership between the Healthy County Galway Programme, Galway Age Friendly, the HSE, the Alzheimer Society of Ireland, Forum Connemara, and DSiDC, St. James's Hospital. The event was broadcast live on 16 September to audiences in Carna, Clifden, Oughterard and An Cheathrú Rua, enabling people across the county to participate simultaneously. The initiative aimed to increase community awareness and understanding of dementia, particularly among those with limited knowledge of the condition, while providing practical information on recognising the signs of memory loss and supporting people living with dementia and their families. The event was well attended and very positively received, highlighting the value of collaborative, community-based approaches to improving dementia awareness and promoting more inclusive and dementia-friendly communities across County Galway.

## HEALTH & WELLBEING EVENTS

As part of Positive Ageing Week and Alzheimer's Awareness Month, the Healthy County Galway Programme supported and participated in a range of health and wellbeing events across the county. These initiatives engaged older people, people living with dementia and memory loss, carers, families and the wider community, while promoting access to health information, community supports and services. The events highlighted the importance of healthy ageing, social inclusion, dementia awareness and community wellbeing, and provided valuable opportunities for people to connect with local organisations and supports available in their area.

The Solas Family Resource Centre Women's Health Day in Headford provided an opportunity to engage with women from the local community and promote available health and wellbeing services. The event offered health information and health checks in a welcoming setting, while encouraging social connection, peer support and positive wellbeing through informal community engagement.




The Portumna Active Retirement Group Health and Wellbeing Community Event brought together local organisations and service providers to showcase supports, services and community groups available to older adults. The event included health checks, information stands and opportunities for attendees to learn about programmes and services that support healthy ageing, wellbeing and social inclusion.




Healthy County Galway also supported "A Celebration of the Golden Years", hosted by Forum Connemara in Leitir Móir. The event connected older people with a wide range of local and national support services, including pension and advocacy supports, mental health services, home energy upgrades, home security initiatives, Meals on Wheels and volunteer supports. The event provided an important opportunity to raise awareness of services available to older adults, promote healthy ageing and encourage greater community participation and social connection.



In addition, Healthy County Galway supported Galway Rural Development's Positive Ageing Week celebration at the Loughrea Hotel & Spa. The event welcomed older people from across the county for a day of learning, participation and enjoyment, featuring a range of workshops, including laughter yoga, drumming sessions, card games, audience performances and dancing. The event celebrated positive ageing and highlighted the importance of staying active, connected and engaged within the community.

Healthy County Galway participated in the Positive Ageing and Community Safety Information Clinic, organised by the Galway County Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) in Tuam. The event brought together a wide range of organisations to provide information, advice and supports to older people, their families and carers. With 20 exhibition stands, information talks and presentations throughout the day, the clinic provided a valuable opportunity to promote positive ageing, wellbeing and community safety. A property marking initiative also took place, offering practical crime prevention

support and helping to raise awareness of measures that can protect personal and household property.

Finally, Healthy County Galway also participated in the **Age Strong, Live Long Event** in Athenry, hosted by the Galway and Roscommon ICPOP teams to mark the International Day of Older Persons. The event featured workshops, information stands and expert talks covering healthy ageing, heart health, mental wellbeing, mobility, medications and falls prevention. Attendees also had access to flu and COVID-19 vaccinations and opportunities to engage directly with healthcare professionals on topics that support healthy ageing and independent living.

## TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

### SLOWDOWN - 6TH INTERREGIONAL THEMATIC WORKSHOP IN AMIENS, FRANCE.

The Tourism Officer and representatives from the SlowDown Interreg Europe project participated in the 6th Interregional Thematic Workshop (ITW6) in Amiens, France on 21st – 25h September. The workshop brought project partners together for a programme of territorial learning and interregional cooperation, focusing on the regional context, progress on policy improvements, and the monitoring and follow-up of project activities.

Through a combination of working sessions, study visits and local activities, partners shared progress and approaches and explored how learning generated through the SlowDown project can be translated into policy improvements within each participating territory. The programme also provided an opportunity to learn from Amiens' approach to tourism, heritage and the local environment, supporting the continued exchange of good practice between European partners.







SLOWDOWN INTERREG EUROPEAN PROJECT PARTNERS AT THE ITW6 IN AMIENS, FRANCE.

## BIA INNOVATOR CAMPUS – SLOWDOWN REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER MEETING

Galway County Council and BIA Innovator Campus hosted the sixth SLOWDOWN Regional Stakeholder Group Meeting, with stakeholders participating both in person and online. The meeting focused on the next stage of the **Galway Hiking Place pilot**, which aims to explore how existing walking and hiking routes in East Galway can be better connected, coordinated and promoted as part of a wider slow-tourism offering. Stakeholders provided feedback on potential routes for inclusion, relevant community groups and trail contacts, opportunities to link with walking festivals and organised events, and local considerations relating to access and infrastructure.

The meeting supported continued collaboration with local stakeholders and the development of the pilot as an initiative linking walking, local enterprise, community participation and rural destination development.



LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS PICTURED AT THE SLOWDOWN INTERREG EUROPE REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER MEETING

## BATTLE OF AUGHRIM VISITOR CENTRE – JUST TRANSITION FUNDING, FEASIBILITY STUDY

A well-attended and highly successful community and stakeholder meeting was held at the Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre on 2 October 2026 to present the findings of the Centre's comprehensive feasibility study. The study, supported by investment of over €103,000 from the EU Just Transition Fund and prepared by appointed consultants **Haley Sharp**, examines the future development potential of the Visitor Centre. The event generated strong local engagement, providing community members and stakeholders with an opportunity to hear the findings, discuss the study's outcomes and contribute their views on potential next steps.

The positive attendance and level of participation demonstrated significant local interest in the future of the Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre and its potential role in supporting the area's heritage, tourism and wider community development.







LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS AT THE BATTLE OF AUGHRIM VISITOR CENTRE, WHERE THE TOURISM OFFICER JOHN NEARY PRESENTED AN UPDATE ON THE FEASIBILITY STUDY AND INVITED COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ON THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CENTRE

## IRELAND WEST AIRPORT – 40TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Galway County Council joined representatives from six other local authorities, tourism agencies and regional stakeholders at Ireland West Airport for the "Powering the West Together: Partnership and Progress" event. The event brought together Galway County and City Councils and the County Councils of Mayo, Sligo, Roscommon, Leitrim and Donegal, alongside Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland, to recognise the strong regional partnerships supporting tourism, connectivity and economic development across the West and North-West. Taking place during Ireland West Airport's 40th anniversary year, the event provided an opportunity to reflect on progress achieved through regional collaboration and to explore opportunities for further growth.

The gathering reinforced the importance of continued partnership between local authorities, tourism agencies and Ireland West Airport in strengthening regional connectivity, supporting tourism development and enhancing the West of Ireland as a destination for visitors and investment.




PICTURED L-R: SHANE TIERNAN, ROSCOMMON CHIEF EXECUTIVE, LEONARD CLEARY, GALWAY CITY COUNCIL CHIEF EXECUTIVE, JOANNE GREHAN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL, LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, PETER HYNES, FORMER CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL.




PICTURED L-R: JOHN NEARY, TOURISM OFFICER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, SALLY-ANN O'BRIEN - HEAD OF TOURISM, GALWAY CITY COUNCIL, LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, JOE GILMORE, CEO OF IRELAND WEST AIRPORT (IAW), LEONARD CLEARY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY CITY COUNCIL, COUNCILLOR MARY HOADE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, COUNCILLOR MICHAEL REGAN, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL.




PICTURED L-R: AIDAN MCCORMACK, TOURISM OFFICER, SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL, LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND DONAL HEALY, HEAD OF MARKETING, AVIATION BUSINESS AT IRELAND WEST AIRPORT.

## GALWAY CHAMBER BUSINESS AWARDS 2026

Galway County Council is supporting the Galway Chamber Business Awards 2026 as sponsor of the Tourism and Hospitality Excellence Award**.** The annual awards, organised by Galway Chamber in partnership with The Shannon Airport Group, recognise excellence, innovation and achievement across Galway's business community. Applications are open to both Galway Chamber members and non-members, with a closing date of **21 October 2026**.

The Council's sponsorship of the Tourism and Hospitality Excellence category provides an important opportunity to recognise businesses demonstrating high standards and innovation within Galway's tourism and hospitality sector, while highlighting the sector's significant contribution to the local economy and Galway's overall visitor offering.




PICTURED L-R AT THE LAUNCH OF THE GALWAY CHAMBER BUSINESS AWARDS 2026: DEPUTY MAYOR, JOSIE FORD; GEMMA COSTELLO, PRESIDENT OF THE GALWAY CHAMBER; NANDI O' SULLIVAN, THE SHANNON AIRPORT GROUP; AND LORETTA RAFTERY, JUST TRNASITION FUND ACTIVATOR, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL.

## GALWAY CONVENTION BUREAU – GALWAY AMBASSADOR RECOGNITION AWARDS

The Galway Convention Bureau will host the inaugural Galway Ambassador Recognition Awards at The Hardiman on 12 November 2026, recognising Galway-based academics, researchers, clinicians, industry leaders and professional association members who have played an important role in attracting international conferences, meetings, cultural and sporting events to Galway. Hosted in partnership with Galway County Council, Galway City Council, Fáilte Ireland and industry partners, the awards will highlight the significant contribution of business tourism to Galway's economy and international profile. Galway Convention Bureau currently has a strong pipeline of business events to 2030, which is expected to attract approximately 30,000 delegates and generate an estimated €43.5 million for the local economy.

The initiative also provides an opportunity to acknowledge the local ambassadors whose international networks help position Galway as a leading destination for business events, supporting year-round tourism, local businesses, employment and investment.




REPRESENTATIVES FROM GALWAY'S TOURISM AND BUSINESS EVENTS SECTOR GATHER OUTSIDE THE HARDIMAN AHEAD OF THE INAUGURAL GALWAY CONVENTION BUREAU AMBASSADOR RECOGNITION AWARDS.

PICTURED (L-R): LORETTA RAFTERY, JUST TRANSITION FUND ACTIVATOR, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL; BRIAN BOURKE, SALES & MARKETING MANAGER, THE HARDIMAN; TRISH KELLY, FÁILTE IRELAND; SALLY-ANN O'BRIEN, GALWAY CITY TOURISM OFFICER; NIAMH STACK, MANAGER, GALWAY CONVENTION BUREAU; STEFAN LUNDSTRÖM, CHAIRPERSON, GALWAY CONVENTION BUREAU; AND PATRICK WALSH, GENERAL MANAGER, THE HARDIMAN.

## INTEGRATION

The Integration Team continued to support Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection in the context of changes to the accommodation system for Ukrainians. Vulnerable persons were supported to apply for continued accommodation, while others were given updates about the approaching Temporary Protection Transition scheme, which is now open for applications.

We also rolled out community integration events, in partnership with our community partners and target groups, including an event at Kylemore Abbey.

Kylemore Abbey marks the 25th anniversary of the award-winning restoration of the Victorian Walled Garden in 2026. With help from Galway County Council's Integration Team, Kylemore Abbey hosted a group of refugees in the gardens for a tour led by our Head Gardener and Biodiversity Officer.

The Benedictine nuns who call Kylemore home had themselves fled Belgium after their abbey in Ypres was destroyed by bombardment during World War I.





The National Built Heritage Service supported this event at Kylemore Abbey, which is just one of 6,000 historic gardens and designed landscapes identified by the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.

## LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

### LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PUBLIC MEETING

The Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) would like to extend their appreciation to all who attended our public meeting on 8th September in Athenry. There was a great level of interest, participation and contribution to the discussion on community safety and wellbeing in County Galway.

During the public meeting, Ms. Maria Powers from Western Region Drug and Alcohol Task Force presented on Drug-Related Intimidation (DRI)

This presentation provided valuable insight into the challenges associated with DRI and reinforced the importance of a coordinated multi-agency approach in supporting affected individuals and communities. More information on DRI and supports offered can be found on the Western Region Drug and Alcohol Task Force website.

Mr. Emmet Major from Planet Youth provided a presentation on the Planet Youth Programme which is a prevention-focused programme, which aims to improve health, wellbeing and life outcomes for young people.

The presentation highlighted the vital role that parents, families and communities play in reducing risk behaviours among young people. Local data presented for Galway provided valuable insight into current trends affecting children and young people. Mr. Major emphasised the importance of a coordinated multi-agency approach and continued collaborative efforts by families, schools and community organisations in addressing the factors that influence youth wellbeing and long-term outcomes.

Community safety issues affecting residents in Galway County were raised during the discussion session at the public meeting. Concerns were expressed regarding Garda visibility and resources across the county. Superintendent Pádraic Burke outlined the flexible regional approach to Garda deployment and reassured attendees that a 24-hour policing service is in place, with resources dispatched based on operational need. Concerns relating to trespassing, illegal coursing activities, dog microchipping, Community Text Alert System, and use of CCTV were also highlighted.



PICTURED (L-R): MICHAEL OWENS, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL; MARIA POWERS, DRUG & ALCOHOL FAMILY SUPPORT COORDINATOR, WRDATF; DETECTIVE INSPECTOR BRENDAN CARROLL, AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA; MARIE NICHOLSON, COMMUNITY SAFETY COORDINATOR; CLLR ANDREW REDDINGTON, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL & CHAIRPERSON OF GALWAY COUNTY LCSP; JOSEPHINE MULLINS COMMUNITY SAFETY ADMINISTRATOR; EMMET MAJOR, COORDINATOR OF PLANET YOUTH PROJECT. PHOTO: JACINTA FAHY

## POSITIVE AGEING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY EVENT, TUAM

Galway County LCSP hosted a Positive Ageing and Community Safety Event in Tuam on 25 September. The event commenced with an excellent musical performance by Transition Year students from Archbishop McHale College, which was warmly received by attendees.

A range of local services and organisations supported the event through information stands, providing attendees with an opportunity to learn about available supports, access information, and engage directly with service providers operating within their communities.

Guest speakers delivered informative presentations on topics including financial security, online safety, scam and fraud awareness, and practical measures for keeping homes secure and safe.




PICTURED (L-R): ELLIE LOFTUS, SPORTS INCLUSION DISABILITY OFFICER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL; MARIE NICHOLSON, COMMUNITY SAFETY COORDINATOR, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, CLLR. ANDREW REDDINGTON, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL & CHAIRPERSON OF GALWAY COUNTY LCSP; AOIFE NOONE, CYBER SECURITY AND MINDSET EXPERT, NOONE CYBER SERVICES; BRAIN MACGABHANN, MONEY ADVICE AND BUDGETING SERVICES (MABS). PHOTO: MURT FAHY

## PROPERTY MARKING AT THE LCSP POSITIVE AGEING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY EVENT

An Garda Síochána also attended the event to provide a property marking service. Property marking is a crime prevention initiative that involves permanently marking valuable items with a unique identifier, typically the owner's Eircode. This assists in deterring theft and helps Gardaí identify and return recovered stolen property to its rightful owner. The LCSP will continue to carry out property marking initiatives throughout Galway in the coming months.




PICTURED (L-R) GARDA PETRINA DEVERY, AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA; MARIE NICHOLSON COMMUNITY SAFETY COORDINATOR; JOSEPHINE MULLINS, COMMUNITY SAFETY ADMINISTRATOR

## CYBER SAFETY AND MINDSET COMMUNITY SAFETY EVENT

Galway County LCSP will host the Cyber Safety and Mindset Community Event at Gullane's Hotel, Ballinasloe, on 15 October and Lady Gregory Hotel, Gort, on 22 October. These events are designed to equip parents, caregivers, educators, coaches and community members with the knowledge and practical tools required to support young people in navigating the online environment safely.

Join the LCSP Cyber Safety and Mindset Community Event to gain practical advice from leading experts on online safety, digital wellbeing, cyber threats, and the risks facing young people in today's connected world. Attendees must be over 18. To register email communitysafety@galwaycoco.ie







## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS THIS MONTH

- Increased awareness of the LCSP through public meeting and community safety events.
- Continued to strengthen relationships and collaboration opportunities with various agencies and local services, through organising community events.
- Increased visibility of LCSP activities within the community through events, email communications, creating social media content and updates to our webpage.

## ONGOING WORK

- Finalise arrangements for upcoming community safety events, such as TY Lifesaver programme, Cyber Safety events and Closed Meeting.

- Continue to promote LCSP community safety events and cross promote other agencies events that impact community safety.
- Continue to progress the community safety plan
- Continue community engagement and creating awareness of the LCSP.

# FINANCE, MOTOR TAX, ICT & DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

## FINANCE

**Galway County Council**
**1. Major Expenditure & Income by Division with 2026 Adopted Budget**
**Six months ended 30 June 2026**

| Service Division Description | EXPENDITURE | | | | INCOME | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Exp to date Jun-26 | Budget 2026 | Remaining 2026 | % Spent 2026 | Inc to date Jun-26 | Budget 2026 | Not Rec'd 2026 | % Rec'd 2026 |
| A - Housing and Building | 18,119,409 | 33,379,922 | 15,260,513 | 54% | 12,645,644 | 25,679,918 | 13,034,274 | 49% |
| B - Road Transport & Safety | 21,763,669 | 65,452,781 | 43,689,112 | 33% | 13,938,772 | 48,488,139 | 34,549,367 | 29% |
| C - Water Services | 5,465,839 | 15,227,429 | 9,761,590 | 36% | 2,527,252 | 13,077,493 | 10,550,241 | 19% |
| D - Development Management | 9,922,142 | 23,458,564 | 13,536,422 | 42% | 4,172,963 | 8,799,256 | 4,626,293 | 47% |
| E - Environmental Services | 13,598,508 | 31,335,984 | 17,737,476 | 43% | 3,501,267 | 12,109,116 | 8,607,849 | 29% |
| F - Recreation and Amenity | 5,623,460 | 13,920,190 | 8,296,730 | 40% | 2,472,409 | 6,082,759 | 3,610,350 | 41% |
| G - Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare | 859,800 | 2,875,609 | 2,015,809 | 30% | 225,672 | 1,482,270 | 1,256,598 | 15% |
| H - Miscellaneous/Shared Services | 6,516,628 | 17,617,716 | 11,101,088 | 37% | 8,884,316 | 19,896,665 | 11,012,349 | 45% |
| J - Central Management Charges | - | - | - | | | - | - | |
| LG - Local Government Fund / General Purpose Grant | - | - | - | | 12,095,455 | 24,190,909 | 12,095,454 | 50% |
| RA - Rates | - | - | - | | 21,314,490 | 43,461,670 | 22,147,180 | 49% |
| GRAND TOTAL | 81,869,454 | 203,268,195 | 121,398,741 | 40% | 81,778,241 | 203,268,195 | 121,489,954 | 40% |

**2. Performance of Local Authority Revenue Collection levels June 2026**

| | Total for Collection | Collected Jun-26 | Arrears Jun-26 | % Collected |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rates | 47,518,295 | 26,295,872 | 21,222,423 | 61% |
| Rents | 7,759,194 | 5,917,186 | 1,842,008 | 76% |
| Housing Loans | 1,484,928 | 1,204,125 | 280,803 | 81% |

**3. Recourse to Overdraft facility**

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of days in overdraft | 0 |
| Estimate Interest Incurred | 0 |

# HUMAN RESOURCES, CITY & COUNTY LIBRARIES & ENVIRONMENT

## LIBRARY SERVICES

### EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

In September, libraries supported reading, cultural participation, digital confidence and community wellbeing, alongside the return of school visits and regular learning programmes. Summer Stars celebrations recognised children's reading achievements across participating branches. At Loughrea, children completed the Summer Stars reading challenge over the school holidays and received recognition at the September award presentation. Westside recorded 573 visitors on National Public Libraries Open Day, while its weekly Baby Rhyme Time and Music Explorers programme attracted an average of 75 parents, carers and children.

Culture Night brought together music, visual art, creative writing and family participation. Ballybane's Ability West performance attracted an audience of over 70 people, and demand for its bilingual pottery workshops exceeded capacity. Tuam reported over 60 adults across its two Culture Night events, and Westside's family creative workshop welcomed more than

40 participants. Digital support partnerships with GRETB, the University of Galway and ATU extended practical learning opportunities, including one-to-one assistance for adults aged 55 and over.

Heritage stewardship was strengthened through Mary O'Dowd's donation from the late Peadar O'Dowd Collection. The collection comprises 110 original drawings, together with sketchbooks, notebooks and related research material, and is now in the permanent care of Galway Public Libraries. Local Studies also published two centenary features on the 1926 Coimisiún na Gaeltachta report and maps. Together, these activities reflect the service's educational, cultural, social and heritage contribution.

## BALLYBANE LIBRARY

Adult Book Clubs, the English Conversation Group and Digital Skills sessions resumed after summer. Approximately 70 children and family members attended the Summer Stars Awards on 12 September, when Cllr. Alan Cheevers presented certificates and medals. The peer-led Creative Writing Group continued to meet, supporting a core Eastside membership in short- and long-form projects, with publication a future goal for many members. The weekly Thursday Ciorcal Comhrá maintained consistent engagement in informal Irish-language practice.

On 17 September, Ability West's *Slow Down* performance combined original music, dance, drama and film on themes of wellbeing and mindfulness and attracted an audience of over 70 people. For Culture Night on 18 September, a talk and musical performance explored the Irish harmonica tradition and Baile Locha Riach's connection with it. Cathal Johnson, accompanied by Ged Foley and Petra Markova, led the session. Aisling McKenna facilitated two bilingual pottery workshops, with demand exceeding capacity.




SLOW DOWN – PERFORMANCE BY ABILITY WEST CREATIVE GROUP IN BALLYBANE LIBRARY



Ruth Kelly of GABES (GRETB) resumed the weekly Digital Skills Programme on 22 September, with regular attendance of 12 to 20 learners per class over the 12-week programme. A new intergenerational initiative for adults aged 55 and over paired University of Galway and ATU students with older learners for one-to-one assistance. The first session took place on 30 September and the five-week programme received positive participant feedback.

### INTERGENERATION DIGITAL SKILLS MENTORING WITH GALWAY UNIVERSITY AND ATU STUDENTS

Family health supports included the HSE and Public Health Nursing team's monthly Breastfeeding Support Group on 16 September, with typically eight or more participants per session. The monthly La Leche League Ireland group continued with consistent attendance. On 29 September, Alex from the HSE delivered *Starting Solid Foods*, providing parents and caregivers with practical weaning guidance, information packs and signposting. These programmes continued to meet demand for accessible family-focused support in the community.

## BALLINASLOE LIBRARY



Cllr. Evelyn Parsons presented Summer Stars medals on 5 September, celebrating children's reading achievements with their families.

On 18 September, Group 8 facilitated the This Is Me junk-journaling workshop, using recycled materials, words and personal mementoes to create pages reflecting participants' memories, interests and identities. The workshop encouraged relaxed creative expression and reuse of everyday materials.




BALLINASLOE: THIS IS ME JUNK-JOURNALING WORKSHOP POSTER — 18 SEPTEMBER



On 23 September, Dr Paul Grant delivered Exploring Haemochromatosis, covering symptoms, diagnosis, treatment and prevalence in Ireland and raising awareness of an often-overlooked condition.

EXPLORING HAEMOCHROMATOSIS TALK — BALLINASLOE LIBRARY, 23 SEPTEMBER.

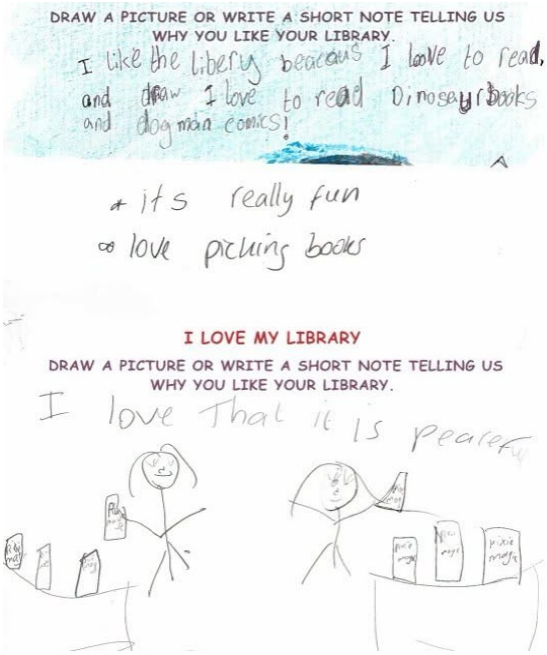
National Public Libraries Open Day on 26 September featured children's storytime and a Where's Wally? treasure hunt. Children shared what they valued about the library and ideas for its future, including a memorable suggestion for a chocolate fountain. The event combined family participation with feedback from young users.




BALLINASLOE: WHERE'S WALLY? TREASURE-HUNT POSTER — NATIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARIES OPEN DAY, 26 SEPTEMBER.




BALLINASLOE: KIDS STORYTIME POSTER — NATIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARIES OPEN DAY, 26 SEPTEMBER, 11:30 AM.




BALLINASLOE: ANONYMOUS YOUNG-READER FEEDBACK FROM NATIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARIES OPEN DAY, 26 SEPTEMBER



BALLINASLOE: NATIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARIES OPEN DAY — BOOK AND READER-FEEDBACK DISPLAY, 26 SEPTEMBER

## CLIFDEN LIBRARY

Clifden Library welcomed September with a joyful celebration of our amazing Library Summer Stars participants. This summer saw many of our young members discovering the wonderful world of reading at Clifden Library through the Summers Stars reading programme. We were kindly joined by Cllr. Eileen Mannion, who presented the much-deserved medals and certificates at our award ceremony. It was a special day in more ways than one marking Bernie's last Summer Stars award ceremony and Amelia's first.





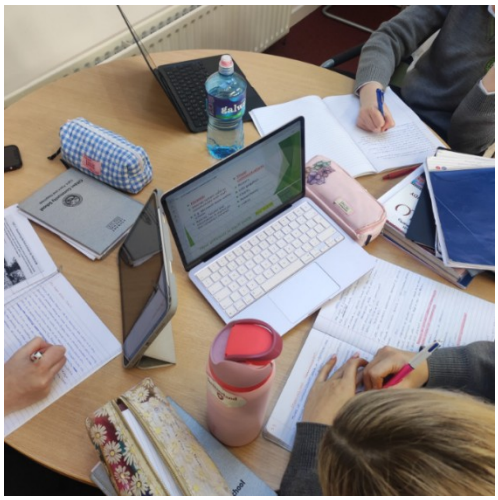


We were delighted to facility Architectural Conservation Clinics hosted by Ann Maire Cusack (Architectural Conservation officer). Gerry Mc Manus RIAI Grade 2 accredited Architect and Trevor Wood Conservation Accredited Engineer held the conversation clinics over a day, and

these clinics were found to be immensely helpful and informative by the public who attended.

We were very grateful to receive a complete collection of plays by playwright Ronan Noore now based in Boston, Massachusetts. The Collection was kindly presented to Paul by former Head engineer John Noore and are delighted to make these works available as a part of the library collection.





September saw the start of another leaving cert year and were very happy to welcome new MOL members using the library to help them with their studies. We hope to be a supportive space that can help them reach their goals.

Clifden Arts Week took place in September featuring music, literature, theatre, visuals arts, talks and large-scale outdoor performances. The town was buzzing with activity. We held an Art exhibition by Ness Portkelly "The Pencil Collection".






Coop Object Theatre joined us with a play about an Amish conscientious objector, written by Mary Swander Lynch, former Poet Laureate of Iowa, USA. Starring Rip Russell, a renowned Iowan actor who has appeared on almost every stage in Iowa.

## GALWAY CITY LIBRARY

Two Culture Night events combined inclusion and creative expression. Artist Lucy Desmond Kelly led a folklore event for families living in accommodation centres across the city, in collaboration with Galway City Council's Integration team.




Performing Prose featured 10 participants reading short fiction written specifically for Culture Night, including Marie Gilmore reading *Howya Loveen* and Anne Irwin and Tess Hughes performing Tess's *Conversation between two Galway Women*



## GALWAY CITY: PERFORMING PROSE ON CULTURE NIGHT; CONVERSATION BETWEEN TWO GALWAY WOMEN, AS CAPTIONED IN THE SOURCE REPORT.



Mayor of Galway City Cllr. Helen Ogbu attended the Summer Stars Awards and invited participants to try on her chain of office. A pop-up book display showcased work by participants in Eva O'Byrne's four-week Paper Ecosystems workshop series. Projects ranged in scale and included stories about shopping trips and animals out for a stroll.

Fashion Design students from Galway Technical Institute attended a presentation on library resources and the use of JSTOR for assignment and project research.

## ORANMORE / ÓRÁN MÓR LIBRARY

Local school class visits resumed, with weekly slots filling quickly. Culture Night on 18 September featured Órán Mór's branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, with audience singing, dancing and sean-nós dancing. The multigenerational event proceeded despite poor weather, and Hildegarde Naughton TD joined the musicians to sing *Bright Blue Rose*.





National Public Libraries Open Day on 26 September included an arts-and-crafts event and a display of the service offer. Staff answered questions about membership options, guided patrons to reading material and provided technology assistance





ÓRÁN MÓR: LIBRARY SERVICES DISPLAY FOR NATIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARIES OPEN DAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2026.

## TUAM LIBRARY

Weekly baby and toddler rhyme times, primary-age storytime, adult craft sessions and Lego free-play Saturdays continued. Three Book Clubs restarted after the summer, comprising two adult clubs and one young-adult club. Primary and secondary school visits resumed. Five mothers and their babies attended the monthly breastfeeding support group facilitated by the Tuam public health nurse. Margaret Garvey continued deliveries to housebound patrons.



Jennifer Cunningham's exhibition featured work produced during workshops held at the library in August. Jo Vahey, Senior Executive Librarian, welcomed attendees and introduced the exhibition.

The Summer Stars presentation took place on 12 September, with County Council Cathaoirleach Andrew Reddington presenting certificates and medals.

Two Culture Night events took place on 18 September: an art workshop facilitated by Jennifer Cunningham and a performance by local musicians. More than 60 adults attended across both events.

## ILLUSTRATED ACTIVITIES



TUAM: LOCAL MUSICIANS PERFORMING ON CULTURE NIGHT, 18 SEPTEMBER 2026.

## WESTSIDE LIBRARY

September marked the arrival of the long-awaited ‘return to school’ period, which brought a wave of primary and secondary schools flooding back into Westside Library. The library welcomed large numbers of children, families, older adults and community groups through a varied programme that reflected its role as a vibrant community hub. During the month, ten local groups used library facilities on a weekly basis and a further three groups met monthly. The return of the school term also saw primary school class visits resume, with eight class visits taking place during September, introducing children to library services and encouraging reading and literacy development from an early age.







## CULTURE NIGHT

Autumn also saw the resumption of a number of regular programmes that pause during the summer months. The Westside Library Book Club returned in September with a lively discussion of Toshikazu Kawaguchi's bestselling novel *Before the Coffee Gets Cold*. The library's partnership with Music Generation, Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board, also resumed, with weekly Baby Rhyme Time and Music Explorers sessions. These popular events attract an average of 75 attendees each week, including parents, carers and young children, supporting early literacy, creativity and community engagement.

Westside Library recorded a footfall of 573 visitors on National Public Libraries Open Day; a celebration of the many services and opportunities libraries have to offer. The day featured the Summer Stars Awards Ceremony, which once again attracted a capacity audience. Children who completed the reading challenge received medals and certificates from Helen Ogbu, Mayor of the City of Galway, highlighting the continued success of the programme and the library's commitment to fostering a lifelong love of reading among young people.

National Public Libraries Open Day also saw the launch of the *Making the Poem* series, featuring a reading by Anne Fitzgerald followed by a conversation with Rachel Coventry exploring the creative process behind her work. The event was well attended and further strengthened Westside Library's reputation as an important cultural and creative space within the community. We had a further standalone poetry event, featuring Philip McDonagh, Luke Morgan and Lily Neill for the launch of Philip's new collection, Estuary'. Guests enjoyed readings in English and Irish, alongside Lily's beautiful harp music, all exploring the theme of community.



PHILIP MCDONAGH



LILLY NEILL

The first of five digital drop-in sessions for people aged 55 and over commenced on 29 September, hosted by psychology students from the University of Galway and ATU. These sessions are specifically designed to help older people navigate the digital world using their smartphones, tablets, or laptops. Whether booking flights, completing a passport renewal application or navigating the Revenue website, participants were able to avail of one-to-one support from student volunteers. The event was fully booked and proved hugely successful. As part of the Skills for Life digital literacy offering, these sessions help people build everyday skills, enabling them to feel more confident online, manage their finances, understand media and live more sustainably.




The library also celebrated Culture Night, supported by Galway City Council, with the *Create Your Story, Shape Your Future* workshop. Children and families enjoyed an evening of hands-on arts and crafts, using a variety of materials to create unique artworks inspired by their own stories and imaginations. The workshop welcomed more than 40 participants and highlighted the library's role in fostering creativity, learning, and community engagement.

### SUMMER STARS AWARDS CEREMONY

September also included an Arts and Crafts Morning hosted by Galway City Partnership as part of their Social Prescribing initiative. The event provided participants with an opportunity to connect socially, develop new creative skills, and engage with others in a welcoming and supportive environment, demonstrating the important role libraries play in supporting community wellbeing.

## LEABHARLANN NA CEATHRÚN RUA

### AN CEART CHUN LÉITHEOIREACHTA

### RÉALTAÍ SAMHRAIDH – SEARMANAS BRONNTA

Seo an ócáid is deise linn sa bhféilire! Chuile Fhómhar bíonn searmanas bronnta speisialta againn le ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar na gasúir a ghlac páirt sa scéim léitheoireachta Réaltaí Samhraidh i Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua le linn an tsamhraidh. Is é an comhairleoir Pádraig Mac an Iomaire a bhí mar aoichainteoir againn, agus bhronn sé na teastais agus na boinn ar na gasúir ar an lá, le balúin agus soláistí ar fáil againn chomh maith.



## AM SCÉALAÍOCHTA AGUS EALAÍNE LE NUALA / LEGO

Bhí Am Scéalaíochta agus Ealaíne againn le Nuala ar an 19 Meán Fómhair. Léigh muid scéilín deas as Gaeilge le neart aicsean ann. Bhí an-spraoi ag na gasúir ag dearadh na pearsana ón scéal ab'fhearr leo féin; bhí an-spéis sa Damhán Alla agus na Sicíní ach go háirithe!

In éindí leis seo bhí ár ghnáth sheisiúin Lego agus Duplo againn go seachtainiúil do ghasúir óga - agus a dtuismitheoirí!



## AM SCÉALAÍOCHTA AGUS AMHRÁNAÍOCHT LE JULIE-ANNE / STORYTIME AND SONG WITH JULIE-ANNE

## EALAÍN DO GHASÚIR LE NUALA / ART FOR CHILDREN WITH NUALA







## CEILIÚRADH AR AN ÚCRÁIN AR AN GCEATHRÚ RUA

Is breá linn lucht na Úcráine ar an gCeathrú Rua a fháiltiú isteach sa Leabharlann, agus tá réimse deas leabhra Úcráinis/Gaeilge/Béarla againn do ghasúir agus daoine fásta. I mí Meán Fómhair bhí deis speisialta againn mórdhealbh lámhdhéanta chur ar taispeáint sa Leabharlann chun ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar chultúir na tíre.

## CUAIRTEANNA Ó NA BUNSCOILEANNA & GRÚPAÍ ÁITIÚLA

Bhí sé go hálainn na ranganna bunscoile ar fad a fheiceáil ag teacht isteach againn arís le theacht an Fhómhair. Bíonn an-spéis acu sna leabhra idir Gaeilge agus Béarla agus tagann siad againn chuile sheachtain le linn an téarma! Bhí na scoileanna speisialta (Tí Nan Dooley san áireamh) arias linn go rialta ár ndóigh - tagann siad chun bheith ag léamh, ag spraoi leis na bréagáin agus an Tovertafel (nó an Bord Céadfach) a úsáid. Bhí cuairteanna seachtainiúil againn freisin ó na heagraíochtaí cúraim áitiúla agus an-tóir acu féin ar na ríomhairí chomh maith le na leabhra.

## CLUB LEABHAR

Tá Club Leabhar na Ceathrún Rua faoi lán seol arís théis briseadh an samhraidh, le roinnt baill nua agus grúpa mór i láthair sa leabharlann an mhí seo. Bhí plé spleodrach acu faoi Na Ríthe Beaga le Delphine de Vigan & Máirín Nic Con Iomaire agus an leabhar filíochta Mainistir na Feola le Laoighseach Ní Choistealbha. Seo mar a mheas na baill de Na Rithe Beaga: “Bhí casadh deas leis an scéal bleachtaireachta. Ba oscailt súil é an díobháil a d'fhéadfadh na meán shóisialta a dhéanamh go h-éasca de réir a céile ar dhaoine agus ar ghasúir ach go h-áirithe. Bhí díospóireacht fiúntach againn faoin ábhar seo agus ba fiú an leabhar a léamh ar mhaithe le san amháin.”

## ÉIRE SHLÁINTIÚIL/SCILEANNA DON SAOL

### ÍOGA DO CHÚRAMÓIRÍ

Bhí dhá sheisiún íoga le Sinéad an mhí seo, agus bhi ceol álainn suaimhneach le cloisteáil againn dá bharr - bhí muid thar a bheith “Zen” ar na laethanta sin! Cuireadh na seisiúin seo ar fáil do chúramóirí, tuismitheoirí agus daoine atá ag obair mar SNA. Buíochas ó chroí leis an Galway Autism Partnership a chur an maoiniú ar fáil.

### SCILEANNA DIGITEACH

Tá muid an-sásta a bheith ag obair i bpáirt leis an GRETB arís i mbliana le seisiúin scileanna teicneolaíochta a chur ar fáil sa bpobal. Beidh seisiún “buail isteach” le Bridget sa leabharlann uair sa tseachtain as seo go Nollaig chun cabhrú le daoine leis an bhfón chliste nó na ríomhaire a úsáid, Bhí an chéad seisiún ar an 29ú Meán Fómhair.

### COMHRÁ AGUS CUPÁN TAE

D’eirigh go hiontach len ár Ciorcal Comhrá míosúil ag tús mí Meán Fómhair. Seo ócáid neamhfhoirmiúil atá á reachtáil i bpáirt leis an eagraíocht Pobal Rua. Ar an gcéad Aoine do chuile mhí cuirtear tae agus soláistí ar fáil sa leabharlann agus bíonn fáilte roimh daoine suigh isteach agus píosa comhrá agus craic a bheith acu as Gaeilge. Tá an-tóir ag na seanóirí ach go háirithe ar na hócáidí seo!

## RIGHT TO READ

### SUMMER STARS – AWARDS CEREMONY

This is our favorite event on the calendar! Every autumn we have a special awards ceremony to celebrate the kids who took part in the Summer Stars summer reading scheme at Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua. Our guest speaker was Councilor Pádraig Mac an Iomaire, and he presented the certificates and medals to the kids on the day, with balloons and fun treats also provided.

### STORY TELLING AND ART MAKING WITH NUALA /LEGO

We had a well-attended Storytelling and Art-Making Session for Children with Nuala on September 19th. We read an action-packed story in Irish, and the kids had a lot of fun making their favorite characters from the story; there was great interest in the spider and the chickens!

Along with this, we had our regular weekly Lego and Duplo sessions for young kids - and their parents!

### VISITS FROM PRIMARY SCHOOLS & LOCAL GROUPS

It was lovely to see all the primary school classes coming to visit us again with the arrival of autumn. They are very interested in the books in both Irish and English and come to see us

every week during the term! The special education schools (including Tí Nan Dooley) also visit us regularly – they come to read, play with the toys, and use the Tovertafel Sensory Table. We also had weekly visits from local care organizations, who were very keen on the computers as well as the books.

### CELEBRATING UKRAINIAN CULTURE IN AN CHEATHRÚ RUA

We love welcoming newly arrived Ukrainians to the Library, and we have a nice range of Ukrainian/Gaeilge/English books for kids and adults. In September, we had a special opportunity to display a large Paper Sculpture in the Library to celebrate Ukrainian culture.

### BOOK CLUB

The Book Club is back in full swing after the summer break, with some new members and a big turnout at the library this month. They had a lively discussion about Na Ríthe Beaga by Delphine De Vigan & Máirín Nic Con Iomaire, and the poetry book Monastery of Flesh by Laoighseach Ní Choistealbha. Here's what the members thought of Na Ríthe Beaga: “It was a good twist on a detective story. The damage that social media can so easily do to people (and especially children) was eye-opening. We had a good debate on this topic, and the book was worth reading just for that.”

## HEALTHY IRELAND/SKILLS FOR LIFE

### YOGA FOR CARERS

There were two yoga sessions with Sinéad this month, and we got to listen to beautiful, calming music as a result – we were super 'Zen' on those days! These sessions were made available for carers, parents, and people working as SNAs. We are very thankful to the Galway Autism Partnership for providing the funding.

### DIGITAL SKILLS

We are really happy to be working in partnership with GRETB again this year to offer technology skills sessions in the community. There will be a weekly 'drop-in' session with Bridget in the library from now until Christmas to help people use their smartphone or compute. The first session was on September 29th.

### COMMUNITY CONVERSATION CIRCLE

Our monthly Conversation Circle was a lively start to September. This is an informal event organized in partnership with the Pobal Rua organization. On the first Friday of every month, tea and snacks are provided in the library, and people are welcome to sit down and join in conversation and fun through Irish. These events are especially popular with the seniors!

## LOUGHREA LIBRARY

Reading and learning programmes included three school visits involving 66 pupils from St Ita's NS and St Brendan's Boys NS. The Grey Lake Book Club and the monthly library Book Club also met during September, with overall attendance of 12 across both groups.
Creative and cultural programming included Corrib Coding, funded through the Creative Communities Fund, which offered free workshops for children aged nine to 12 as part of a four-week programme. The two recorded September sessions had overall attendance of 18.
For Culture Night, artist Luci Kershaw facilitated *Your Memories of Loughrea*, with 10 participants transforming local memories and stories into visual postcards.
The Summer Stars challenge encouraged children's reading over the school holidays. MD Cathaoirleach Cllr. Geraldine Donohue presented certificates and medals at the September award presentation.
Family programming included Toddler Storytime, Lego and Duplo activities, board-games afternoons and free-play sessions. Recorded attendance across the sessions for which figures were supplied was approximately 25 children and family members; attendance was not recorded for the remaining sessions.
Age-friendly and community programming included GRD walk-in digital clinics, weekly adult craft sessions and a Community Social Morning offering conversation, refreshments, newspapers, board games, cards and crosswords. These activities recorded 25 participant engagements overall. Anne Callanan and Dee Collins of the Mobile Library also staffed a library information stand at the GRD and FRCs Information Morning for Seniors in Loughrea Hotel & Spa.




BAILE LOCHA RIACH: LIBRARY INFORMATION STAND AT THE INFORMATION MORNING FOR SENIORS, 30 SEPTEMBER 2026.

## HEADFORD LIBRARY

Jane Bane and Dee Collins attended a Women's Health event run by Solas FRC and engaged with participants on library supports and services. The library also took part in a local Community Showcase to promote its service offer. Aoife Molloy and Cathaoirleach Cllr. Andrew Reddington visited the library with the Brendan Martyn Cup. Cllr. Reddington subsequently presented Summer Stars medals and certificates to children who completed the challenge.




For National Public Libraries Open Day, the library collaborated with the Cubs of the local 26th Kilcoona Scouts group. The Cubs designed and made bookmarks and visited the library to present their work. An arts-and-crafts station and community jigsaw supported participation across generations throughout the day.

HEADFORD: HANDMADE BOOKMARKS SUPPLIED FOR NATIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARIES OPEN DAY.

## MOYLOUGH LIBRARY

Over 100 children registered for Summer Stars. Children, parents and guardians attended the joint Moylough and Ballygar medal and certificate presentations, with Evelyn Pearsons and Jo Vahey making the presentations. Moylough National School continued weekly visits, with three classes attending on Tuesdays and two on Thursdays. Eleven class visits were recorded during September.

## BALLYGAR LIBRARY

Approximately 30 children registered for Summer Stars, and the medal and certificate presentation formed part of the joint celebration with Moylough. Ballygar National School and Mount Talbot National School visited regularly on Wednesdays, with eight class visits recorded during September. All junior infants collected their Little Library bags during their visits.

## WOODFORD LIBRARY



Fifteen children attended the Summer Stars certificate and medal presentation, with Eleanor presenting the medals. Sharleen, Moira and Sean weeded and reorganised the library collection to improve access and the visitor experience.

## LEABHARLANN INIS MÓR

On 6 September, Leabharlann Inis Mór and Pleanáil Teanga Árainn co-hosted *Teacht le chéile do Thuismitheoirí leanaí nua*, supporting new parents, particularly those without family support on the island, to meet one another. A parent read Irish-language books and

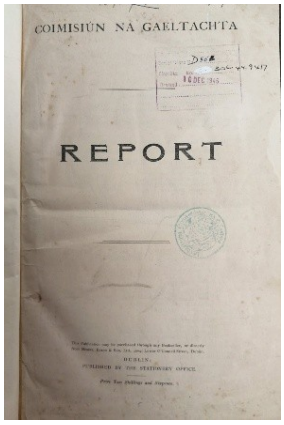
participants sang lullabies in Irish. Pleanáil Teanga Árainn supplied goodie bags with gifts for parents, including vouchers for Parent and Baby Yoga and a local café to encourage further meet-ups.

Local Postmaster Kathryn proposed a *Design Your Own Postcard* event for World Postcard Day 2026, themed *Paper Bridges* to celebrate postcards as connections between people. Children and adults designed postcards for loved ones or coloured designs prepared by Kathryn. Ciarán Ó Flaithearta of Cúla4 interviewed children for a short news segment. The event strengthened the connection between the Post Office and library in the local community.

## LOCAL STUDIES AND HERITAGE STEWARDSHIP

### COIMISIÚN NA GAELTACHTA CENTENARY FEATURES

Local Studies published two social-media features to mark the centenary of the Coimisiún na Gaeltachta report's publication in autumn 1926. One introduced the service's original report and its detailed population and language tables; the other examined the original colour maps held by Galway Public Libraries. The commission was undertaken in 1925 by the Irish Free State, and its 1926 report identified Fíor-Ghaeltacht and breac-Ghaeltacht areas and proposed official recognition, language preservation and economic improvements.




### COIMISIÚN NA GAELTACHTA: TITLE PAGE OF THE ORIGINAL 1926 REPORT HELD BY LOCAL STUDIES.

To mark the centenary of its publication in late August 1926, Galway Public Libraries' Local Studies section highlighted material from its original copy of the Coimisiún na Gaeltachta Report. Commissioned by the Irish Free State Government under W. T. Cosgrave, the report mapped and defined Gaeltacht areas where Irish remained the everyday language and recommended their official recognition. The County Galway map indicates that Irish was widely spoken in areas that are no longer Irish-speaking. The accompanying tables record the number of Irish speakers in Irish-speaking and partly Irish-speaking districts, including 3,980 of a population of 16,577 in the Glenamaddy Rural District; 2,878 of 15,019 in the Mountbellew District; 8,183 of 18,768 in the Clifden District; 14,397 of 17,732 in the Oughterard District; and 18,124 of 30,024 in Tuam and its hinterland. The report also provides detailed townland-level figures across five age groups. In Milltown, all children under seven recorded in the report were Irish speakers, while Dunmore North recorded 50 Irish speakers and 110 non-Irish speakers in this age group, together with 384 Irish speakers aged over 26. The report included recommendations to preserve and strengthen the Irish

language and to improve economic conditions in the areas surveyed. It remains a valuable resource for comparison with the 1926 Census.





COIMISIÚN NA GAELTACHTA: ORIGINAL 1926 COLOUR MAP SUPPLIED BY LOCAL STUDIES. HISTORICAL MATERIAL, NOT CONTEMPORARY LANGUAGE DATA.

## PEADAR O'DOWD HERITAGE COLLECTION

Mary O'Dowd donated material from the late Peadar O'Dowd Collection, comprising 110 original drawings of archaeological and historical monuments and sites in the city and county, with sketchbooks, notebooks and related material documenting decades of research and interpretation. Galway Public Libraries has received the collection into permanent care for future researchers, historians and the wider public. The drawings include material used in Peadar's publications, and the sketchbooks record milestones and heritage sites. Research records include advice during the development of Eyre Square Shopping Centre that helped expose and preserve a section of the historic city walls.
The official handover at Library Headquarters took place on 17 September 2026. Mayor of Galway City Cllr. Helen Ogbu and Leas-Chathaoirleach of Galway County Council Cllr. Michael Regan attended, together with Mary O'Dowd, members of the extended family, Bernard O'Hara and historian William Henry. Bernard O'Hara, a colleague and close friend of Peadar, first approached the library on Mary O'Dowd's behalf.

Peadar O'Dowd (1941–2024), a native of Bohermore, was a historian, heritage advocate, author and educator. He lectured at Regional Technical College Galway, later GMIT and ATU, for more than three decades. His books, columns, lectures, walking tours and broadcasts promoted local history; works named in the release include Old and New Galway, Vanishing Galway, A History of County Galway, Galway in Old Photographs and Tracing Your Galway Ancestors. His conservation work included support for the city's canals. The release also notes a Mayoral Award for heritage, environment and conservation, an honorary MA from NUI Galway, and Galway City Council recognition of his contribution to local history.
Mary O'Dowd welcomed the permanent preservation of the collection and expressed the wish that the drawings would support future research and publication with Galway Public Libraries' permission and acknowledgement of Peadar. Elizabeth Keane welcomed the



collection as an important record of Galway's built and archaeological heritage and a fitting legacy to Peadar O'Dowd's work.

PEADAR O'DOWD HERITAGE COLLECTION: FORMAL HANDOVER AT LIBRARY HEADQUARTERS, 17 SEPTEMBER 2026.



# ENVIRONMENT

## BURIAL GROUNDS

### BURIAL GROUND MAINTENANCE GRANTS

A total of 140 applications were received for Burial Ground Maintenance Grants by the closing date of 30 September 2026 and will be assessed according to the award criteria and available funding, with grant awards to be processed in November.

### BURIAL GROUND IMPROVEMENT WORKS GRANTS

Match funding has been received from 4 burial ground committees and works are in progress or pending final approvals from the National Monuments Service. Match funding is still awaited from 2 Committees before the Contractor can be engaged to commence works.

### BURIAL GROUND DEVELOPMENTS

Part 8 planning permission was granted this month by the Loughrea Municipal District for an extension to the burial grounds at Tynagh. The development on 0.58 acres of Council land will provide an additional 326 single (163 double) plots and 12 urn plots.

Part 8 planning permission was granted this month by the Tuam Municipal District for a designated area for uncoffined burials within Tuam Burial Ground, in accordance with the Burial Ground Amendment Regulations 2013 and associated HSE approval. This 0.1 acre designated space will provide capacity for 46 single burial plots. The provision of this facility arose from targeted consultations with the Muslim Community in Tuam which have been ongoing since 2020.

## CONTROL OF DOGS

### PROMOTION OF RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

A total of 773 dog licences were purchased during the month of September, 548 of which were purchased at local post offices. 6,955 licences have been purchased year to date. Our dog warden service carried out responsible dog ownership campaigns in the Cornamona, Dunmore, Portumna, Loughrea, and Monivea. The Council continues to partner with MADRA on Millie's Fund, the neutering scheme for both male and female dogs in the county. The scheme continues to receive a strong level of interest, with 94 applications submitted by dog owners across the County to date in 2026. 17 Dogs came through the Dog Warden Shelter during the month of September.

## ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING & ENFORCEMENT

### AGRICULTURE MONITORING & ENFORCEMENT



A total of 17 planned farm inspections were carried out in the Castlelodge 010 waterbody, which is south of Gort and also in the Shiven south 010 waterbody, which is north of Moylough. Of the required 72 farm inspections for 2026, 47 have now been completed.

#### SLURRY DISCHARGE TO A LAND DRAIN



#### EFFLUENT SEEPAGE FROM SILAGE BALES

## WASTE ENFORCEMENT

Staff from the Environment section staff received training in relation to the preparation of DPIA (Data Protection Impact Assessment) and Business Case proposals in relation to the installation and implementation of CCTV at Bring Bank Centres.

A Bulky Goods Collection Day was run in conjunction with Bruscar Bearna in Gort at the end of September. Members of the public could book a time slot to deliver large waste household items to be disposed of. This event was highly subscribed to and proves to be a service valued by members of the public.

The Validation of the Annual Returns made by permitted Waste Collectors and Facilities/Certificates of Registration sites for 2025 were worked on by the Waste Enforcement Team in September. This is a significant body of waste enforcement work which is almost complete.

Inspections of premises under the RMCEI monitoring programme continued where retailers of tyres, WEEE/Batteries/Plastic bags and the Deposit Return Scheme were inspected for compliance by environment staff.

## WATER POLLUTION MONITORING & ENFORCEMENT

Site investigations commenced in relation to wastewater contamination of the storm water network in Loughrea. Misconnections of grey water (showers, sinks, dishwashers, etc.) from households is the suspected cause but several public and private sewer pump stations are also being inspected to ensure they are operating satisfactorily.

Site investigations also continued in Gort in relation to pollution in the storm water network. This included dye testing. A section 12 notice has been issued to a business premises to discontinue discharge to the storm network and connect to Uisce Eireann's sewer network. Further work is required to establish if there are other issues. Uisce Eireann are also carrying out separate CCTV surveys.

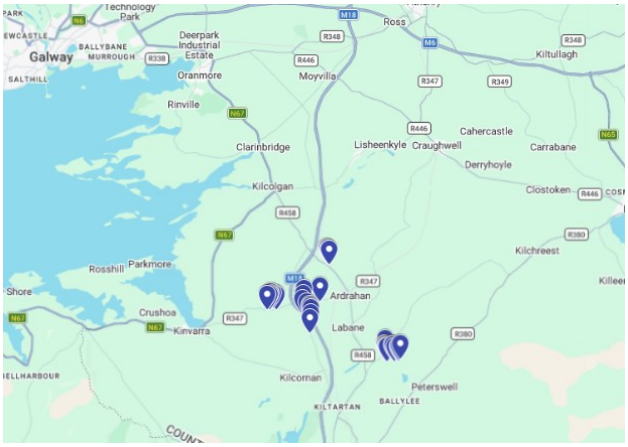
## CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

A meeting was held with representatives from Údarás na Gaeltachta in relation to reviewing one of their Section 4 Discharge Licences. A hydrological report is required as part of this review and this will establish if new emission limits are required. A downstream EPA water monitoring point is at moderate status, and all potential pollution impacts are being assessed.

37 septic tank inspections were carried out in the Kilchreest 010 waterbody, near Gort. These were in zone 2 areas where human health is at risk due to high groundwater vulnerability. A total of 21 Advisory Notices will be issued in relation to these inspections, which is a 57% failure rate. The main reasons for failure are sludge overload, poor

maintenance of secondary systems, and no access to systems provided. A total of 105 inspections have been completed so far in 2026.

The EPA have just published for public consultation, the draft National Inspection Plan 2027-2031 for domestic wastewater treatment systems which is the fifth iteration of the plan, and the closing date for comments is 5pm on the 9th October 2026. Per the draft document, Galway County Council's allocation of annual inspections will increase to 121 in 2027 and 140 from 2028 to 2031.




## SEPTIC TANK INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT IN SEPTEMBER



## NEWLY INSTALLED SYSTEM TO COMPLY WITH ADVISORY NOTICE

## TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

The Western Region local authority liaison meeting took place online which was hosted by the River Basin Management Service (formerly LAWPRO). The agenda included:

- Matters arising from previous meeting
- River Basin Management Service updates
- Selection of areas for action for the 4th Cycle Water Action Plan
- Proposed changes to Septic tank regulations and grants scheme

The Western Region Operational Committee meeting also took place in Roscommon County Council and included a field trip to a Waters of Life project in the north of the county, near Ballinlough. The following was the agenda:

- National Updates
- Catchment Action tracker
- GSI Roscommon karst tracer test: Protecting Groundwater Drinking Supplies - Katie Tedd, GSI

- Waters of LIFE: Overview & progress to date - John Kelly; Hydromorphology measures - Anne Goggin



### BALLYMOE BRIDGE, ISLANDS CATCHMENT (WATERS OF LIFE)

A chemical notification workshop was hosted by the EPA. The EPA have developed a formal notification system in relation to detection of exceedances of testing parameters in river and lake samples with the surface water regulations. Notifications will be sent to the relevant local authority via the River Basin Management Service. Guidance on follow-up with these exceedances has also been developed.

The Environmental Enforcement Team carried out a series of public information workshops across the Municipal District covering statutory functions related to agriculture, water, wastewater, air & noise, litter & waste management. This was an important means of engaging with Elected Members and members of the public regarding local issues related to environmental management and monitoring.

## BATHING WATERS & WATER SAFETY

### MONITORING OF BATHING WATERS

Water sampling for this year's bathing season was completed on 15th September 2026. In total, 169 routine bathing water samples were collected and sampled over the season.

## ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS & EDUCATION

### GREEN SCHOOLS

The Green schools programme has commenced for the 2026-27 school year with school visits to Scoil Mhuire Clifden and Archbishop McHales College in Tuam.

## RE-TURN AWARDS

All schools were invited to take part in the Re-turn Awards. These are annual awards to celebrate primary, post-primary and third-level educational campuses that creatively use the Deposit Return Scheme to raise funds and drive local sustainability action. The Awards recognise the story and impact behind each campaign – not simply the number of containers collected.

## NATIONAL TREE WEEK 2026

National Tree Day is organised annually by the Tree Council of Ireland and occurs on the first Thursday of October. In 2026, this falls on 1 October. The event encourages primary schools across Ireland to explore nature, plant trees, and learn about the environmental importance of forests.

# WASTE MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

## GORT CIVIC AMENITY SITE

Good progress was made on the Civic Amenity Site construction this month. Site containers were installed, line markings were completed to define the road layout, pedestrian walkways, and parking areas, and the entrance barrier was installed. Permanent fencing works were also completed, and landscaping works are in progress.





### WORKS PROGRESSED AT GORT CIVIC AMENITY SITE

# HOUSING

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Applications remain open for Phase 2 of the Fearann na hEascrach Starter Homes Scheme, before the closing date on October 22nd. The scheme will deliver 37 affordable homes at Raheen Road, Athenry, including 3-bedroom mid-terrace, end-terrace and semi-detached units. Eligible purchasers can access homes at reduced prices through the Affordable Purchase Scheme, with 30% of homes reserved for allocation to applicants with a local connection to Athenry or residing within 10km of the development. Continued promotion of the scheme is underway to maximise awareness and encourage eligible households to submit applications before the closing date.




**Raheen Road, Athenry, County Galway** - A total of 37 homes comprising (19) **3 Bed Mid-Terrace, (16) 3 Bed End-Terrace, (2) 3 Bed Semi-Detached at Raheen Road, Athenry, County Galway** are being made available for sale by Galway County Council at the above residential development through Starter Homes/Affordable Purchase/ arrangements under the Affordable Housing Act 2021 and Associated Affordable Housing Regulations.

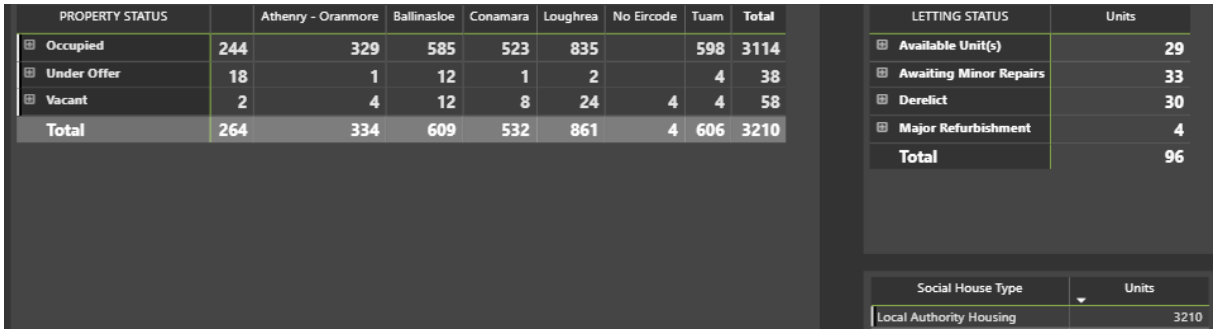
| No. | House Type | Gross Household Income Limit | Market Value | Minimum Purchase Price | Maximum Purchase Price |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 19 | 3 Bed Mid-Terrace | €90,844 | €425,000 | €345,000 | €403,750 |
| 16 | 3 Bed End-Terrace | €92,981 | €435,000 | €355,000 | €413,250 |
| 2 | 3 Bed Semi-Detached | €95,119 | €445,000 | €365,000 | €422,750 |

## SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK

### TOTAL STOCK



## LA STOCK

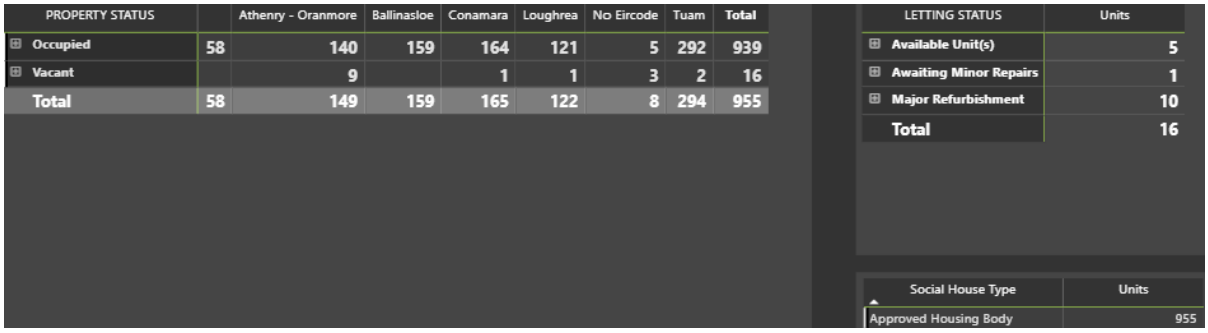


| PROPERTY STATUS | | Athenry - Oranmore | Ballinasloe | Conamara | Loughrea | No Eircode | Tuam | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Occupied | 244 | 329 | 585 | 523 | 835 | | 598 | 3114 |
| Under Offer | 18 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 2 | | 4 | 38 |
| Vacant | 2 | 4 | 12 | 8 | 24 | 4 | 4 | 58 |
| Total | 264 | 334 | 609 | 532 | 861 | 4 | 606 | 3210 |

| LETTING STATUS | Units |
|---|---|
| Available Unit(s) | 29 |
| Awaiting Minor Repairs | 33 |
| Derelict | 30 |
| Major Refurbishment | 4 |
| Total | 96 |

| Social House Type | Units |
|---|---|
| Local Authority Housing | 3210 |

## AHB STOCK



| PROPERTY STATUS | | Athenry - Oranmore | Ballinasloe | Conamara | Loughrea | No Eircode | Tuam | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Occupied | 58 | 140 | 159 | 164 | 121 | 5 | 292 | 939 |
| Vacant | | 9 | | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 16 |
| Total | 58 | 149 | 159 | 165 | 122 | 8 | 294 | 955 |

| LETTING STATUS | Units |
|---|---|
| Available Unit(s) | 5 |
| Awaiting Minor Repairs | 1 |
| Major Refurbishment | 10 |
| Total | 16 |

| Social House Type | Units |
|---|---|
| Approved Housing Body | 955 |

This dashboard provides a useful snapshot of Galway County Council's social housing stock and highlights both strong occupancy performance and some operational challenges.

## KEY HEADLINES

- Total social housing units: 4,468
- Occupied units: 4,343 (97.2%)
- Under Offer: 39 (0.9%)
- Vacant units: 86 (1.9%)

This indicates a very high level of utilisation of the housing stock, with fewer than 2% of units vacant.

## SOCIAL HOUSING TYPE ANALYSIS

| Housing Type | Units | % of Stock |
|---|---|---|
| Local Authority Housing | 3,210 | 71.8% |
| Approved Housing Body | 955 | 21.4% |
| Traveller Accommodation | 91 | 2.0% |
| Rental Accommodation Scheme | 78 | 1.7% |
| Mortgage to Rent | 69 | 1.5% |
| Leasing Properties | 65 | 1.5% |

## COMMENT

The housing portfolio is predominantly made up of direct Local Authority housing, accounting for almost 72% of all units. Approved Housing Bodies make a significant contribution, providing over one-fifth of the overall stock and demonstrating the importance of partnership delivery.

## VACANCY ANALYSIS

The dashboard identifies 125 units requiring action, comprising:

| Count of PROP | Status | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Row Labels | Available For Letting | Awaiting Minor Repairs | Derelict | Major Refurbishment | Total |
| AHB | 5 | 1 | | 10 | 16 |
| LA | 29 | 33 | 30 | 4 | 96 |
| RAS | 2 | | | | 2 |
| Trav | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 11 |
| **Total** | **44** | **35** | **31** | **15** | **125** |

- Available Units: 44
- Awaiting Minor Repairs: 35
- Derelict: 31
- Major Refurbishment: 15

## COMMENT

While only 86 units are currently classified as vacant, a larger group of 125 properties require intervention before being fully available for allocation. The presence of 46 units needing significant repair works (derelict or major refurbishment), these units are part of a sale or redevelopment plan.\

## OCCUPANCY BY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Vacant units are distributed as follows:

| Municipal District | Vacant Units |
|---|---|
| Loughrea | 30 |
| Ballinasloe | 14 |
| Conamara | 14 |
| Athenry-Oranmore | 2 |
| Tuam | 8 |
| No Eircode | 9 |

## OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The dashboard shows a well-utilised housing portfolio with a very strong occupancy rate of 97.2%. Demand clearly remains high, with only a small proportion of stock vacant. The principal challenge is not widespread vacancy but rather returning repair and refurbishment properties to active use as quickly as possible.

## THE SUMMARY OF SOCIAL HOUSING ASSESSMENTS 2026

The Summary of Social Housing Assessments (SSHA) is an annual statutory assessment carried out by local authorities to measure the level of unmet social housing need in their areas. It identifies households that qualify for social housing support and whose housing needs have not yet been met, providing key data to inform national housing policy, housing delivery targets, and future social housing planning.

## ARE YOU STILL IN NEED OF SOCIAL HOUSING SUPPORT?

Galway County Council is currently undertaking a review of social housing applications as part of the Summary of Social Housing Assessments (SSHA) 2026, a national assessment of housing need directed by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The assessment will take place on 2 November 2026.

If you are currently on the Social Housing List, you may be contacted by Galway County Council to:

- Confirm that you still require social housing support.
- Update details regarding your household composition.
- Verify your current accommodation circumstances.
- Provide updated income information.
- Submit any additional documentation required to assess your housing need.

It is important that all information held by the Council is accurate and up to date. Households that no longer require support, or whose circumstances have changed, should notify the Council as soon as possible. Accurate information helps ensure that housing need is correctly reflected and assists in planning future social housing delivery and supports.

If you receive correspondence from Galway County Council regarding your application, please respond promptly to avoid delays in updating your record.

## CONTACT US

If you have any queries regarding your social housing application or the Social Housing Assessments 2026 process, please contact:

**SSHA@galwaycoco.ie**

Thank you for your cooperation in helping Galway County Council maintain accurate housing records and plan effectively for future housing needs across the county.

## HOUSING MAINTENANCE

The Housing Maintenance Team are responsible for the maintenance and repair of the Council's Social Housing stock. This currently consists of 3018 housing units across the county. Works include the day-to-day reactive maintenance, planned maintenance, energy efficiency upgrades, disabled persons adaptations, and the refurbishment of void units.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMME

The Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme, which is funded by the Department of Housing, aims to retrofit 3500 social homes nationally in 2026 using a budget of €140 million. The EERP has a considerable impact in terms of improving the quality of the housing stock and addressing the challenges of climate change. Only homes build before 1st January 2009 are supported by the EERP.

Galway County Council are on course to retrofit 174 homes in 2026. The retrofit measures include new windows & doors, PV solar panels, additional ventilation, increased attic insulation and the install of air to water heating systems. These works have greatly improved our tenants living conditions and eliminated their reliance on fossil fuels to heat their homes. To date, GCC have completed deep energy retrofits to 594 social homes across county Galway.




BEFORE

AFTER



## PART 8 CONSULTATION GALWAY COUNTY HOUSING AT COSMONA LOUGHREA CO. GALWAY ON PUBLIC DISPLAY



Galway County Council is progressing a Part 8 proposal for the construction of 18 three-bedroom housing units at Cosmona, Loughrea. The development will also include associated boundary treatments, landscaping, site development works and services.
The Part 8 public consultation commenced on 25 September 2026 and will remain open until 23 October 2026. Plans and particulars are available for public inspection at the Loughrea Area Office and through Galway County Council's Consultation Portal.
The site is adjacent to a recorded burial ground/monument, and this has been identified as a relevant consideration in progressing the proposed development.

## PART 10 - PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT PÁIRC NA HABHAINN, ATHENRY



Galway County Council is progressing a proposed 16-unit residential development at Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, on a greenfield site accessed through the existing housing estate. The scheme comprises 8 three-bedroom and 8 two-bedroom, two-storey homes, together with new roads and footpaths, parking and cycle facilities, public open space, landscaping, public lighting, boundary treatments and associated site infrastructure.
The Council proposes to seek approval from An Coimisiún Pleanála under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The plans, particulars and Natura Impact Statement are currently on public display, with the consultation period running from 4 September to 19 October 2026.

### LA 06/26 PART 8 PLANNING FOR SINGLE HOUSE AT DONAGHPATRICK, HEADFORD

Galway County Council's proposed single rural housing development at Donaghpatrick, Headford, successfully received Part 8 planning approval at the Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 5 October.
The development forms part of the Council's Single Rural Build Programme, which is aimed at providing homes for families with specific accommodation needs whose requirements cannot be appropriately met through traditional local authority housing . The programme enables the Council to deliver tailored housing solutions in rural locations where there is a clear and identified housing need.
The Council will now progress the project to the next stage of delivery, with the objective of providing a high-quality, sustainable home that meets the long-term needs of the allocated family.

## PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, FIRE & EMERGENCY & CLIMATE CHANGE

## WINTER MAINTENANCE

### WINTER SERVICE PLAN

### BACKGROUND

The Winter Service period for 2025-2026 extends from the 12th of October 2026 to the 30th of April 2027. An updated Winter Service Plan has been prepared, and this forms the basis for the service which will be delivered by Galway County Council over the relevant timeframe.

Winter maintenance on national roads is carried out by Galway County Council on behalf of the TII and is funded by the TII. Winter maintenance on local and regional roads is funded by a combination of the Discretionary Maintenance Grant and the Local Authorities' own funds.

## ROUTES COVERED

The routes treated are categorised according to strategic importance as set out below.

Priority 1 routes consist of Motorway, dual carriage way, national primary and secondary routes and include several sections of strategic regional route network. These routes are ordinarily treated and receive precautionary treatment. Every effort will be made to ensure that these routes are treated by 8.00 am in the morning.

Priority 2 routes are the strategically important regional roads not included in Priority 1 and local routes. These routes are ordinarily treated and receive precautionary treatment. Every effort will be made to ensure that these routes are treated by 8.00 am in the morning.

Priority 3 routes are other local roads. These routes do not receive precautionary treatment but will be considered for treatment by the Duty Engineer once priority 1 & 2 routes are addressed and as resources allow at that time.

Priority 4 routes are other local roads and footpaths and will not be considered for treatment except in severe or prolonged winter weather and then only when resources are available.

Between P1, P2 and P3 routes, 1,228 km of road length is covered. That breaks down into 18km National Primary, 282km National Secondary and 928km Regional and Local Road.

P1 routes account for 499km of the road length treated. P2 routes 175km, and P3 routes 554km.

## SERVICE DELIVERY

The decision on when and where to treat is made by the Duty Engineer based on the prevailing data and in accordance with the Winter Service Plan directions in this regard. The decision is communicated to the drivers on the various routes. There are ten P1 and P2 routes in total and all of these are looked after by Galway County Council vehicles and drivers. Of the five P3 routes, two are similarly serviced by Galway County Council directly with a further three the responsibility of private contractors.

Salt is stored in four separate locations. At salt barns in Tuam, Loughrea and Gort and at a facility in Ros a'Mhíl which is being brought onstream for the first time in this winter season. This ensures an adequate supply in reasonable proximity to all routes.

## WINTER SERVICE VEHICLES



Over the last two years Galway County Council have acquired five new vehicles which are part of the fleet delivering the 2026/2027 winter service. Two of these are permanently mounted spreaders. The purchase was fully funded by TII.

## PERMANENTLY MOUNTED SALT SPREADER

Three additional 26 tonne tipper trucks were also purchased to replace vehicles which were at end of life or had been recently removed from service. The acquisition of the additional 5 no. trucks removes the need for external truck hire which has been required to run the service over the past two years. This brings savings on day-to-day running costs.

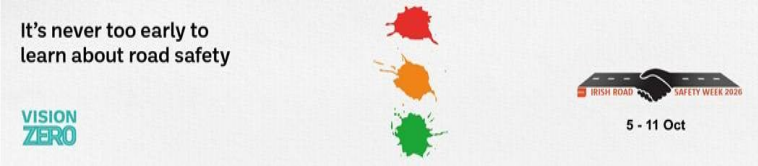


The five trucks which were added to the Winter Service fleet

Further acquisitions are planned over succeeding years to modernise the fleet with significant savings on operation and maintenance costs offsetting an element of the capital investment.

# ROAD SAFETY

## ROAD SAFETY WEEK – 5TH TO 11TH OCTOBER 2026




Irish Road Safety Week took place from 5 - 11 October 2026. This is an annual national awareness campaign, organised by the Road Safety Authority in partnership with An Garda Síochána and local authorities, aimed at promoting road safety awareness and encouraging safer roads and responsible driving behaviour.

## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS – GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



Galway County Council ran a number of awareness events during Road Safety Week including hosting a display stand in County Hall's Atrium featuring road safety awareness literature on topics including wearing a seat belt, driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, speeding, learner drivers, mobile phones and driving.

## ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS INITIATIVES

On the 5th of October, the Road Safety Officer teamed up with Athenry Fire & Rescue Service, the HSE Ambulance Service and An Garda Síochána for a road safety awareness event aimed at teenagers from Clarin College, Coláiste an Eachréidh and Presentation College, Athenry which saw an attendance of almost 200 students over two sessions.

Secondary school students were given the opportunity to gain an insight into the emergency response to a road traffic collision. Personnel from the Fire Service, HSE Ambulance Service and An Garda Síochána participated in the event, providing students with a realistic understanding of the response to such incidents. The initiative aims to raise awareness of the consequences of road traffic collisions and encourage safer behaviour among young people as future road users and drivers.

On the 6th of October, a further awareness initiative was held at St. Oliver Plunkett National School, Kilkerrin, Ballinasloe. Pupils from first and second class received guidance on travelling to and from school safely, covering topics such as walking, travelling by car or bus, cycling and the Safe Cross Code. Pupils were also provided with high-visibility vests and armbands to help improve their visibility on the road.
The Road Safety Officer will attend an accident demo in conjunction with Clifden Fire & Rescue Service, HSE Ambulance Service and An Garda Síochána at Clifden Community School on 7th October.





PHOTO: FIRE SERVICE DEMO HELD AT CLIFDEN COMMUNITY SCHOOL IN OCT. 2025

On the 8th of October, the schools' awareness initiatives will take place at Coláiste na bPiarsach, Ros Muc, in partnership with An Cheathrú Rua Fire & Rescue Service, the HSE Ambulance Service and An Garda Síochána. Students from Scoil Phobail Mhic Dara, Carna will also be attending.





PHOTO: FIRE SERVICE DEMO HELD AT SCOIL PHOBAIL MHIC DARA, CARNA, IN OCT. 2025

## BIKE MAINTENANCE & SAFETY WORKSHOP AT LETTERGESH NATIONAL SCHOOL, RENVYLE

A Bike Maintenance and Safety Workshop will take place at Lettergesh National School on 9 October. It is anticipated that approximately 40 pupils will receive practical guidance on bicycle maintenance and safety, including checks on brakes, tyres, lights, gears, reflectors, chains, saddles, handlebars and bells, as well as the importance of wearing a correctly fitted helmet. Pupils will also be provided with high-visibility vests, armbands and drawstring bags to help improve their visibility while travelling.

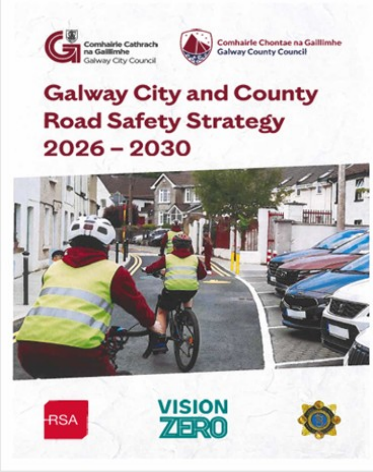
## CYCLING TRAINING FOR NATIONAL SCHOOLS

The National Cycling Training Programme, Cycle Right, delivered in partnership with Cycling Ireland and the Road Safety Authority, is available to all national schools in County Galway for the 2026/27 school year. The programme equips young cyclists with the skills and knowledge required for safe cycling, including guidance on road safety and the importance of wearing a properly fitted helmet. In August 2026, the Council's Road Safety Officer notified all national schools of funding available to support participation in the programme. During the 2025/26 school year, approximately 1,500 pupils from schools across County Galway successfully completed the training.




PHOTO: PUPILS CARRYING OUT THE CYCLE TRAINING COURSE AT LACKAGH NATIONAL SCHOOL IN SEPT.'26 - WITH LEROY KULCZYNSKI, CYCLE SAFE IRELAND TRAINER, DEIRDRE CAULFIELD, ROAD SAFETY OFFICER AND SHANE O'CONNOR, PRINCIPAL

## ROAD SAFETY TOGETHER COMMITTEE




Galway County Council's Road Safety Together Committee meets on a regular basis to collaboratively identify and assess measures aimed at improving road safety for all road users, including motorists, pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and e-scooter users. The committee comprises representatives from Galway County Council, Galway City Council, the Road Safety Authority, An Garda Síochána, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, the Department of Transport, elected members and An Taisce.

CLLR. ANDREW REDDINGTON, CATHAOIRLEACH AND DEIRDRE CAULFIELD, ROAD SAFETY OFFICER, PROMOTING THE WEARING OF HIGH VISIBILITY VESTS




## FREE GOODIES!

If you would like to avail of a **High Visibility Vest**, please email your preferred size to - ochala@galwaycoco.ie or call to the Public Counter, Roads Department, in Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway.






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

For Teenagers, size Small generally suits.

** If large quantities are required, please contact the RSA directly to order.*

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



| Size | S | | | M | | | L | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | NECK | CHEST | BACK | NECK | CHEST | BACK | NECK | CHEST | BACK |
| To Fit (Ins) | 6.5 | 15 | 9 | 8 | 19 | 13 | 8 | 19 | 13 |
| To Fit (cms) | 16.5 | 38 | 23.5 | 20 | 48 | 33 | 20 | 48 | 33 |

## TAKING IN CHARGE

Taking in charge of a housing estate is a formal legal process through which a local authority assumes responsibility for the maintenance and ongoing management of public infrastructure and open spaces within a residential development. The process of taking an estate in charge can be lengthy, as it requires detailed legal, financial and technical assessments to ensure all relevant standards and requirements have been met. Galway County Council's target for 2026 is to complete the Taking in Charge process and/or bond release for 8 estates. Table A below outlines the 2026 outputs achieved to date.

Table A

| | |
|---|---|
| Estates Taken in Charge | 2 |
| Estates pending Ratification of Minutes | 2 |
| Estates for consideration at next MD meeting | 0 |
| Bond Release (Estates not Taken in Charge) | 0 |
| Total | 4 |

In addition to the information provided above, Table B sets out the position in 2026 as at 5th October 2026.

Table B

| | |
|---|---|
| Applications received | 19 |
| Estates – advertised for Taking in Charge | 0 |
| Estates – Works Complete (An Fuaran, Beechlawn Heights, Old Mill Road, Carraig Mor & Carraig Linn) | 5 |
| Estates – TIC Led Estates – Works in Hand | 32 |
| Estates – Developer led Estates | 32 |
| Bond Claims | 4 |

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

### SAFETY ALERTS

No safety alerts were issued or HSA campaigns highlighted during this period.

### WORKPLACE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Galway County Council was shortlisted for the Excellence in Workplace Health & Safety Award, recognising its approach to safety management, leadership, staff engagement, continuous improvement and wellbeing. Although we did not win the award, being shortlisted was a significant achievement and positive recognition of our ongoing

commitment to workplace health and safety. We look forward to putting our best foot forward again next year.

### QUADRA - INTERNAL AUDITS

The ISO 45001 Internal Audit Schedule 2026 progressed as planned during September. Audits scheduled during the month covered the Vaccination Programme, the Safety Management System and Connemara Municipal District. Any actions identified through these audits have been assigned and are being tracked to completion.

### HSA / NSAI AUDITS

Three HSA visits took place during September: one visit to the Athenry Roads Section, and two visits to Connemara Fire Service. Responses are being compiled, and progress will be monitored until all required actions are completed.

Work is continuing to address the two minor non-conformances identified for the NRPO during the May NSAI ISO 45001 surveillance audit. The next NSAI audit is scheduled for November 2026.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### HEALTH SCREENING

Employees are encouraged to book a free and confidential 20-minute health screening with Medmark. The screening includes body and heart checks, blood tests, a mental wellbeing review and a lifestyle assessment, with optional extras available.

The October health screening programme is open to any employee who did not have an opportunity to attend the County Hall or Centre Point screenings earlier in the summer. Staff do not need to work in the municipal district hosting the screening and may book whichever location is most convenient: Clifden on 5th October; Ballinasloe from 6th–9th October; Loughrea from 12th–16th October; An Cheathrú Rua from 19th–20th October; or Tuam from 21st–23rd October 2026.

How to take part: Use the booking link or QR code on the staff poster to choose a location, package and appointment time. For assistance, contact Medmark on 01 661 0500 or email **healthscreen@medmark.ie**.

### HEALTH & SAFETY SEMINARS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Two Health & Safety Seminars will be held in October for all administrative staff and anyone who missed the seminars earlier in the year. Staff may attend either session on: Tuesday, 20th October 2026 at The Dean Hotel, Galway, or Tuesday, 27th October 2026 at the Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry. Both sessions will run from 8:45am to 1:00pm and will

include the CE opening, a Health & Safety update, guest speaker sessions on violence and aggression and first aid awareness.

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

Significant progress has been made across the Active Travel Programme, Safe Routes to School Programme, Community Transport Studies, and the Bus Stop Enhancement Programme during September 2026. Several schemes have advanced through design and consultation stages, while a number of construction projects are now substantially complete or progressing towards tender and construction.

### ACTIVE TRAVEL DESIGN SCHEMES

#### ORANMORE TO TRAIN STATION PHASE 4

The scheme remains in Phase 4 and is progressing through the detailed design process.

#### BALLINASLOE BRIDGE STREET TO HARRIS ROAD PHASE 5

The construction tender was issued at the end of August 2026. Awaiting a decision on EU JTF START funding which was expected in September 2026.

#### TUAM VICAR STREET TO SPORTS GROUNDS, DUBLIN ROAD (R332) PHASE 3

The preliminary design is being finalised, with the scheme expected to proceed to the Section 38 process in the coming weeks.

#### ATHENRY CHURCH STREET TO TUAM ROAD (VIA STATION ROAD) PHASE 3

Non-Statutory Consultation on the Emerging Preferred Option is complete and progressing through preliminary design process.

#### GLENBRACK ROAD, GORT PHASE 1

Land dedication has been secured, and the project is currently at the Preliminary Design stage, which is being undertaken by Brendan Slevin Engineers.

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening has been undertaken and has screened out. Road Safety audit Combined Stage 1&2 has taken place and we await the report. Subject to the outcome of this process, the project will then progress to the Part 8 planning process, anticipated in Q4 2026 / Q1 2027.

### HEADFORD ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME PHASES 5 – 6



The scheme is substantially complete.

### HEADFORD – WORKS COMPLETE

### LOUGHREA ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME PHASE 3

Non-Statutory Consultation on the Emerging Preferred Option is complete and progressing through preliminary design process.

### KINVARA PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS PHASE 1

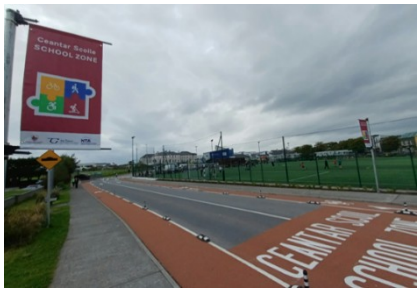
The Feasibility and Options Report being finalised with TII. Subject to TII approval the project will progress to the Preliminary Design stage, which will include Road Safety Audits, drainage design, and the development of detailed design proposals.

## SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAMME

### SRTS R1 ORANMORE CALASANCTIUS, GAELSCOIL DE HÍDE & SCOIL ÍOSA PHASES 5 - 6

Works at Scoil Íosa are substantially complete with minor snags. Works at Calasanctius College and Gaelscoil de hÍde have now reached substantial completion.





### SRTS R1 SCOIL CHROÍ NAOFA, ATHENRY PHASE 5

Tender documentation is currently being compiled.

### SRTS R1 ATHENRY BOYS NATIONAL SCHOOL PHASE 3

Coordination continues with the Regeneration team regarding the adjacent scheme.

### SRTS R2 SCOIL SAILEARNA, INDREABHÁN PHASE 5

Tender documentation has been finalised and is expected to be published at the end of September.

### SRTS R2 SCOIL NA BHFORBACHA PHASE 6

Construction work has now commenced.

### SRTS R2 ST. BRENDAN'S NATIONAL SCHOOL, LOUGHREA PHASE 4

Gateway 3 approval has been received. Dates for the Section 38 process are to be confirmed.

### SRTS R2 GORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL PHASE 5

Tender documentation is being finalised.

### SRTS R2 BALLINDERREEN NATIONAL SCHOOL PHASE 2

Landowner agreements remain ongoing.

### SRTS PROGRAMME (R3/R4)

### SCOIL SHÉAMAIS NAOFA, BEARNA AND TUAM EDUCATE TOGETHER NATIONAL SCHOOL PHASE 1

An Taisce surveys have been completed and an Outline Delivery Plan has been prepared.

### CARNAUN NS, ATHENRY; COLDWOOD NS, CRAUGHWELL; CRUMLIN NS, BALLYGLUNIN, KILLEEN NS, BALLYSHRULE, PORTUMNA; SCOIL ÁINE NAOFA, LOCH CUTRA, GORT, ST. CUAN'S NS, KILCOONA, HEADFORD PHASE 5

Contractors have been appointed funding and delivery sequencing are to be confirmed with the NTA.

### MILTOWN NATIONAL SCHOOL, MILTOWN & CORRANDRUM PHASES 3 - 5

Design development remains ongoing in conjunction with TII requirements.

### ST. AUGUSTINE'S NS, CLONTUSKERT; KILLEENEEN NS, CRAUGHWELL; ST. THOMAS NS, PETERSWELL PHASE 6

Construction works are progressing well at these three schools.




ST. THOMAS' NS – WORKS COMMENCED

KILLEENEEN NS – WORKS COMMENCED



### COMMUNITY TRANSPORT STUDIES

Maigh Cuilinn and Headford are scheduled to commence the Section 38 process in October.

### BUS STOP ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME

Construction of new bus stops, including shelters, is ongoing in Tuam, An Spidéal and Oranmore.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

### CLIMATE ACTION CHARTER

Galway County Council recently signed the Government's Climate Action Charter, reaffirming its commitment to working in partnership with central government to deliver climate action objectives. The Charter strengthens the Council's commitment to climate leadership, emissions reduction, energy efficiency, biodiversity enhancement, community engagement and the implementation of the Local Authority Climate Action Plan.

### COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION FUND

Communities supported through the 2nd round of the Community Climate Action Fund continue to deliver projects. Recent completions include the installation of Solar Panels on the Inis Oírr Handball Alley on Inis Oírr and the installation of cavity wall insulation at Carnmore Community Centre.






## SH2AMROCK'S CONNECTING SUSTAINABLE WAYS: ESTONIA AND GALWAY CONFERENCE

Tina Ryan, Climate Action Coordinator, represented Galway County Council on a panel discussion at the SH2AMROCK "Connecting Sustainable Ways: Estonia and Galway" event during University of Galway SDG Week. The event brought together Irish and Estonian stakeholders to discuss sustainable energy systems, while strengthening international collaboration and sharing climate action experiences and best practice.

## REPAIR CAFÉ SUPPORT

The Climate Action Unit recently supported a combined mending workshop and Repair Café event on Inis Oírr aimed at building local capacity for a community-led Repair Café. The initiative promoted repair, reuse and waste prevention, while providing practical skills and resources to support the establishment of a regular Repair Café on the island, contributing to circular economy and climate action objectives.

# FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

## CIVIL DEFENCE

### ACTIVITIES

Units provided medical and first aid cover at various events across the city and county in support of their communities. Events were hosted in Tuam, Loughrea, Tynagh, An Spidéal, Ballinasloe, Oranmore, and Galway City.

Volunteers from the Oranmore Unit responded to requests to transport patients from Galway Hospice to their homes and to outpatient appointments.

Galway Civil Defence volunteers attended National Services Day, alongside various agencies, at a formal celebration in City Hall, followed by a static display of agency equipment at Galway Harbour.

### TRAINING

Training resumed following the summer break.

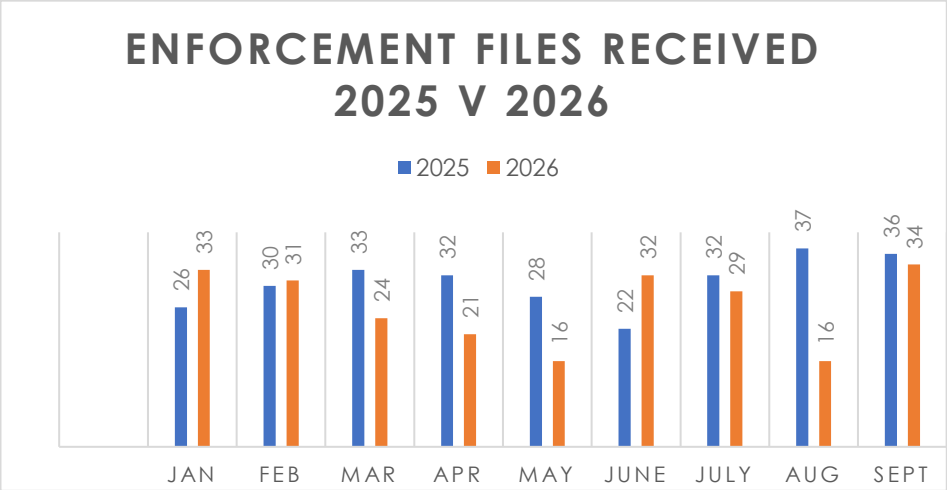
- Eight volunteers completed Manual Handling Recertification to maintain their certification.
- Ten volunteers attended a workshop on the setup of an Evacuation Centre at Galway Airport. This training provides volunteers with valuable experience in establishing evacuation centres at any location if required during an emergency.
- Two instructors achieved certification in Manual Handling and People Handling.
- Four instructors completed PHECC Instructor Re-certification and Cardiac First Response Community (CFR-C) and First Aid Response (FAR) training at the Civil Defence College, Roscrea.

## PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL PLANNING DATA

| Key Statistics : 1st January – 30th September 2026 | |
|---|---|
| Applications Received/Valid | 1893/1457 (77%) |
| Granted | 1165 |
| Grant Rate | 84% |
| Refused | 225 |
| Breakdown of Decisions Granted Outline (5) | |
| Permission (869) | |
| Retention (255) | |
| Permission Consequent (6) | |
| Extension of Duration (30) | |
| Percentage of applications received via Portal/Hardcopy | 86% |
| | |
| Stage 1LRD | 4 |
| Stage 2 LRD | 3 |
| Major Meetings | 12 (8 RED III pp meeting) |
| SID Meetings | |
| Red III Applications | 13 |

| COMMENCEMENTS AND COMPLETIONS 1st JANUARY – 30th September 2026 | |
|---|---|
| Submitted and Validated Commencement Notices | 709 |
| Submitted and Validated Certificates of Completion | 114 |




| *Section 5 Exempted Development Applications*<br>*Key Statistics 1st January, 2026 - 30th September, 2026* | |
|---|---|
| Exempt | 71 |
| Not Exempt | 58 |
| Not Development | 2 |
| FI | 6 |
| Withdrawn | 1 |
| Decision Pending | 14 |
| Appealed | 5 |
| **Total** | **157** |

***According to the information from the International Protection Procurement Service (IPPS), any proposal under Class 20F (temporary use under S.I. No. 376 of 2023) must also undergo the Declaration of Exempted Development under Section 5 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 process.***

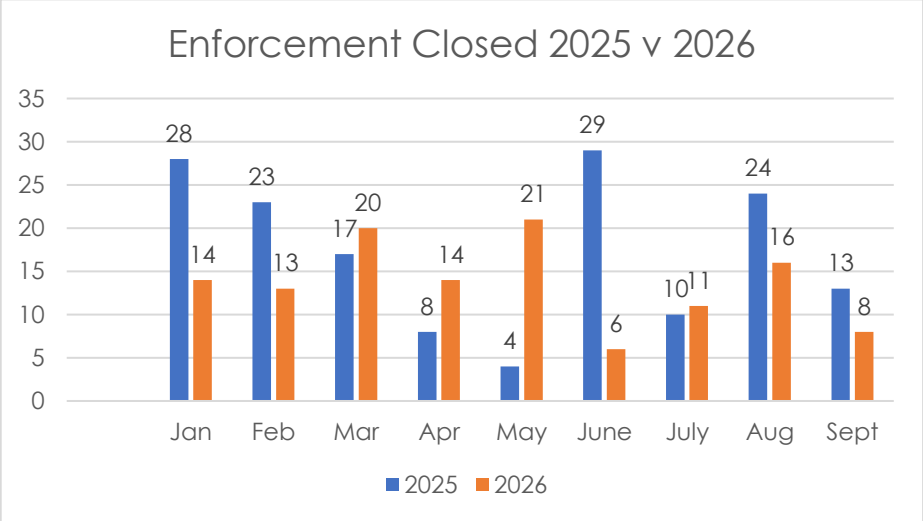
## PLANNING MEETINGS BY MONTH 2026

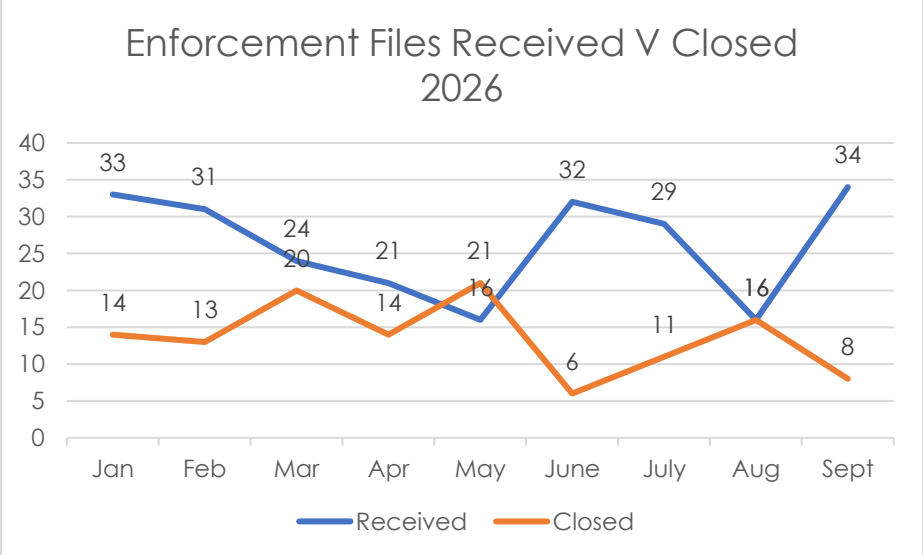
## PRE PLANNING MEETINGS BY MONTH

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | July | Aug | Sept | Total ytd |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Athenry/Oranmore | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 19 |
| Ballinasloe | 0 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 19 |
| Connemara N&S | 7 | 0 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 34 |
| Loughrea | 5 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 2 | 35 |
| Tuam | 2 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 17 |
| RED | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 17 | 8 | 19 | 33 | 9 | 6 | 22 | 1 | 10 | 125 |

## ENFORCEMENT

There are 32 cases listed for court hearing and mention to date in October.



## KEY PLANNING UPDATES

### CDP MONITORING REPORT

The CDP Monitoring Report is now drafted, 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.

Statutory extension to Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 expected Q4/Q1 – further details to follow.

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

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

### URDF

Final Car-Park design almost complete and Part 8 Planning expected to be lodged in Q4 subject to screening. 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. Completion date expected Q4 2027.

Under Towns and Cities Regeneration Investment Fund – funding awarded for Eco Park Planning & Construction at Garraun and feasibility of vehicular access options from R446 (Garraun).

### REGIONAL SPATIAL AND ECONOMIC STRATEGY

Publication of Draft RSES expected in Q4. Public Consultation Q1 2027. Engagement with NWRA underway.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Further to Joint SPC and Elected Members Drop-In Session held in June, draft Strategy has been prepared with launch expected before Christmas.

### DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

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

### CAHEROYN URBAN FRAMEWORK PLAN (ATHENRY)

Draft Caheroyn Urban Framework Plan was presented to Oranmore/Athenry MD for review/comment in September. Finalisation of UFP in November 2026.

### UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

MA Planning & Development Course at University of Galway has now been accredited by Royal Town Planning Institute. Members of Forward Planning Team are current Programme Board Members.

### PART 4 OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2024

Agents information session being arranged to facilitate transition to the new legislative provisions.

## HERITAGE OFFICE

### FÉILE NA GCLOCH 2026

Féile na gCloch 2026, held on Inis Oírr from 10-13 September, was an outstanding success and marked the twentieth anniversary of this unique celebration of stone heritage, traditional skills and island culture. The festival attracted participants, craftspeople, artists, heritage professionals, students and visitors from across Ireland and Europe, creating a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere throughout the weekend. A rich programme of workshops, demonstrations, talks, exhibitions, sketching sessions and cultural activities highlighted the importance of traditional stone craftsmanship while celebrating the distinctive built heritage and landscape of the island.



STARTING THE WALL, FÉILE NA GCLOCH 2026. PHOTO CREDIT: GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

A particular highlight of this year's festival was the strong participation of young people. Twenty Transition Year students from Coláiste Gobnait were actively involved throughout the event, constructing a firepit, assisting with festival set-up and taking part in a range of hands-on heritage activities, including dry-stone wall building, stone lettering and stone carving. Their involvement provided valuable practical experience and helped strengthen awareness and appreciation of traditional craft skills among the next generation.




TRANSITION YEAR STUDENTS FROM COLÁISTE GOBNAIT. PHOTO CREDIT: BERNIE DOHERTY



CATHAOIRLEACH CLLR ANDREW REDDINGTON PICTURED AT THE FIREPIT WHICH WAS MADE BY THE TY STUDENTS. PHOTO CREDIT: MARIE MANNION



PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM SCOIL NAOMH CAOMHAIN LEARING ABOUT THE CARVING AND LETTERING WORKSHOPS. PHOTO CREDIT: MARIE MANNION

Primary school students from Scoil Naomh Caomhain also participated in festival workshops and activities, engaging with traditional building and stone-working skills in a fun and educational environment. Their enthusiasm and engagement added greatly

to the event and reflected Féile na gCloch's ongoing commitment to heritage education and the transmission of traditional knowledge to younger generations.

The success of the festival was underpinned by the expertise and generosity of an exceptional team of instructors, craftspeople and heritage practitioners who shared their knowledge and skills throughout the event. Workshops in dry stone walling, stone carving, lettering and traditional building techniques were delivered by highly experienced practitioners from Ireland, America and other international partner organisations in Austria, Croatia and Greece.




A NUMBER OF THE INSTRUCTORS AND MUSICIANS WITH CLLR ANDREW REDDINGTON, CATHAOIRLEACH, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL. PHOTO CREDIT: GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



The festival also welcomed sketchers and artists who captured the island's unique landscapes, monuments and stone structures, adding a creative dimension to the programme and showcasing the cultural significance of the built environment.

JAMES MOORE, INSTRUCTOR AND PARTICIPANTS ON THE SKETCHING WORKSHOPS. PHOTO CREDIT: JESSICA PEEL YATES.




CATHAOIRLEACH CLLR ANDREW REDDINGTON WITH ALEXANDRA MORESCO, CARVING INSTRUCTOR. PHOTO CREDIT: MARIE MANNION



PARTICIPANTS AND INSTRUCTOR AT THE STONE CARVING WORKSHOP. PHOTO CREDIT: MARIE MANNION

Music and cultural events contributed greatly to the atmosphere of the festival, providing opportunities for social engagement and bringing together visitors and island residents in a spirit of celebration and community. Participants travelled from many parts of Ireland as well as from European partner countries, exchanging ideas and experiences while learning about the island's rich stone-building traditions and heritage.



SOME OF THE AUDIENCE AT THE TALKS PROGRAMME. PHOTO CREDIT: MARIE MANNION

The talks programme was another of outstanding successes of Féile na gCloch 2026, attracting large audiences throughout the festival and generating lively discussion among participants from Ireland and abroad. The programme brought together a diverse range of speakers, heritage professionals, researchers, craftspeople and community representatives who shared their knowledge and experience of stone heritage, traditional building techniques, archaeology, community stewardship and island culture.



CLLR ANDREW REDDINGTON, CATHAOIRLEACH, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL WILL A NUMBER OF FÉILE NA GCLOCH INSTRUCTORS. PHOTO CREDIT: MARIE MANNION

Another highlight of the festival was the *Lámha Trasna na hEorpa/Hands Across Europe* exhibition, which explored traditional stone-working practices in Ireland and several European countries including, Austria, Croatia and Greece. The exhibition showcased examples of the different ways stone has been used in each country for building, carving, walling and shaping local landscapes, while highlighting the shared skills and traditions that connect communities across Europe. It attracted strong interest from visitors and demonstrated the value of international cooperation in preserving and promoting traditional stone craftsmanship.




LOCAL PARTICIPANT FROM INIS OÍRR AT THE STONE CARVING WORKHOP. PHOTO CREDIT MARIE MANNION

A defining feature of this year's festival was the strong contribution of local people. Residents of Inis Oírr played an integral role in welcoming visitors, sharing local knowledge and supporting activities throughout the event. The commitment and leadership of Comhar Caomhán Teo was central to the planning and delivery of the festival, ensuring that it remained firmly rooted in the community while continuing to develop its national and international reputation.

Cllr Andrew Reddington, Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council, praised the event, noting that "Féile na gCloch showcases the very best of community-led heritage. It brings together traditional skills, culture and creativity while ensuring that knowledge is shared with younger generations. The enthusiasm of the local community and the participation of the students made this year's festival particularly inspiring."



Commenting on the success of the event, Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, said: "Féile na gCloch continues to demonstrate how heritage can bring people together through learning, creativity and community involvement. It was especially encouraging to see the active participation of the Transition Year students, whose engagement with stone walling, carving and other traditional skills represents an important investment in the future of our heritage." Féile na gCloch 2026 was part-funded through the EU Presidency Fund and the ECHOES Project.

## COMMUNITY HERITAGE GRANT SCHEME 2027

The Heritage Council has opened Expressions of Interest for the Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2027, an annual funding programme supporting community groups and not-for-profit organisations to protect, conserve, celebrate, understand and share local heritage. The scheme provides grants ranging from €800 to €25,000, with most awards expected to be between €10,000 and €25,000. Applicants can apply under one of five themes: Heritage at Risk; Biodiversity & Nature Restoration; Traditional Skills & Conservation; Digital Heritage, Access & Storytelling; and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.

A significant change for 2027 is the introduction of a new two-stage application process. Initially, applicants submit a short Expression of Interest outlining their project idea, the heritage involved, the need for the project and anticipated community benefits. Only shortlisted projects will be invited to submit a full application with detailed budgets and supporting documentation. The revised process is intended to reduce the administrative burden on community organisations and encourage the development of new heritage initiatives.

Expressions of Interest opened on 18 September 2026 and must be submitted by 5.00pm on 16 October 2026. A suite of guidance documents, including theme-specific guidance and application support materials, has been made available to assist applicants. See link: Community Heritage Grant Scheme | The Heritage Council

The Heritage Office of Galway County Council will continue to promote the scheme and support community groups interested in developing heritage projects across County Galway. In 2026 there were 14 successful projects in Galway County (excluding Galway City) with a total value of €270,674.

# BIODIVERSITY

## COMMUNITY ACTION FOR NATURE WEBINAR

On 17 September 2026, Galway County Council's Biodiversity Office delivered the online webinar Community Action for Nature in County Galway. The session was aimed at Tidy Towns groups, community organisations, GAA Green Clubs, faith communities and others interested in taking practical action for nature.

The webinar provided practical guidance on identifying and mapping local biodiversity, selecting suitable actions for community sites, improving habitat connectivity, developing Community Biodiversity Action Plans and accessing funding.

The event was supported by the Community Section and Galway County Public Participation Network, who assisted with its organisation and promotion. Particular thanks is due to Aoife Severs for her administrative and technical support.

The webinar attracted 90 registrations and generated positive feedback from participants. Its impact has continued beyond the live event, with the recording receiving more than 100

online views to date. The recording remains available as a practical resource for community groups through the Galway County Biodiversity Office's YouTube channel: [Watch the Community Action for Nature webinar](#).




## OUR ROAD NETWORK – WORKING FOR NATURE

Building on the success of last year's inaugural conference, the Connacht Biodiversity Officers Network will hold its second annual conference, *Our Road Network: Working for Nature*, in Claremorris on 13 October 2026. Staff from across Galway County Council will attend, including colleagues working in Roads, Active Travel, the Municipal District Offices, Planning and Environment, together with Community Employment Scheme supervisors. The event will explore how roads, active travel routes, greenways and other linear infrastructure can be planned, delivered and managed in line with legislative, operational and public safety requirements, while also supporting biodiversity and climate action.

Broadcaster and journalist Ella McSweeney will act as MC for a programme featuring representatives from the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Transport Infrastructure



Ireland, the National Biodiversity Data Centre, BirdWatch Ireland, Hedgerows Ireland, Tree Consultancy Ireland and Bat Eco Services. Through expert guidance, examples of good practice and shared experience from across the region, the conference will consider how biodiversity can be integrated from the earliest stages of planning and design through construction and long-term maintenance. It will also provide an important opportunity for engineers, planners, ecologists, landscape professionals and operational staff to develop practical, evidence-based approaches to protecting hedgerows, verges and other habitats associated with transport corridors, while continuing to provide safe, effective and sustainable infrastructure for communities.

# 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 outlined below.

## TRAINING COURSES & PROGRAMMES

### SHORT TRAINING COURSES

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

Our Autumn schedule of short training courses is now underway.

### OCTOBER SCHEDULE

| Date | Training Course |
|---|---|
| 13th October | Preparation for Craft Fairs / Shows |
| 15th & 22nd October | How to Create Christmas Themed Marketing Videos |
| 19th October | Etsy & Shopify |
| 20th & 21st October | Online Revenue Returns |

In addition to above, Food & Craft Fair preparation training for stand holders has commenced and will continue on 9th & 23rd October online, with an in-person session also taking place on 16th October in the Connacht Hotel.

### BUSINESS ADVISORY CLINIC

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

During the session, our advisor 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 observations 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 supports.

Our most recent SYOB program commenced at the end of September and will run until 21st October, taking place twice a week on an evening schedule.

| | |
|---|---|
| Monday Sep 28th 6.30pm-9.30pm | Business & Self Appraisal, Goal Setting, The Business Plan |
| Wednesday Sep 30th 6.30pm-9.30pm | Legal Structures, Registration, Responsibilities, Records |
| Monday Oct 5th 6.30pm-9.30pm | Record Keeping & Taxation continued, VAT & Cash Flow |
| Wednesday Oct 7th 6.30pm-9.30pm | Marketing & the Business Plan, Research |

| | |
|---|---|
| Monday Oct 12th 6.30pm-9.30pm | Market Research, Product and Promotion |
| Wednesday Oct 14th 6.30pm-9.30pm | Market Research, Competition, Costing & Pricing |
| Monday Oct 19th 6.30pm-9.30pm | Networking, Marketing review, Leo Galway Guest, Funding and Supports |
| Wednesday Oct 21st 6.30pm-9.30pm | Personal Management, Going forward with your business plan; Growing your business |

## THE STRATEGIC GROWTH PROGRAMME FOR BUSINESS LEADERS

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

By 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.

## STRATEGIC DIGITAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

The Local Enterprise Office is delivering a Strategic Digital Management Programme from September to November to support micro and small enterprises to improve productivity, efficiency and business performance through the effective use of digital tools and systems.

The programme will assist businesses to:

- Identify opportunities to optimise existing digital systems
- Improve internal management processes through digital solutions
- Make informed decisions regarding future digital investment
- Embed digital thinking within day-to-day business operations

The programme will enable participating businesses to:

- Assess their current level of digital maturity
- Identify gaps and inefficiencies in existing digital systems
- Prioritise practical digital improvements aligned with business goals
- Develop and begin implementing a clear Digital Action Plan

## EXPORT & SALES SCALE PROGRAMME 2026

The Export & Sales Scale Programme will commence in October and is designed for established businesses that are currently exporting and wish to accelerate growth in international markets through strategic planning, channel development, and export expansion.

The programme is open to eligible businesses that meet Local Enterprise Office Terms & Conditions and have achieved a minimum of €10,000 in export sales within the previous 12 months.

The programme consists of:

- Module 1: Export Expansion
- Module 2: Global Distribution & Channel Management
- Module 3: Business Planning & Action
- Final 1:1 Internationalisation Plan

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NATIONAL WOMEN'S ENTERPRISE DAY 2026




National Women's Enterprise Day 2026 will be held in the Abbey Hotel, Roscommon on Thursday 15th October. Ireland's largest female enterprise event promotes, encourages and stimulates female entrepreneurship across Ireland. It is designed and led by women and is an annual high point in promoting entrepreneurship to women in Ireland. The Local Enterprise Office along with Enterprise Ireland provide a wide range of help, incentives, training, and development programmes to female entrepreneurs. This regional event is held in collaboration with LEO Mayo and LEO Roscommon.

Tara Canning from Dr Clare Apothecary & Clinic will be the LEO Galway ambassador on the day. Tara has worked in Dr Clare Apothecary & Clinic for over 20 years, starting as a part-time retail assistant and Clinic Nutritionist. Now Tara is managing the company with a strong online presence, Dr Clare Apothecary products are stocked in over 150 stores across the island. A strong ethos of quality, sustainability and lean management have led Tara and the company to a strong position in the health and wellness sector with a view to entry into the EU markets over the coming years.

### 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, 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. Efforts are ongoing to promote the opportunity and encourage participation from local food and craft producers throughout the county.

## PAST EVENTS

### GET EXPORTING AMBITION ROADSHOW – 1ST OCTOBER 2026

Enterprise Ireland, in partnership with the Local Enterprise Offices, Údarás na Gaeltachta and InterTrade Ireland, delivered the Get Exporting Ambition Roadshow in Galway on 1 October 2026. The event formed part of a national initiative aimed at supporting ambitious Irish SMEs to explore export opportunities and develop their international growth potential.

The free half-day roadshow targeted manufacturing and internationally traded services companies. Attendees received practical guidance on export market opportunities, pricing, tariffs, routes to market, and gained insights from successful Irish exporters.

LEO Galway representatives attended the event, engaging with local businesses, promoting available enterprise supports and encouraging participation in the Get Exporting Programme. The event also provided opportunities for networking with export experts and other growth-focused enterprises.

The roadshow highlighted the range of supports available to businesses considering international expansion and provided information on the Get Exporting Programme, including eligibility criteria, application processes, and the practical export workshop available to participating companies.

The Galway event was held at the Radisson RED Hotel, with strong collaboration between Enterprise Ireland and the enterprise support agencies to enhance export readiness and international trade development within the region.

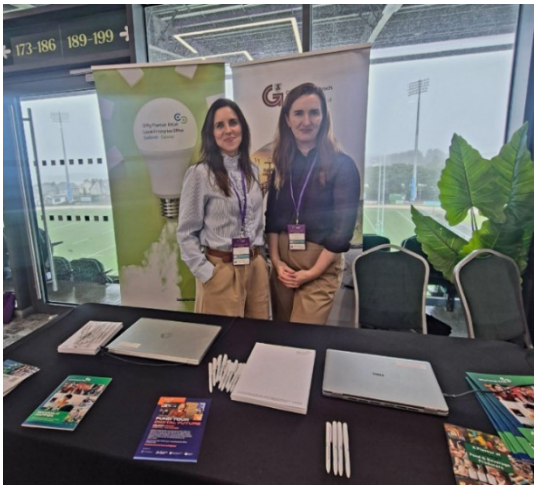



EOIN CONNAIRE AND STEPHANIE COLOMBANI (LEO GALWAY), TOGETHER WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM ENTERPRISE IRELAND'S GET EXPORTING TEAM AND COLM REILLY OF OCO GLOBAL

## NETWORK IRELAND NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2026

Mairéad Herlihy and Stephanie Colombani attended the Network Ireland National Conference at Dexcom Stadium, Galway, on 18th September 2026. LEO Galway supported the event as a sponsor, and Mairéad and Stephanie hosted the LEO exhibition stand, promoting its supports and engaging with delegates, business leaders and enterprise-support stakeholders.

The programme featured keynote speakers, panel discussions, exhibition stands and formal and informal networking opportunities. It was led by Network Ireland National President and Galway Chamber CEO, Karen Ronan and MC Julie Burke, General Manager of DampMaster, with contributions from speakers including Laura Dowling, the Fabulous Pharmacist and founder of FABÜ Wellness; Mary Rodgers of PorterShed Galway; Geraldine Jones of Skin Formulas; author and speaker Michele Roys; and Denise O'Brien of O'Brien Learning Solutions.




The event provided useful insights into current issues and opportunities for women in business, as well as valuable opportunities to build connections across the wider business and enterprise-support community.

STEPHANIE COLOMBANI & MAIRÉAD HERLIHY, LEO GALWAY

## LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE GALWAY FOOD SECTOR CLIENTS RECOGNISED NATIONALLY

Several Galway food producers supported by the Local Enterprise Office Galway achieved national recognition at the 2026 Blas na hÉireann Awards, highlighting the strength and innovation of the county's artisan food sector. Fourteen Galway food businesses secured

awards across a range of categories, with The Lán Kitchen, led by Arlene Dooley, receiving the prestigious Best in Galway award, which is supported by Local Enterprise Office Galway.

Commenting on The Lán Kitchen's achievement, Caroline McDonagh, Head of Enterprise, Local Enterprise Office Galway, said:

"On behalf of Local Enterprise Office Galway, I would like to warmly congratulate Arlene and The Lán Kitchen on being named Best in Galway at the Blas na hÉireann Awards 2026. This award is a wonderful recognition of Arlene's exceptional talent, creativity and commitment to quality artisan baking. Through her innovative and beautifully crafted products, she has built a distinctive Galway food business that combines skill, passion and originality. We are delighted to see her achievements recognised on a national stage and wish Arlene and The Lán Kitchen every continued success in the years ahead."

The achievements of Galway businesses at this year's awards demonstrate the strength of the county's food and drink sector and reinforce the importance of continued support for indigenous enterprises as they scale, create employment and build regional economic development.




FALLON MOORE, BLAS NA HEIREANN, ARLENE DOOLEY, THE LAN KITCHEN AND SANDRA REGAN, LEO GALWAY

## SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| FACEBOOK: | 8.6k Followers | Reach: 7.8k |
| INSTAGRAM: | 3.9k Followers | Reach: 7.6k |
| LINKEDIN: | 1.9k Followers | Impressions: 5.5k |

# WESTERN REGIONAL ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME

## GALWAY HOSTS EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS ECON COMMISSION

Galway County Council, in partnership with Galway City Council, hosted members of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) Commission for Economic Policy (ECON) in Galway this week for a programme of meetings, conference activity, study visits and stakeholder engagement.

The Committee of the Regions provides Europe's local and regional authorities with a formal voice in the development of EU policy and legislation. Its ECON Commission has responsibility for a broad range of policy areas of direct relevance to local government and regional economic development, including competitiveness, SME supports, entrepreneurship, the Single Market, international trade, digital transformation and regional investment.

The Galway programme brought together CoR members from across Europe, representatives of European institutions and a range of national, regional and local stakeholders. A central element was the conference on "Enhancing Regional Competitiveness through Sustainable Trade and Strong Local Economies", providing an important forum for discussion on the challenges and opportunities facing Europe's regions and the role of strong, resilient local economies in supporting future competitiveness.

Hosting the ECON programme provided an important opportunity for Galway County Council and Galway City Council to strengthen relationships at European level, exchange knowledge and experience with other regions, and highlight Galway's strengths in enterprise, innovation, research, culture and sustainable regional development. The programme also reflected the two Councils' commitment to partnership and collaboration at local, regional, national and European level.

As part of the programme, delegates undertook a study visit to BIA Innovator Campus in Athenry, providing an opportunity to showcase the development of Galway's food and innovation ecosystem and its contribution to enterprise and regional development. During the visit, a ceremonial tree planting also took place to acknowledge the twinning of Galway and Estonia in the context of Ireland hosting the EU Presidency.

The wider programme provided an opportunity to showcase Galway's distinctive cultural identity and sense of place. Galway County Council hosted delegates at the Connemara Coast Hotel, where local food, culture and music provided the setting to showcase Connemara and the wider county while facilitating informal networking and relationship-building.

The programme was delivered through collaboration between Galway County Council, Galway City Council, the Northern and Western Regional Assembly, the Irish Regions European Office and other partners.

Hosting ECON represented a significant opportunity to position Galway within European discussions on competitiveness and regional economic development, while showcasing the county as a place of enterprise, innovation, culture and strong communities. It also reinforced the importance of building European relationships and ensuring that the experience and priorities of local and regional areas continue to inform wider EU policy discussions.






## 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 before the end of the year.

#### 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.







## OUGHTERARD

The Town Regeneration Officer (TRO) is continuing to support local communities in establishing Town Teams. An Oughterard Town team has now been established following an EOI process.

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 has 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.
Galway County Council submitted 6 applications, two in each of the eligible towns of Tuam, Oranmore (Garraun) and Ballinasloe, all of which have been successful.

- Ballinasloe Masterplan of Ballinasloe Fair Green and progress phase 1 to part 8 Cat 1A €140,000.
- Ballinasloe St. Michaels Square Public Realm Enhancement Cat 1B €3.7m.
- Oranmore Planning and Construction of designed Eco Park within the Garraun Urban Framework Plan area, at Oranmore Train Station. Cat 1B €0.8m.
- Oranmore Preliminary Design of Vehicular Accesses from R446 into Garraun Urban Framework Plan lands north of the railway line at Oranmore Train Station.
- Tuam Station Quarter Tuam Cat 1A €150,000.
- Tuam The Shambles Outdoor Market and Event Space. Cat 1B €3.6m.

### THE SHAMBLES MARKET TUAM – CONCEPT



## PORTUMNA

## PORTUMNA COURTHOUSE

The Monthly Market continues from 10am – 2pm on the first Friday of each month until Christmas. A Christmas Market will also be held on 5th December in partnership with the Portumna Town Hall





## SHORELINES ARTS FESTIVAL

The Portumna Courthouse was pleased to host several Shorelines Festival events during the 10th –13th September run. Luke Casserly's *Distillation,* the panel discussion Pen Power and *Drawing the Crowd* with Val O'Donnell and Tim Casey were well attended and well received.





## CULTURE NIGHT LATES

18thSeptember saw the Courthouse host a site-wide activation for Culture Night Lates. Three timed performances by Lady Barbalade took place in the Courthouse, A curated series of short films screened in the Town Hall, in partnership with Screen Ireland, and an Art Battle featuring 6 local artists took place in the Courtyard Cafe.

Starting at 9pm, visitors could watch three artists go head-to-head in a timed art-making competition and vote for their favourite. The final was held at 11pm and was won by Jenny Wood-Sullivan.




## PORTUMNA PUBLIC REALM

The Portumna Public Realm Enhancement scheme Part 8 planning application is currently on hold pending the acquisition of suitable lands to provide off street parking to complement the main scheme. A meeting was held with officials from the Department of Rural and

Community Development in August who recommended an application to the Department under the Town and Village Land Acquisition Scheme in 2027.

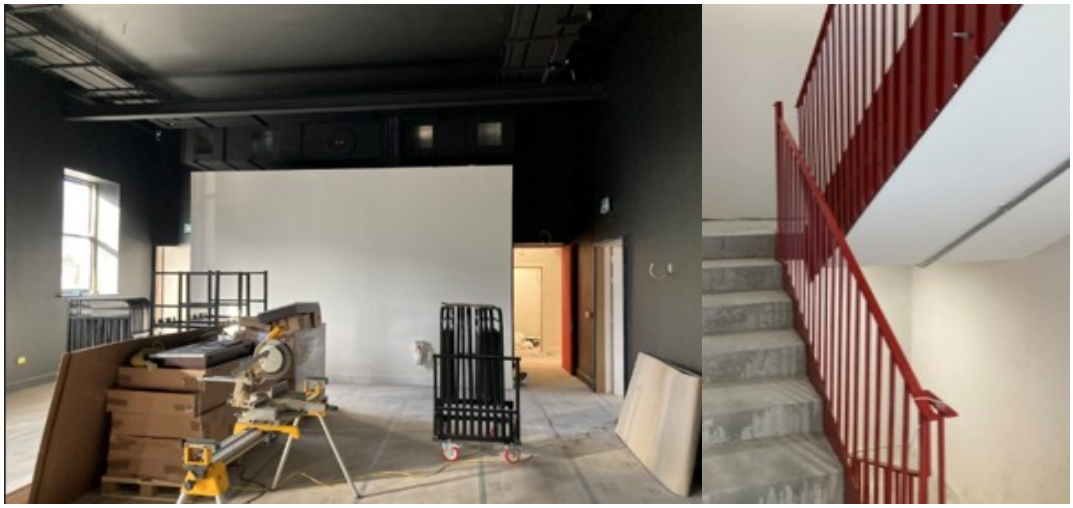
## LOUGHREA

### LOUGHREA TOWN HALL

Finna Construction are progressing with works internally and to the rear of the site with a projected completion date of October 2026 followed by a soft launch of the facility by the Regeneration Team with the local community over the following months. Vicki Clough, Operations Manager will attend the November meeting of the Municipal District to meet with Elected Members and discuss plans and the operational model for the building.

Expressions of Interest remain open for the rental of desks and office pods on the enterprise floor of the building.









## THE COTTAGE, 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.




## THE LONG POINT, LOUGHREA



A Part 10 planning application for the redevelopment of Long Point has been approved. An application under Category 1 of the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund has been submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht. A decision is expected by the end of the year.







## ATHENRY

### ATHENRY 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 Éireann 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.

### ATHENRY COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE HUB

3no. tenders have been received for the refurbishment of the property at Burkes Lane. The design team are currently carrying out an evaluation of the tenders. It is expected that the tender process will conclude by the end of the year subject to approval by the Department




of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht and subject to the available funding envelope.

## PROPOSED SHOPFRONT

## PROPOSED MULTI-PURPOSE MEETING / MEDIA ROOM





## PROPOSED COMMUNITY / MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING ROOM

## NEW CAR PARK SITE

Design works are progressing on the site including engagement with the active travel team to coordinate junction and safety improvements at the site.



## TUAM

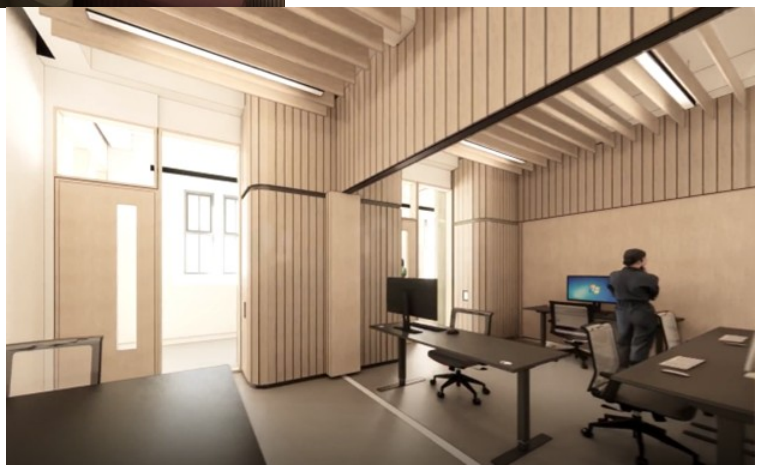
### TUAM TOWN HALL

The registration of Tuam Town Hall to the ownership of Galway County Council remains with Táilte Éireann. Tender documents have been developed and will be published on etenders as soon as the registration is complete.



### PROPOSED MULTI-FUNCTION SPACE

### PROPOSED CO-WORKING / OFFICE 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.

A design team led by O'C&C Architects have been appointed by Galway County Council to progress the project through the detailed design, tender and construction stages.



EXISTING CONDITION



PROPOSED INTERIOR

## 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 is the subject of a Category 1 capital funding application under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF). A decision is expected before the end of the year.



## HARBOUR PARK PROPOSED

## BEACH ROAD PROPOSED



## 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.

### BARRACK STREET, GORT.

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 by the end of 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 the end of Q4 2026.



## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

## ATHENRY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

### LOCAL PROPERTY TAX PROJECTS

On the proposal of Cllr Charity seconded by Cllr Collins and agreed by Members the amount of €44,000 was allocated to Annaghdown GAA to assist with the purchase and development of their new playing pitches to provide for ongoing youth development in the area, following the recent final grant of planning permission to the club under Planning Ref 25/61409, and pursuant the following policy provision:-

## COMMUNITY CAPITAL PROJECTS

Match-Funding for new facilities which address a specific deficit in social infrastructure, particularly facilities which support children, youth or older people to engage in social & leisure opportunities.

On the proposal of Cllr Broderick, seconded by Cllr McNamara and agreed by Members, the amount of €40,000 was allocated to Athenry Community Council for refurbishment of Athenry Playground.

# BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

## ROADS PROGRAMME 2026

Ballinasloe MD staff and contractors continued the delivery of the remaining projects on the 2026 Roadworks Programme throughout the Municipal District.

During September 2026, MD crews were focused on maintenance of public roads in terms pothole repairs, hedge cutting, Drainage improvement works including the L-34071 Alloonbaun Climate Change job and CIS 89.25 Creggaun project.

During September 2026, Restoration Improvement (RI) works were completed by Roadstone on BN-26-12 - Lisquill and works were progressing on BN-26-21 - Hollygrove through Direct Labour.

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

- 35 no. Restoration Improvement Grant (RI) projects – 28 overlays Complete (83%)
- 41 no. Restoration Maintenance Grant (RM) projects – 41 Complete (100%)
- 5 no. Discretionary Grant (Local Tertiary Roads) – 5 Complete (100%)

Works commenced on the relining of Road markings at the following junctions under Low-Cost Safety Funding: -

R348 Nutfield Crossroads, R355 Dooros Crossroads, R348 Cappagh Crossroads, R446 L8403 Urraghry, R348 New Inn Cappataggle Road Junction, R348 New Inn junction with L7445, R355 Glenloughaun Junction, R355 Kellysgrove Junction, R355 Ochilbeg Junction.

Tobin were appointed design of the R357/R446 Staggered Junction at Creagh, Ballinasloe Town and work has commenced on the design, topographical surveys and traffic counts.

Footpath repairs commenced on the R446 Dublin Road at the entrance to Kilgarve Park under Notice of Motion allocation.



LAYING ASPHALT CONCRETE OVERLAY BN-26-12 – LISQUILL



SURFACE DRESSING OF OVERLAY BN-26-12 – LISQUILL



FOOTPATH REPAIRS ON THE R446 DUBLIN ROAD



WORKS ON THE CIS 89.25 CREGGAUN PROJECT.




LINE MARKING AT THE R348 NUTFIELD CROSSROADS, KNOCKNAGREINE



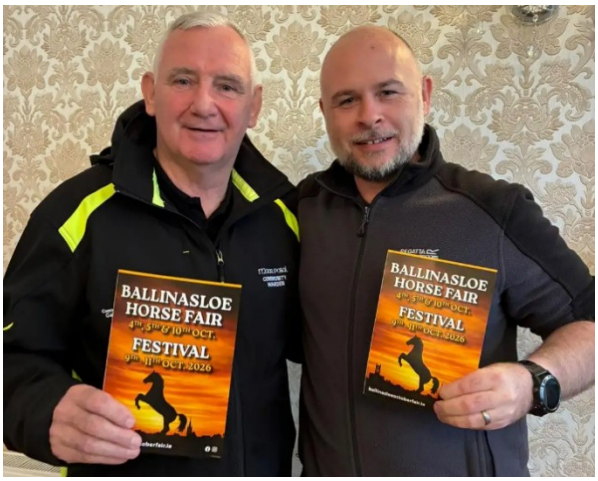

## BALLINASLOE FAIR AND FESTIVAL 2026

Planning of the Ballinasloe Fair and Festival 2026 (4th – 11th October) was on-going with Safe Events Global (Event Manager 2026) and Galway County Council meeting with stakeholders in a series of meeting throughout September.

Galway County Council's Outdoor staff were working in Ballinasloe Town with preparation of the Fairgreen and installation of the traffic control measures around Ballinasloe Town.




THE LAUNCH OF THE BALLINASLOE FAIR 2026 WAS HELD AT GULLANES HOTEL ON THURSDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER.




MICHAEL KELLY (COMMUNITY WARDEN) AND MICHEÁL KELLY (BALLINASLOE CIVIL DEFENCE)




DR CLLR EVELYN PARSONS (BALLINASLOE MD CATHAOIRLEACH) AT THE LAUNCH OF THE BALLINASLOE FAIR 2026

## CONAMARA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE



With the Roadworks Programme substantially complete in September, focus has shifted to the LIS, CIS and Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience projects across the MD.

At na Gringeacha, in the Maum valley, where a section of the local primary road to Finny was severely damaged by flash floodwaters in October 2025, works commenced on replacing the retaining element of the road structure along the bank of the Bealanabrack (An Doirin) stream, using a 'Redi-rock' retaining wall system. This project has been managed directly from the local area office in Clifden, using Direct Labour staff with hired-in plant and equipment. The photos below testify to the quality of the design work and construction work on site, in difficult terrain, carried out during the allowed In-stream works window of July – September.



In Maigh Cuilinn, works commenced on a large Climate Change project with the aim of alleviating a long-term flooding issue near the Playground. P&D Lydon won the tender, were appointed PSCS and commenced works on 7th September. They had a strict deadline to meet by 21st September, when the Graf ECOBLOC Attenuation system was due to be installed by a team of specialised installers, with a very narrow install window to adhere to. Despite poor weather, the Contractor went above and beyond to meet this date. The main bulk of the project was substantially complete on 30th September, with some landscaping, fencing and footway upgrade works left outstanding. The photos below show the scale of the project.







On Inis Bofin, the Sea-wall project was completed by SMD Contracts Ltd. Again, the quality of the construction work is plain to see in the photos below. A 1.2m high double stone wall with reinforced insitu concrete infill was required and will no doubt be put to the test over the following winter seasons. This project was 90% funded by the Department of Rural & Community Development.





## LOUGHREA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### PRIMARY FOCUS OF ACTIVITY

Work on the 2026 Roads Programme is progressing well, with up to four separate road resurfacing projects progressing at any one time. 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, 4 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. Hedge cutting on the National and Regional roads has commenced under contract. Hedge cutting on the local road network under Galway County Council's own direct supervisory control has also commenced.

A high-level overview is as follows:

- 53 No. Restoration Improvement Grant projects – 43 Complete (81%)
- 23 No. Restoration Maintenance Grant (RMG) projects – 23 Complete (100%)
- 9 No. Local Tertiary Roads – 6 Complete (66%).
- 4 No. Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Schemes – 3 Complete. 1 Yet To Commence
- 4 No. Low-Cost Safety Improvement Works – Road Safety Audits completed on two projects. Consultant appointed on third project.
- 3 No. LIS Schemes – 1 Complete. 2 Commenced.
- CIS Schemes – 4 progressing. 2 Complete.

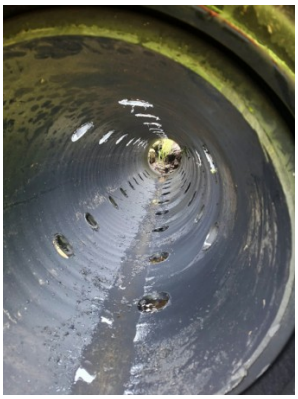
A sample of works on-going is as follows:



LOUGHREA TOWN - LANDSCAPING OF FOOTPATH LEADING TO MOUNTPLEASANT BURIAL GROUND



## DRAINAGE WORKS, KNOCKATOGHER



## ROAD RESURFACING WORKS, KILLEENADEEMA




## COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME (CIS), PORTUMNA




## TUAM ROADS PROGRAMME

### KILBANNON REALIGNMENT SCHEME UPDATE

Works on the R332 Kilbannon Road Realignment Scheme continued in line with the programme during October, with Phase 3 construction progressing between Kilconly GAA Pitch and the L6488 Pollacorragune Road Junction. The primary focus during the month was completion of road construction, surfacing works, and tie-ins at the L6488 junction.

Temporary traffic management and local access diversions were implemented to facilitate surfacing works, with arrangements agreed to maintain access for residents and school transport services.

The temporary diversion on the L6488 was scheduled for removal following completion of the local road works, with final surfacing to take place during the midterm break. Following these works, the L6488 local road was due to be fully opened to the new road layout.

Overall, the scheme remains on programme, with substantial progress made on Phase 3 and continued coordination with local residents, schools and transport providers to minimise disruption during construction.



## OTHER WORKS

Construction works at Ballygaddy are progressing well, with the bridge widening and footpath extension substantially completed. The scheme provides an improved pedestrian link through Ballygaddy and removes a significant bottleneck on the existing route. Kerbing, footpath construction, drainage adjustments and road widening works have been completed, with final surfacing and finishing works currently underway. The project will enhance pedestrian safety, accessibility and connectivity for residents while improving traffic flow through the area.



## LOW-COST SAFETY SCHEME DUNMORE

The Dunmore Roads Crew successfully completed a significant low-cost road safety improvement scheme at the Bellwell Junction on the R360/L2230 Road. The works transformed an unconventional skewed junction into a safer T-junction arrangement, improving driver awareness, traffic control and visibility for all road users. The scheme included the construction of a raised kerbed build-out, revised road geometry, new drainage, enhanced road markings, STOP control measures, directional signage, chevron boards and landscaping. The improvement addresses a number of road safety concerns identified through the Road Safety Audit process and significantly reduces the risk of vehicle conflicts at this location.





## PALACE GROUNDS SENSORY GARDEN



Further improvement works have been completed within the Sensory Garden at the Palace Grounds, Tuam, including the installation of new paved seating areas. These upgrades enhance accessibility, comfort and the overall visitor experience within the facility.

## NATIONAL ROAD SCHEMES

Significant progress was made on the national road network during the past month, with several TII-funded pavement improvement projects advancing across the County. Notably, a 2 km HD28 pavement renewal scheme on the N84 between Cor an Dola Cross and Grange Junction was completed, while works commenced on a further HD28 scheme on the N67 through Clarinbridge Village. These projects form part of the ongoing investment in the national road network, improving safety, enhancing resilience, and extending pavement life for road users throughout County Galway.





N84 COR AN DOLA CROSS

## N67 CLARINBRIDGE



***Chief Executive***
***Galway County Council***

***12th October 2026***