

# COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



## TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL 2020 ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council



**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**  
**Galway County Council**

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 **GalwayCounty**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS****PAGE**

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	Mission Statement/Core Values/Vision	4
	Message from the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway	5
	Message from the Chief Executive	7
	Local Electoral Areas/Municipal Districts	9
	Elected Members by Municipal Districts	10
	General Information	15
	Organisational Structure in Galway County Council	16
	Governance	19
	Galway County Council Corporate Plan 2020-2024	22
<b>Corporate Services and Economic Rural and Community Development</b>	<b>CORPORATE SERVICES</b>	<b>25</b>
	Corporate Planning and Support	25
	Register of Electors	29
	Freedom of Information / Access to Information on the Environment	30
	Facilities Management	31
	Community Warden Service / Coroners Service	32
	Internal Audit / Legal Advisory Service	33
	Operation of Markets, Casual Trading & Film Licences	34
	Recreation, Amenity, Parks & Open Spaces	36
	Library Development Services Programme	42
	Archives and Management of Records	52
	Promotion of the Irish Language	54
	Decade of Commemorations 2013 - 2023	60
	Customer Services	62
	<b>ECONOMIC RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>66</b>
	Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)	69
	SICAP (Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme) 2018 - 2022	70
	Healthy Ireland/ Community Enhancement Programme 2020 / Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)	71
	Galway County Public Participation Network (PPN)	72
	Social Inclusion	73
	Sports	74
	Economic Development Initiatives	75
	Tourism	76
	Streetscape Enhancement	78
	Rural Regeneration & Development Fund	79
	Other Rural Funding Schemes / Outdoor Recreation & Infrastructure Scheme	80
	Community Support Schemes	81
	Arts	82

<b>HOUSING</b>	<b>HOUSING UNIT</b>	<b>88</b>
	Rebuilding Ireland	88
	Part V Activity	89
	Housing Construction Activity	90
	Design & Planning Activity	91
	House Purchases / HAP	92
	Record of Qualified Households (Housing Waiting List)	93
	Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) / Short-term Leasing	94
	Minimum Standards for Rented Accommodation / Repair & Leasing Scheme / Mortgage to Rent Scheme	95
	Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan	96
	Voluntary Housing / Tenant Purchase / Housing Aid for Older People, Mobility Aid Grant & Housing Adaptation Grant for people with a disability	97
	Housing Adaptation Grant for Local Authority Houses / Housing Maintenance / Energy Efficiency & Retrofit Programme (EERP)	98
	Homelessness	99
	Traveller Accommodation Programme	100
	Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 - 2024 Targets	102
	Disability Strategy	103
Tenancy & Estate Management	104	
<b>PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT &amp; EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>	<b>PLANNING UNIT</b>	<b>107</b>
	Strategic Policy Committee / Forward Planning	107
	Development Management Section	108
	Enforcement Measures / Building Control	109
	Heritage	110
	<b>ENVIRONMENT UNIT</b>	<b>143</b>
	Environmental Awareness	143
	Waste Services	144
	Beaches	146
	Burial Grounds / Veterinary Services	147
	Dog Control / Green Initiatives	148
	<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>	<b>150</b>
	Covid 19 / Keeping Communities Safe	152
	Camp West / Health & Safety Management	153
	Fire Operations (Response)	155
	Major Emergency Management (MEM)	158
Critical Incident Stress Management	162	
Community Fire & Prevention	163	
Capital / Training	169	

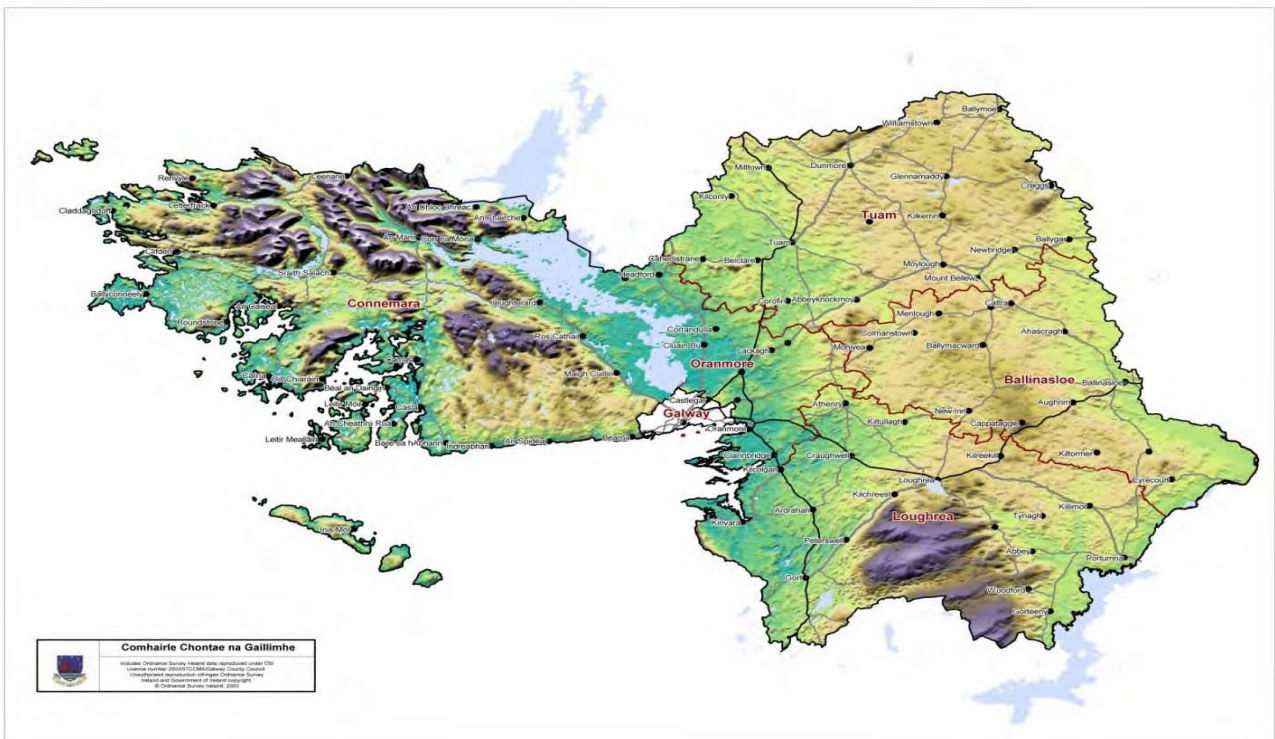
	Civil Defence	171
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE &amp; OPERATIONS</b>	<b>ROADS &amp; TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>175</b>
	2020 Roads Programme	176
	Land Acquisitions	177
	Regional and Local Roads	178
	Regional and Local Road Bridge Rehabilitation Programme	179
	Marine Maintenance / Strategic Harbours	181
	Working in Partnership	182
	Flood Relief Schemes	183
	Flood Mitigation Works	185
	Drainage Districts / Machinery Yard / CLÁR / Town & Village Renewal Scheme	186
	July Stimulus / Climate Change Funding & Active Travel / Road Safety Together Committee	187
	Community Employment Schemes / Community Involvement in Roadworks Schemes	190
	Galway to Athlone Cycleway Project	191
	<b>WATER SERVICES</b>	<b>193</b>
	Water Conservation / Group Water Schemes	194
<b>HUMAN RESOURCES</b>	<b>HUMAN RESOURCES</b>	<b>198</b>
	Workforce Management / Recruitment	198
	Staff Training and Development	199
	Staff Welfare / Pensions	200
<b>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY</b>	<b>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY</b>	<b>202</b>
	Geographic Information Systems	202
	Software Development & Business Intelligence / Technical Support / Development	203
<b>PERFORMANCE REPORTING</b>	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	206
	ANNUAL SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN UPDATE	209
<b>STRATEGIC POLICY REPORTS &amp; MUNICIPAL DISTRICT REPORTS</b>	<b>STRATEGIC POLICY REPORTS</b>	<b>235</b>
	Economic Development and Enterprise SPC	235
	Housing SPC	236
	Transportation & Infrastructure SPC	237
	Planning, Environment, Agriculture & Emergency Services SPC	239
	Community & Cultural Development SPC	240
	Climate Change & Biodiversity SPC	241
	<b>MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS REPORTS</b>	<b>242</b>
	Ballinasloe Municipal District	242
	Tuam Municipal District	243
	Loughrea Municipal District	244
	Conamara Municipal District	245
Athenry Municipal District	246	

<b>ELECTED MEMBERS NOMINATED TO COMMITTEES, CONFERENCES &amp; TRAINING EXPENSES</b>	<b>ELECTED MEMBERS NOMINATED TO COMMITTEES &amp; OTHER BODIES</b>	<b>248</b>
	Conferences attended by Elected Members	252
	Training Events attended by Elected Members	253
	Elected Members' Expenses	256
<b>PRINCIPAL OFFICERS / COUNCIL OFFICES</b>	Principal Officers of the Council	261
	Council Offices	264
<b>FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT</b>	Update on the Development Contribution Scheme	266
	Annual Financial Statement 2020	267

## MISSION STATEMENT



**To enhance the quality of life for the people of County Galway by leading and strengthening Community and Economic development and delivering efficient and sustainable services.**



### CORE VALUES

- *Accountable*
- *Helpful*
- *Inclusive*
- *Democratic*
- *Sustainable*
- *Value for Money*

### Vision for Galway County Council

**A county with a clear sense of identity, reflecting its heritage, language and culture, that promotes sustainable economic and community development, citizen and stakeholder engagement, develops essential infrastructure and protects our environment**

**MESSAGE FROM THE CATHAOIRLEACH OF THE COUNTY OF GALWAY**

As Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, it is a privilege to introduce this Annual Report, on behalf of Galway County Council, of what it has delivered for its customers and the citizens of the County during what was a particularly challenging year in 2020 due to the Covid19 pandemic. In total, we had €166,688,774 in Revenue expenditure and €98,017,633 in Capital expenditure.

It was a great honour to be elected as Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council on 16th June 2020 and to represent Galway as its first citizen for the County. While there was a different focus this year due to the pandemic, staff continued to provide essential services and we, the elected members also continued to work and collaborate with the Councils executive and officials, Government Departments, Oireachtas members and other stakeholders.

A Covid19 Community Response Forum was set up, comprising all relevant stakeholders to support vulnerable individuals, in addition to promoting awareness and information on the latest public health measures and guidelines to limit the spread of COVID-19. Almost 2,000 individuals signed up to volunteer in the County, either through the Galway Volunteer Centre or with the 110 Community Groups and Organisations who signed up to be part of the Community Call. In the first 6 weeks of operation, the Community Response Helpline dealt with 580 calls.

A range of other initiatives were undertaken as well, including the distribution of a wellbeing booklet and activity pack to over 3,000 older people. A Community Resilience Fund of €67,225 was allocated to Galway County Council and a number of events all took place under the 'Keep Well' initiative, including a Cathaoirleach On-Call initiative whereby on request, I, the Cathaoirleach, sent a personalised Christmas Card to those who were alone, or in Nursing Homes, at Christmas. An allocation of €85,789 was also received by Galway County Council under the specific COVID-19 Emergency Fund, provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development, to enable us to fund vital frontline services and respond to local needs, through initiatives such as meals on wheels, food vouchers, distribution of PPE equipment to name but a few.

Galway County Council renovated and fitted out 4 houses for isolation purposes within a tight timeframe for any vulnerable household as identified by the Health Services Executive. All families in emergency accommodation were provided with more secure and COVID-19 compliant housing, with the support and co-operation of other organisations. Additional services such as running water, port-a-loos and clean-ups were provided to families in halting sites and to those residing on the roadside.

As Cathaoirleach of the Council, I wish to sincerely thank the staff of the organisation for their work throughout the year and throughout the difficult and challenging time that we faced. I wish to thank our Chief Executive (Interim), Kevin Kelly and his Executive team for supporting me and my fellow Elected Members in our work.

I would also like to thank Cllr. Jimmy McClearn who presided as Cathaoirleach for the first six months in 2020 and also sincerely thank my colleagues on the Council for their support and co-operation during my term as Cathaoirleach of the County with a special word of thanks to my Leas-Chathaoirleach, Cllr. Pete Roche.



Is onóir mhór dom gur toghadh mar Chathaoirleach ar Chontae na Gaillimhe mé. Ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas a chur in iúl leis na comhairleoirí eile, leis an bhfoireann feidhmiúcháin agus le foireann na Comhairle ar fad. Bhí bliain chrua againn i mbliana mar thoradh ar Covid19, mar aon leis na gnáthdhusláin eile ach leanfaimid orainn ag obair linn agus ag comhoibriú lena chéile, ar son mhuintir na Gaillimhe ar fad.

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*Cllr. James Charity,  
Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway.*

**MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

As Chief Executive Interim of Galway County Council, I welcome the publication of the Annual Report for 2020. It details the Council's progress on delivering the strategic goals of our new Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024 and highlights the essential work and achievements of the Council during the particularly challenging year due to Covid-19.

The oral hearing for the N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR) was convened by An Bord Pleanála on the 18th February 2020. Unfortunately due to the pandemic, the oral hearing was suspended on 12th March 2020. The hearing recommenced via MS Teams on 12th October 2020 and continued virtually. The final closing statements on the N6 GCRR hearing were heard on Wednesday 4th November 2020.

The 2020 Roads Programme was prepared following allocations for National and Non-National road construction, repairs and maintenance grants totalling €62,626,824 from Transport Infrastructure Ireland, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, together with funding from Galway County Council. Construction works were ongoing on the N59 Maam Cross to Bunnakill Scheme and on the N67 Ballinderreen to Kinvara Scheme throughout 2020, with progress still on programme for 2021. Construction work concluded on the N59 West of Letterfrack Scheme in October 2020 and this is now open to traffic. The funding received under the Outdoor Recreation & Infrastructure Scheme (2019) for works on the extension of the Connemara Greenway allowed the sections in the townlands of Derryvickrone and Ballinahinch to be fully completed in 2020.

The new Galway to Athlone Cycleway Project was launched this year, as the project team undertook an early public consultation stage. This was the first of four periods of public consultation which will be undertaken before a planning application is made in 2023. It is envisaged that the new cycleway will be an attractive amenity that will be enjoyed by local communities for walking and cycling all year round and will deliver a quality and memorable visitor experience with impactful scenery and points of interest along the way. It will also aim to support local businesses and stimulate new enterprises and jobs. The project is being jointly managed by Galway County Council, Westmeath County Council and Roscommon County Council, in conjunction with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).

Galway County Council continued to respond as proactively as possible to the priority of housing delivery, despite a highly challenging Covid-19 environment. 149 new homes were brought into active social housing stock through build, acquisitions and leasing programmes in 2020 and 60 dwellings were renovated under its Voids programme. 605 new build social housing units are now at various stages of approval to be delivered directly by Galway County Council and Approved Housing Bodies on 27 sites. Households also continued to be supported through our various schemes and grants. 71 households were also accommodated in 2020 under the Traveller Accommodation Programme. The Tenancy Sustainment Strategy for the County was reviewed, updated and adopted.

The Council continued to advance the economic and community development of the County. Despite the effects of the pandemic, 63 of the 71 approved projects through the Community Development Support Scheme went ahead to a value of €97,000 and funded a variety of upgrades to Community Buildings, amenity works and Tidy Towns activities. €415,000 was also secured for 15 communities from the Department of Community and Rural Development under three rounds of the new Town and Village Accelerated Measures. A further €690,000 was approved for 7 areas under the Main Town and Village Programme and €262,000 was secured for 7 areas under the CLÁR programme. The Galway County Council Arts Strategy and Public Art Policy 2020-2024 were also approved in December 2020.

Much of what we do can only be achieved by working in partnership with our various stakeholders and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of them for their on-going support and cooperation.

I would like to sincerely thank and acknowledge the assistance and support of the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. James Charity and the former Cathaoirleach Cllr. Jimmy McClearn. I would also like to thank all the Elected Members for their collective input and support in responding to the challenges in 2020.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of the Executive Team and all the staff and their professionalism, support, valuable contribution, effort, and commitment in continuing to deliver all our essential services and more in 2020, particularly given the extremely challenging year that we faced. It is the dedication, commitment and hard work of both the Members and staff that makes Galway County Council such a vibrant and progressive organisation.

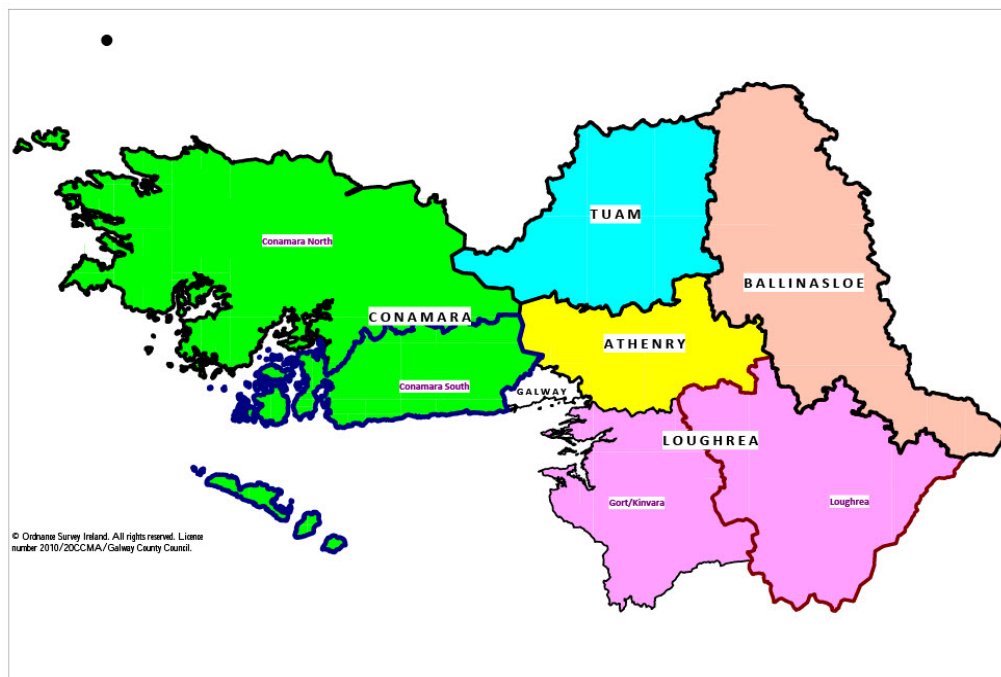
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Kelly', with a long horizontal line extending to the right and a curved flourish at the end.

*Mr. Kevin Kelly, Chief Executive*

**LOCAL ELECTORAL AREAS/ MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS**

In accordance with Statutory Instrument S.I. No. 618/218 - *County of Galway Local Electoral Areas and Municipal Districts Order 2018*, “the County of Galway shall have the following municipal districts for the purposes of section 22A (inserted by the Local Government Reform Act 2014 (No. 1 of 2014)) of the Local Government Act 2001 (No. 37 of 2001)”. The effect of the Order is to amend the division of County Galway into local electoral areas, to fix the number of members of Galway County Council to be elected for each such area and to determine the Municipal Districts for County Galway as follows:

- (a) The Municipal District of Ballinasloe consisting of the Local Electoral Area of Ballinasloe;
- (b) The Municipal District of Conamara consisting of the Local Electoral Area of Conamara North and the Local Electoral Area of Conamara South;
- (c) The Municipal District of Loughrea consisting of the Local Electoral Area of Loughrea and the Local Electoral Area of Gort — Kinvara;
- (d) The Municipal District of Athenry consisting of the Local Electoral Area of Athenry-Oranmore;
- (e) The Municipal District of Tuam consisting of the Local Electoral Area of Tuam.

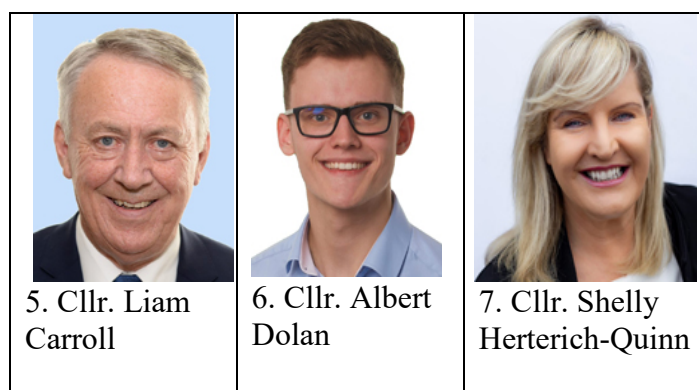
**Municipal Districts Map**

## ELECTED MEMBERS BY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

The following pages list the Elected Members of Galway County Council for each Municipal District /Local Electoral Area:

### **MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ATHENRY - ORANMORE**

**Athenry – Oranmore Local Electoral Area (7 Members)**



	<b>Elected Members</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Mobile</b>
1.	Cllr. James Charity, Tonegurrane, Cor an Dola, Co. Galway.	-	087 2191792
2.	Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly, Cloonkeen, Athenry, Co. Galway.	-	087 2066810
3.	Cllr. Jim Cuddy, An Laighdeacán, An Carn Mór, Oranmore, Co. Galway.	091 798136	087 6360242
4.	Cllr. David Collins, Waterview, Turloughmore, Co. Galway.	-	087 7831687
5.	Cllr. Liam Carroll, Frenchfort, Oranmore, Co. Galway.	091 794677	087 6488684
6.	Cllr. Albert Dolan, Monivea, Athenry, Co. Galway.	-	086 7358081
7.	Cllr. Shelly Herterich-Quinn, The Forge, Old Church Street, Athenry, Co. Galway.	-	087 2871355

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE**  
**Ballinasloe Local Electoral Area (6 Members)**



	<b>Elected Members</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Mobile</b>
1.	Cllr. Tim Broderick, Corraneena, Kilconnell, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.	090 9686896	087 2728058
2.	Cllr. Dermot Connolly, Glennavaddogue, Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.	090 9642986	086 0886160
3.	Cllr. Michael Connolly, Moyloughmore, Moylough, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.	090 9679465	087 6829049
4.	Cllr. Dr. Evelyn Francis Parsons, Beechlawn Hill, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.	-	087 1365793
5.	Cllr. Declan Geraghty, Williamstown Via Castlerea, Co. Galway.	094 9643355	086 2543304
6.	Cllr. Peter Keaveney, Bushtown, Glenamaddy, Galway.	094 9659388	087 2533098

\* Co-opted on 27 July 2020 to fill the Casual Vacancy arising from the nomination of former Cllr. Aisling Dolan to Seanad Éireann—  
 11 | Page






**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CONAMARA**  
**Conamara North Local Electoral Area (4 Members)**  
**Conamara South Local Electoral Area (5 Members)**

**Conamara North Local Electoral Area (4 Members)**

			
1. Cllr. Eileen Mannion	2. Cllr. Thomas Welby	3. Cllr. Séamus Walsh	4. Cllr. Gerry King

	<b>Elected Members</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Mobile</b>
1.	Cllr. Eileen Mannion, Sky Road, Clifden, Co. Galway.	-	087 9555645
2.	Cllr. Thomas Welby, Cregg, Oughterard, Co. Galway.	091 552748	087 2855676
3.	Cllr. Séamus Walsh, Glann, Oughterard, Co. Galway	091 552726	087 0519884
4.	Cllr. Gerry King, Errislannan, Clifden, Co. Galway.	-	086 1798749

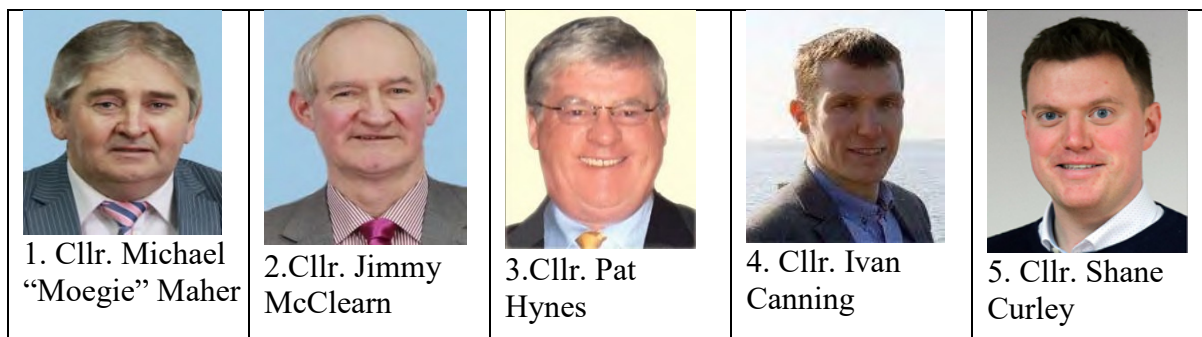
**Conamara South Local Electoral Area (5 Members)**

				
1. An Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin	2. Cllr. Noel Thomas	3. An Comh. Dáithí Ó Cualáin	4. An Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire	5. Cllr. Alastair McKinstry

	<b>Elected Members</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Mobile</b>
1.	An Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin, Na Foráí Maola Thiar, Bearna, Co. Galway.	-	087 2933782
2.	Cllr. Noel Thomas, Gort an Chalaídh, Maigh Cuilinn, Gaillimh.	-	087 7372147
3.	An Comh. Dáithí Ó Cualáin, Cor na Rón Láir, Indreabhán, Co. na Gaillimhe.	-	087 9023755
4.	An Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire, Na Doireadh, Baile na hAbhann, Co. na Gaillimhe.	091 572974	087 9213795
5.	Cllr. Alastair McKinstry, Croílár, Baile na hAille, Maigh Cuilinn, Co. na Gaillimhe.	091 868678	087 6847928

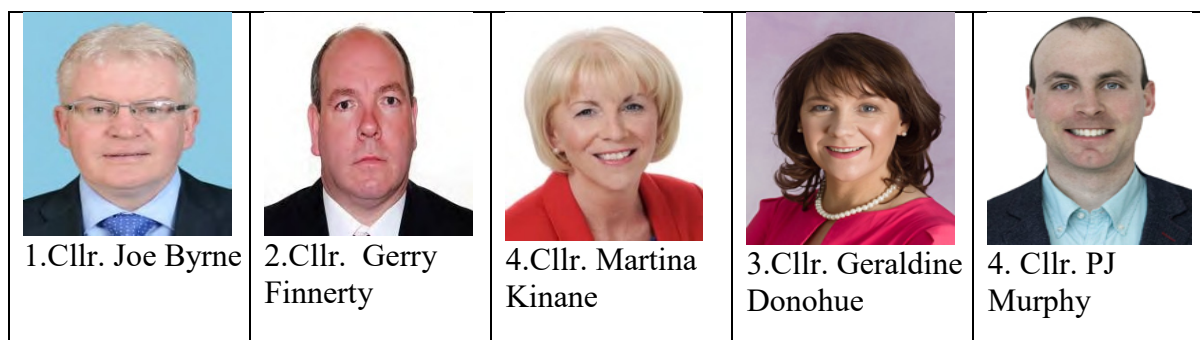
**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LOUGHREA**  
**Loughrea Local Electoral Area (5 Members)**  
**Gort-Kinvara Local Electoral Area (4 Members)**

**Loughrea Local Electoral Area (5 Members)**



	<b>Elected Members</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Mobile</b>
1.	Cllr. Michael "Moegie" Maher, Clostoken, Loughrea, Co. Galway.	091-842968	086 8109185
2.	Cllr. Jimmy Mc Clearn, Tynagh Road, Killimor, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.	090 9676235/9676963	087 2548723
3.	Cllr. Pat Hynes, Dun Guaire, 2 Spring View, Gort Road, Loughrea, Co Galway.	091-842399	087 2404404
4.	Cllr. Ivan Canning, Lecarrow Gortanumera, Portumna, Co. Galway.	-	087 1376666
5.	Cllr. Shane Curley, Raheen, Loughrea, Co. Galway.	-	086 2706550

**Gort-Kinvara Local Electoral Area (5 Members)**



	<b>Elected Members</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Mobile</b>
1.	Cllr. Joe Byrne, Highfield House, Cloonassee, Kinvara, Co. Galway	091-638130	087 2625775
2.	Cllr. Gerry Finnerty, Ballymurphy, Gort, Co. Galway	091-632167 /091-633291	087 2674295
3.	Cllr. Martina Kinane, Stradbally North, Clarenbridge, Co. Galway.	-	087 2692102
4.	Cllr. Geraldine Donohue, Springvale, Kylebrack, Loughrea, Co. Galway	-	086 1692827
5.	Cllr. PJ Murphy, Ballindive, Ardrahan, Co. Galway	-	087 7905401



**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM**  
**Tuam Electoral Area (7 Members)**



	<b>Elected Members</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Mobile</b>
1.	Cllr. Mary Hoade, Main Street, Headford, Co. Galway.	091 789854	087 2255979
2.	Cllr. Peter Roche, Moyne, Abbeyknockmoy, Tuam, Co. Galway.	093 49187	087 8251470
3.	Cllr. Donagh Mark Killilea, 171 Palace Fields, Tuam, Co. Galway.	-	086 6079563
4.	Cllr. Karey Mc Hugh Farag, Brooklodge Demesne, Ballyglunin, Tuam, Co. Galway.	-	087 2822225
5.	Cllr. Colm Keaveney, Kilcreevanty, Tuam, Co. Galway.		087 6776812
6.	Cllr. Andrew Reddington, Coarsepark, Headford, Galway.	-	087 6458115
7.	Cllr. Joe Sheridan, Milltown, Tuam, Co. Galway.	093-38903	087 9897072

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Galway County Council is responsible for the administrative area of County Galway, excluding Galway City. The Council is responsible for the planning, design and construction of roads, drainage facilities, housing, fire stations, libraries and burial grounds. Galway County Council is the custodian of the environment and through its planning and environment policies seeks to enhance the county while protecting its unique character and atmosphere. It also plays an active role in the development of the county's industrial, economic, business, social, arts, heritage and cultural affairs.

In accordance with the Irish system of local government, which encompasses both democratic representation and public administration, Galway County Council as a local authority performs both a **representational** and **operational role**.

The functions performed by the elected Members are called "**reserved functions**". These lay down the framework of policy, under which the Chief Executive operates.

Such functions include:

- adoption of annual Budget;
- making or varying the County Development Plan;
- adoption of the Allocation Scheme for social housing;
- making, amending, and revoking bye-laws;
- approval for borrowing money;
- declaration of roads to be public roads.

The Council makes its decisions by resolution at its meetings.

The Chief Executive and staff perform the **operational role** of Galway County Council. They are responsible for the day to day administration of the County Council. The Chief Executive performs, what are called, the "**executive functions**" and the Chief Executive's decisions are made by written "Chief Executive Order".

These functions include:

- the allocation of houses
- the granting or refusal of planning permissions
- the appointment, of staff etc.,

The Chief Executive, in making decisions, must act in a way that is consistent with the policy, which has been established by the elected members while, at the same time, advising the members in relation to the performance of their reserved functions.

## ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2001, and Local Government Reform Act 2014 a primary function of the local authority is to provide a forum for the democratic representation of the local community and provide the community with civic leadership. In addition, the local authority has responsibility for the provision of a range of services, regulatory and enforcement functions and for the development of key areas including economic, business, heritage and cultural affairs.

The Reform Act which established the Municipal Districts and dissolved the Town Councils also introduced Local Community Development Committees (LCDC) to be established as committees of the local authority in each local government area. The legislation provided for the cessation of the County Development Boards and the introduction of the Public Participation Network.

### **The Council**

The thirty-nine elected Councillors from the Municipal Districts collectively lay down the framework for the policy under which an Executive Team operates. A Corporate Policy Group and six\* Strategic Policy Committees (SPC) formulate and agree policy. The SPCs comprise of elected councillors and voluntary/sectoral representatives who review and formulate policy across the range of Council functions. The Executive Team headed by Chief Executive operates in an executive capacity. \*Six SPC's was set up following the Local Elections in May 2019.

### **Municipal Districts**

Five Municipal Districts are established in the County of Galway, (with seven Local Electoral Areas), and are served by the elected representatives from that Area. The Municipal Districts are designed to enhance democratic governance, subsidiarity and accountability. These arrangements are also intended to improve operational efficiency and value for money, with a single county-wide executive and operational structure. The Municipal Districts are decision-making entities rather than corporate structures.

### **Corporate Policy Group (CPG)**

The Corporate Policy Group comprises the Cathaoirleach of the County Council, Chairs of the Strategic Policy Committees and is supported by the Chief Executive. The CPG links the work of the different SPCs and provides a forum where policy positions affecting the whole Council can be agreed for submission to the full Council. The CPG advises and assists the Council and provides input on matters of general concern. It also has a role to monitor the overall performance of the local authority.

13 Meetings of the CPG took place in 2020.

### **Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)**

The SPC structure makes available to elected representatives a framework and opportunity to fulfil their role as overall policy makers and furthermore, enables opportunities for partnerships with local interests and community representatives. SPCs provide a forum for better and enhanced capacity for involvement in policy formulation, review and evaluation, with inbuilt assistance of relevant sectoral interests and supported by a Director of Services.

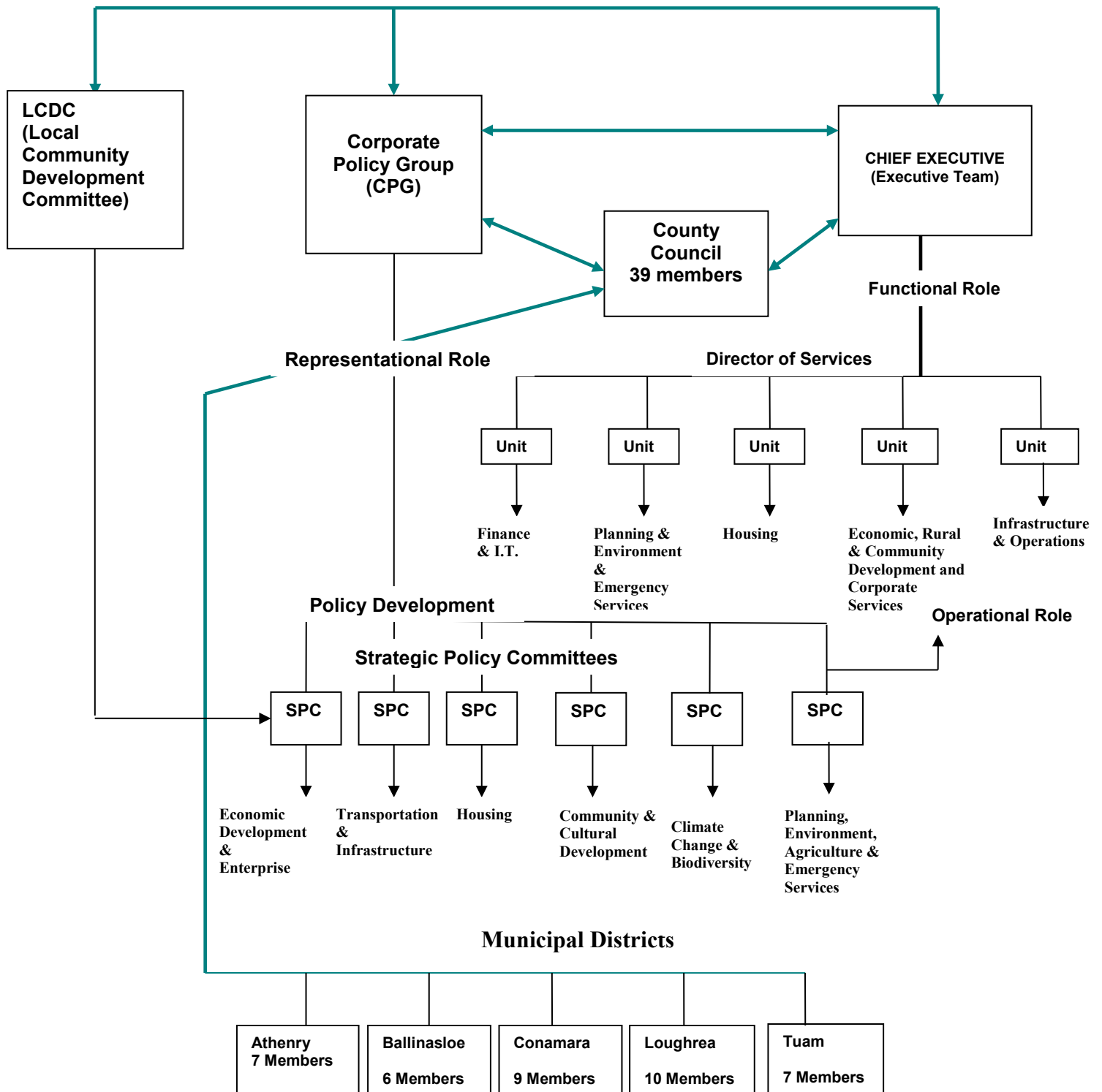
Six Strategic Policy Committees comprised of Councillors and Sectoral Representatives have been established in the Council as set out in the following table:

SPC	Elected Members	Sectoral Representations	Committee Total
Housing	7	4	11
Economic Development & Enterprise	6	4	10
Planning, Environment, Agriculture & Emergency Services Community	7	4	11
Transport & Infrastructure	7	4	11
Community & Cultural Development	6	4	10
Climate Change & Biodiversity	6	4	10

### Executive Team

The Executive Team is headed by the Chief Executive and consists of Directors of Services, Head of Finance, the Law Agent, the Head of Human Resources and the County Secretary.

**GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE 2020**



## GOVERNANCE

Governance is concerned with developing the appropriate structures and processes for directing and managing Galway County Council so that stakeholders can be assured that Galway County Council is operating effectively and efficiently. Governance focuses on the legal, regulatory and service obligations and on the sets of relationships between the Council, the Committees, the individual Members, the Chief Executive, the Executive Team, staff and stakeholders in determining the direction and performance of this Council.

The following six good governance principles and supporting principles, help to guide Galway County Council in its delivery of service.

### Core Principle 1

Good Governance means focusing on the purpose of the authority, on the outcomes that deliver sustainable economic and societal benefits and on implementing a vision for the local authority.

#### Supporting Principles

1. Exercising strategic leadership by developing and clearly communicating the authority's purpose and vision through the corporate plan and ensuring that service users receive a high-quality service.
2. Ensuring that the authority, through its service delivery plan, makes best use of resources to ensure achievement of outcomes is optimised.

### Core Principle 2

Good governance means members and officials working together to achieve a common purpose within a framework of clearly defined functions and roles.

#### Supporting Principles

1. Exercising effective leadership throughout the authority, being clear about reserved and executive functions and the respective roles and responsibilities of members and officials.
2. Creating a constructive and respectful working relationship between members and officials and ensuring that the functions of the Authority are performed to a high standard.

## Core Principle 3

Good governance means promoting and demonstrating public service values through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour.

### Supporting Principles

1. Ensuring members and officials, in exercising leadership, behave in ways that exemplify high standards of conduct, ethical behaviour and effective governance.
2. Fostering a culture and ensuring mechanisms that encourage and enforce adherence to ethical values and to the organisational values as espoused in the corporate plan.

## Core Principle 4

Good governance means taking better informed and transparent decisions and managing risk and performances.

### Supporting Principles

1. Being rigorous and transparent about the decision-making process and having good quality information, advice and support available to decision makers.
2. Ensuring that an effective risk, financial and performance management systems are in place. Which address uncertainties and exposures, enforce financial discipline, and emphasises strategic resource allocation and the efficient and effective delivery of services

## Core Principle 5

Good governance means developing the organisational capacity and the leadership capability and competencies of members and officials to operate effectively and the purpose of the organisation.

### Supporting Principles

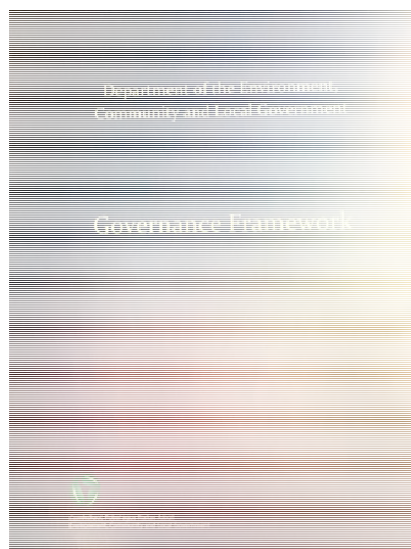
1. Ensuring that members and officials have the supports and appropriate structures they need to perform effectively in their roles.
2. Developing the capability of those with governance and leadership responsibilities to ensure outcomes achieved are consistent with good governance obligations.

## Core Principle 6

Good governance means engaging openly and comprehensively with local people, citizens and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.

### Supporting Principles

1. Providing clarity in relation to accountability relationships and organisational assurance, audit and scrutiny functions.
2. Ensuring there is a process and mechanism that deliver clear communication, effective stewardship and accountability to stakeholders.





## GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN 2020 – 2024

The Galway County Council Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024 as adopted by the Elected Members of Galway County Council, provides the framework to enable Galway County Council to guide the strategic direction and development of the County of Galway for the period 2020 - 2024.

The strategic goals and supporting strategies identified in the Plan support Galway County Council in carrying out its functions, prioritising its actions, and assessing its progress. The core values will underpin and guide the delivery of local authority services over the period 2020 - 2024, while the mission reflects the importance of enhancing the quality of life for people of County Galway by leading and strengthening community and economic development and delivering efficient and sustainable services.

The achievement of our mission and vision will be realised through the attainment of a number of interrelated Goals. To deliver these goals the council will implement a range of Supporting Strategies. These Supporting Strategies will form the basis of the functions as set out in the Annual Service Delivery Plans and schedule of Municipal District works.

### Strategic Goals

#### Community Participation & Social Inclusion

*“To facilitate the broadest possible participation by citizens in local decision making and the sustainable development of their communities and their county.”*

#### Economic & Enterprise Development

*“To maximise the continued and sustainable economic and enterprise development of our county.”*

#### Infrastructural Capacity

*“To ensure that our physical and social infrastructure is sufficiently developed to support economic development, and to enhance our quality of life.”*

#### Organisational Capacity

*“To maximise organisational capacity through the continuous review of operational efficiency, financial and risk management and the development of our Staff and Elected Members.”*

**Protection of  
Environment  
& Heritage**

*“To improve, protect and promote our environment, culture, heritage and language in the interests of present and future generations.”*

**Quality  
Customer  
Service**

*“To ensure that quality customer service is at the centre of everything we do.”*

An assessment of our performance against the targets set in the 2020 Service Delivery Plan is also included on pages **193** to **221**, while details of our performance against the national performance indicators is included on pages **184 to 192**.

Note: Please refer to Galway County Council’s Annual Budget 2021 for additional information on the Annual Progress Report on the Galway County Council Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024.

This Document can be located at: -

<http://www.galway.ie/en/services/yourcouncil/finance/annualbudgets/>



**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**  
**Galway County Council**

**CORPORATE SERVICES**  
**AND**  
**ECONOMIC, RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

## CORPORATE SERVICES

The Corporate Services Unit offers trusted and consistent excellence in administrative services to the Elected Members, Plenary Council, Senior Management and the general public. The Unit aims to continually develop a positive Corporate image of the Council, through the provision of efficient professional support services in the form of Corporate Secretariat to the Council and its sub-structure as well as a wide variety of services including the Register of Electors, Freedom of Information, Promotion of the Irish Language, Recreation & Amenity Policies, Customer Services, Casual Trading, Corporate Policies, Management and Servicing of the Council Office Network, Archives and Records Management, Library Services, Internal Audit and Legal Services.

Progress and achievements of the Unit for 2020 are presented below appropriate to the relevant strategic priorities contained in the Corporate Plan 2020 - 2024.

### Strategic Goal

**To maximise organisational capacity through the continuous review of operational efficiency, financial and risk management and the development of our Staff and Elected Members.**

## CORPORATE PLANNING AND SUPPORT

Galway County Council's Plenary Council of 39 members met for nine monthly meetings in 2020, to carry out their Reserved functions and consider social, economic and cultural issues critical to the sustained development of the County in line with the Strategic Priorities and Objectives of the Corporate Plan. To comply with Covid-19 restrictions in place the March and April Plenary meetings were cancelled.

In compliance with Government Covid -19 guidelines and to ensure social distancing requirements Plenary Meetings went on circuit from May to December. Meetings were held at the following locations during this time:

- Kiltormer GAA Complex, Kiltormer, Co. Galway
- Galway Mayo Institute of Technology, Dublin Road, Galway
- Corandulla Sports Hall, Cor an Dola, Co. Galway

The Annual Meeting of the Plenary Council was held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020 in Kiltormer GAA Complex, Kiltormer, Co. Galway. Cllr. James Charity was elected to replace Cllr. Jimmy McClearn as Cathaoirleach. Cllr. Peter Roche was nominated to replace Cllr. Gabe Cronnelly as Leas-Chathaoirleach.

The Council held its Annual Statutory Budget Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020 in Corrandulla Sports Hall, Cor an Dola, Co. Galway to consider and adopted the 2021 Revenue Budget and Three-Year Capital Programme.



*Cllr. James Charity was elected as Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020.*



*Cllr. Peter Roche was elected as Leas-Chathaoirleach of the County of Galway on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020.*

## MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Monthly Meetings of the Council	Meetings
Ordinary Monthly Meetings	9
Special Meeting	0
Annual Meeting	1
Budget Meeting	1

### Corporate Policy Group (CPG)

The Corporate Policy Group is organised and administered by Corporate Services and is supported by the Chief Executive.

Corporate Policy Group	Meetings
Corporate Policy Group	13 meetings

### Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

In accordance with Section 35(4) and 36(1) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 Galway County Council operates a Joint Policing Committee (JPC) in conjunction with local Garda Síochána management and in accordance with Revised JPC Guidelines issued in 2014. The function of a Joint Policing Committee is set out in section 36(2) of the Garda Síochána Act, which states: “*The joint policing committee’s function is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority’s administrative area*”. The Joint Policing Committee aims to develop greater consultation, co-operation and synergy on policing and crime issues between An Garda Síochána, the Local Authority, Community Representatives, and the Elected Local Representatives. During 2020, the JPC continued to take a strategic approach to its work, in addressing local issues collectively and strategically.

The JPC held its regular JPC Meetings on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 15<sup>th</sup> June, 14<sup>th</sup> September and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020. The Annual Public Meeting did not take place due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The continuing work of three sub-committees afforded the JPC the opportunity to progress strategic objectives of the 6-Year Joint Policing Committee Strategic Plan.

### Membership of the JPC

The following table shows the numbers applicable for each category of membership for the County Galway Joint Policing Committee.

Local Authority Elected Members	Oireachtas Members	Local Authority Officials	Garda Síochána	Community/Voluntary Representatives
15	5	2	2	7

On the 31<sup>st</sup> January the Leas Chathaoirleach at the time, Cllr. Gabe Cronnolly and Ms. Brid Dooley, Senior Executive Officer, Galway County Council travelled as part of a delegation from Galway 2020 to Rijeka for the Official Opening Ceremony of Rijeka 2020 European Capital of Culture.

They attended a number of events during their two-day stay. They were hosted by the Irish Ambassador to Croatia, Olive Hemenstall and the Deputy Head of Mission, Aisling Kearns and received a very warm welcome in Rijeka.



*Cllr. Gabe Cronnolly attending the Official Opening Ceremony of Rijeka 2020 European Capital of Culture*



*Representatives of Galway County Council and Galway 2020 as part of the delegation visiting Rijeka*

The Latvian Ambassador Jānis Kārklīņš paid a courtesy visit to Áras an Chontae and met with the Cathaoirleach Cllr. James Charity on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020.



*Latvian Ambassador Jānis Kārklīņš and Cllr. James Charity, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway*

## **REGISTER OF ELECTORS**

The Council is responsible for the compilation of the Register of Electors for County Galway (excluding Galway City area).

The Register of Electors for 2020/2021 was published on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020.

The total number of Electors on the 2019/2020 Register of Electors was 141,017.

The Draft Register of Electors was prepared in line with statutory deadlines in November 2020. A Revision Court was held by the County Registrar for the purpose of hearing any claims, objections



for the revision and amendment of the Lists of Voters at Áras an Chontae on Wednesday, the 3rd December 2020.

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

A total of 156 requests were received by Galway County Council during 2020 under the Freedom of Information Act.

Decision	Number
Requests Granted	62
Requests Part-Granted	40
Requests Refused	35
Requests Withdrawn	8
Requests Transferred	1
Granted outside of FOI	8

## ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

A total of 11 requests were received by Galway County Council during 2020 under the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007 – 2014.

Decision	Number
Requests Granted	8
Requests Part-Granted	1
Requests Refused	2
Requests Withdrawn/Transferred	0

## FACILITIES MANAGEMENT - OFFICE ACCOMMODATION AND LIBRARIES

- The Facilities Section undertook energy saving and energy efficiency projects to buildings occupied by Galway County Council. These included the installation of new LED lighting project at Westside library and the replacement of existing office light with new LED appliances. Improvement works to the existing Building Management Systems at Tuam MD office and Ballinasloe Library & Gallery buildings were also undertaken during 2020.
- The Facilities Section continued to provide caretaking and facilities management services for the Council's building network of offices and libraries, of which 26 no. are directly owned by Galway County Council. There are presently 38 different types of planned preventative maintenance contracts in place which give rise to over 1,500 different inspections across this network of buildings.
- Occupancy levels in a number of areas in County Hall exceeded the available capacity necessitating the requirement to complete some refurbishment works on the ground floor and the first floor to facilitate the provision of additional office and meeting room accommodation for the Housing and Finance Units.
- The Facilities Unit continued to undertake procurement processes for a range of facilities management related contracts to ensure value for money and quality of services are maintained.
- A CCTV register was established for all Offices & Libraries to comply with the requirements of GDPR.
- The Facilities Section also delivered a wide range of works in accordance with the Covid 19 Action Plan to ensure that buildings and facilities met public health requirements in accordance with national and sectoral guidance.

### ***Energy Management & Energy Reduction Initiatives***

- Energy efficiency monitoring and management continued to be a priority focus in the facilities unit. Display Energy Certificates were completed and put on display for 18 offices and libraries which are greater than 250 sqm.
- County Hall continued to improve its operational Building Energy Rating (BER), achieving a B3 for its Display Energy Certificate for 2020.

### ***Health and Safety***

- The Corporate Services Unit continued to deliver on its requirements under the Safety Management Programme in areas such as PAT testing, periodic testing of electrical installations, VDU assessments for all Offices and Libraries.
- Health & Safety Inspections continued to be carried out on a regular basis in line with implementation of the Council's Health & Safety Management Plan.
- Rinvilla Park landscaping maintenance was undertaken while continuing to work in conjunction with the local Community & Employment Scheme
- Facilities in collaboration with our Human Resources section, undertake the role out of Fire Warden training.

## COMMUNITY WARDEN SERVICE

The Community Wardens are a uniformed service of the Local Authority with several roles across a range of Local Authority functions including:

- Enforcement - statutory traffic offences, litter offences, abandoned vehicles, waste disposal/illegal dumping, dog licenses and casual trading.
- Monitoring - housing estates, public amenities such as recycling centres, bring banks, parks, beaches and playgrounds.
- Assistance – to tourists, elderly, schools, neighborhood communities, An Garda Síochána and other state agencies.
- Litter pollution/Derelict Sites Surveys were carried out, whilst regular inspections of playgrounds, parks Local Authority estates, Halting Sites, pier, ring buoys and bottle banks continued to be undertaken by the Community Wardens during 2020 and the assistance with Community Clean ups continued during the year.
- 1439 investigations under Air Pollution, Waste Management and Water Pollution legislation were carried out.
- 236 surveys were carried out by the Community Wardens Service in relation to litter pollution in accordance with National Service indicators.
- Environmental Enforcement including the issuing of litter fines and notices under the Waste Management and Water Pollution Acts continued to be undertaken by the Community wardens. A total of 109 litter fines were issued in 2020.
- Community Wardens continued to assist with the operation of pay and display parking and the implementation of traffic management plans in several towns across the County.
- The Housing Department request the services of the Community Wardens in implementation of the Control of Horses Act 1996.
- Dog licensing inspection campaigns also continued throughout the year.
- Community Wardens under the Roads Act 1993 assisted in the removal of abandoned vehicles throughout the year.



## CORONERS SERVICE

The Council continued to provide administrative support for the processing of all payments of fees for the City and County Coroners Service. The full cost of the Coroners Service is borne by the Council through its revenue budget, with no mechanism for recoupment.

## INTERNAL AUDIT

The 2020 Internal Audit Plan which forms the Internal Audit annual programme of work was drawn up in conjunction with the Chief Executive, Audit Committee and the Head of the Internal Audit Team.

The plan contained the following 7 areas for audit examination.

- Analysis of the 2019 Plant & Machinery Account
- 2019 Community Enhancement Scheme
- Revenue Expenditure Recoupment Review
- In depth checks on a sample of Capital and Revenue projects as part of 2019 Public Spending Code Quality Assurance Report to the National Oversight Audit Committee.
- Review of compliance with General Data Protection Regulations.
- Review of Risk Management Arrangements.
- Compliance with 2019 SICAP Programme Requirements.

The following audits from the 2019 Internal Audit Programme of work were presented to the Audit Committee at various meetings held throughout 2020

- Housing Grants Programme
- 2018 Heritage Grants & Conservation Funding

The following audits from the 2020 Internal Audit Programme of work were presented to the Audit Committee at various meetings held throughout 2020

- Analysis of the 2019 Plant & Machinery Account
- 2019 Community Enhancement Scheme
- Revenue Expenditure Recoupment Review

## LEGAL ADVISORY SERVICES

- The Department provided legal and advisory services for all programme areas and Directorates taking all the measures required in terms of the additional challenges posed by the Covid 19 Pandemic.

These services included the continued acquisition and sale of properties, the conduct of litigation to include District Court enforcement prosecutions, Circuit and High Court, including Judicial Review. In particular, District Court Litigation (Housing, Planning Enforcement & Environmental Enforcement prosecutions) and Judicial Review were areas of significant workload in terms of overall litigation. The completion of land acquisitions and CPOs on inter-urban routes and acquisition of residential units, were also substantial areas of work for the Law Agent Unit despite the restrictions represented by Covid 19.

- The Case Management System, which facilitates the use of templates to create workflows for the efficient and cost-effective delivery of legal services, continues to be updated on an ongoing basis.
- We have increased the progress required in terms of updating our Register of Lands in co-operation with our partners in other units such as IT, Finance and Housing. 2020 has perhaps represented the greatest level of progress in this area.
- Concentrate on and continue in our efforts to provide efficient legal advisory services for all programme areas throughout the organisation.
- We continue in our significant efforts to meet our requirements in terms of the new Data Protection Regulations to include Data Mapping and Risk Control. We have appointed a specific GDPR and FoI representative for the unit from our solicitor staff in this regard.
- Workflows for the Case Management System will continue to be created, further enhancing work delivery and capacity. We will look to maximising the proficiency of our Case Management system by availing of system updates that are now available from the software designer.
- Staff will avail of remote CPD and training courses/modules, where appropriate, to ensure that our team keep up to date with continuing developments in Local Government Law and Office Management despite the current restrictions in normal attendance at conferences and training courses.
- The ongoing work on the Register of Lands will remain a priority area of work with the view to bringing the council's records up to date.

### **Strategic Goal**

**To maximise the continued and sustainable economic and enterprise development of our county.**

## **OPERATION OF MARKETS, CASUAL TRADING & FILM LICENCES**

The Casual Trading License year runs from the 1st April 2020 until the 31st March 2021. Licenses are issued annually on payment of a fee for a number of towns and villages throughout the County in line with the Casual Trading Byelaws.

The locations of the towns and villages are as follows:

- Athenry
- Ballinasloe

- Clifden
- Dunmore
- Gort
- Headford
- Loughrea
- Mountbellew
- Tuam

Special Event Licenses are issued for various festivals and fairs which take place throughout the year. However, with the onset of Covid 19 during 2020, and the restrictions that were imposed, none of the festivals went ahead.

### CASUAL TRADING BAYS

<b>Annual Licenses</b>	
<b>Area</b>	<b>No. of Licenses issued</b>
Athenry	4
Ballinasloe (St. Mary's Square)	8
Clifden	5
Dunmore	1
Gort	6
Headford	1
Loughrea	1
Mountbellew	2
Tuam	2

With restrictions lifting in December 2020, Christmas licenses were issued for the following towns:

- 1 license in Tuam
- 2 licenses in Ballinasloe

### FILM LICENCES

During the course of 2020 Corporate Services received 13 requests from film production companies for use of public property to film. Some of the requests were for a day whilst others would extend to a few days.

## Strategic Goal

**To ensure that our physical and social infrastructure is sufficiently developed to support economic development, and to enhance our quality of life.**

## RECREATION, AMENITY, PARKS & OPEN SPACES

### Playgrounds

Galway County Council continues to invest in play facilities in the County by providing public liability insurance to a number of community managed playgrounds as part of formal maintenance agreements with local groups, as well as the direct maintenance of playgrounds in our main towns. In accordance with previous commitments under the Council's Play Policy, assistance has been provided to playgrounds through direct funding and provision of insurance. To-date, a total of 71 playgrounds have been developed in the County, under this policy which provides one of the most extensive networks of playgrounds in any County available free of charge to residents of all main settlement centres and in key tourist locations.

The Smoke Free Playgrounds Policy was ongoing in 2020. New non-smoking signs, funded through the Healthy Ireland programme, were designed and distributed to each playground in the County



Information on all sites are available to download in the Council's Guide to Playgrounds – 'Let's Play' available on [www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie) and an interactive map on the Mapzone section of the web-site.

Previous playground inspection training for Council Community Wardens and community playground groups, was still relevant for 2020. The course was delivered by an approved ROSPA

(Royal Society of Prevention of Accidents) Certified Official. On successful completion of the course, participants are ROSPA trained to undertake playground inspections and provided with Certification for a period of 3 years. ROSPA Inspections of Council Playgrounds also took place in November 2020.

The on-line inspection ‘app’ continued to work well in 2020 as it assists Community Wardens carry out inspections using their smartphones and submit reports automatically. Reports are automatically filed providing a record of weekly inspections required for maintenance and insurance purposes.





## The Water Safety Programme



The Water Safety Programme involved the recruitment of 45 trained lifeguards to provide services to nine locations in the County (including six Blue flag beaches) and at six locations under the jurisdiction of Galway City Council as part of the Shared Service Agreement with Galway City Council, with two lifeguards at a minimum at all beaches in compliance with international Lifeguarding Federation of Europe (ILSE).

Preparation for the lifeguard season starts in late February where a recruitment process is advertised. Pool tests and interviews took place in April. Services commenced on the beaches on the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2020 and continued until the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

The upgrading of equipment and a review of procedures is an ongoing process as well as hut preparation and repairs/maintenance schedule agreed and delivered, with a new hut provided in Loughrea.

A Water Safety Development Officer (WSDO) continues to be appointed on a part-time basis. The role includes supervision of the Water Safety Lifeguard Programme, development of the service as well as commenting on the water safety aspects of applications to both Galway County and city in relation to events involving the use of water.

Galway County Council also made a contribution to Irish water Safety of €6,150.00 during 2020.



### **Swimming Pools / Leisure Centres (Tuam and Ballinasloe)**

Galway County Council owns Leisure Centres comprising of swimming pools, gym and studio room facilities in the Palace Grounds Tuam and at Sarsfields Road, Ballinasloe. The management and operation of the Leisure Centres was continued by Coral Leisure Ltd. during 2020 following an extension of the Licence Agreement.

The Covid-19 pandemic had a significant adverse impact on both Leisure Centres with a drop-in usage and income due to prolonged periods of closure. This impacted on the ability of the operator to continue to manage the Leisure Centres within the terms of the licence agreement.

In recognition of the importance of the Leisure Centres as key facilities for recreation, fitness, health, well-being and employment additional funding was provided to support the continued operation of both Leisure Centres during 2020 in accordance with Covid-19 restrictions and public health guidelines.



*Tuam Leisure Centre*

### **Rinville Park, Maree, Oranmore**

Rinville Park is one of the County's largest parks, with a network of walkways, a playground, and an outdoor gym. Rinville Park is managed by Galway County Council is owned jointly by Galway County Council and Galway City Council. It is a designated location on the 'Wild Atlantic Way'. It is used extensively by local residents, visitors, and local organisations such as Scouting Groups.

A seasonal Caretaker was employed by the Council from March to October. A Concession for the provision of refreshments at Rinville Park from March to September was continued. The Parks' Maintenance Programme continued to be delivered in partnership with local groups.

Due to the Covid19 pandemic, a one way system was put into operation at Rinville Park and guidance signage was erected in line with restrictions that were in place at the time.



*Picnic seating at Rinville Park Oranmore*



*A one way system in place at Rinvilla Park Oranmore due to Covid19 restrictions*

### **Palace Grounds, Tuam**

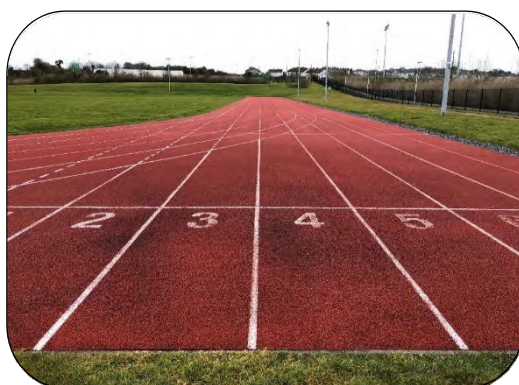
Support was provided for Palace Grounds Park area in Tuam and a maintenance programme was implemented by the Tuam Municipal District Office in association with a Council sponsored Community Employment (CE) Scheme. Tuam Tennis Court located within the Palace Grounds is managed by Galway County Council.



### **Dunlo Athletic Track, Ballinasloe**

Dunlo Athletic Track is a valuable amenity for the community of Ballinasloe and East Galway region in the ownership of Galway County Council. The operation and availability of the facility was impacted by the Covid-19 related restrictions for periods during 2020.

Galway County Council acknowledges the support of the TUS programme in the provision of services at the facility. The support services provided under the Scheme supports the operation of the facility and ensures that the facilities can be made available for the enjoyment and benefit of the local community and clubs. A Schedule is made available on [www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie) indicating the availability of the facility and the public times and bookings by local clubs.



*Dunlo Recreational Track*

### **Tuam All Weather Pitch**

Tuam All Weather Pitch continued to be operated under a Licence Agreement put in place with Tuam Celtic Football Club. Local schools and youth groups were advised on the availability of the pitches free of charge at designated times, with provision for 40 hours free usage per week. The availability of the All Weather Pitch was impacted by Covid-19 restrictions during 2020.

## **LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES PROGRAMME**

Galway Public Library continued to provide a valuable service to communities and individuals in 2020. Libraries continue to be relevant to the children, adults and families of Galway City and County.

Galway Public Library has a network of:

- 29 Branch Libraries
- Mobile Library Service
- Schools Service for Primary Schools
- Audio Service for Visually Impaired
- Local History Service
- Archives

Registered membership of Galway Libraries for 2020 was **48,307**.

In 2020, Galway Libraries had **164,797** visits to its service points. **435,010** items were issued.

In 2020, usage of online resources rose to **206,537** in comparison to **78,667** in 2019. This highlights the essential role library online resources played during the pandemic. The public enjoyed a range of e-books, e-audiobooks, online courses, e-newspapers and e-magazines.

The Covid 19 pandemic hit Ireland in March 2020, closing all libraries, schools and businesses in one fell swoop. Plans for 2020 had to be sidelined and the pandemic remained disruptive and challenging throughout the year. Galway Library Service responded to the needs of Galway County and City by transferring all events to online platforms. Story times, craft sessions, Healthy Ireland; talks to name a few, became regular features on Facebook. Demand for Online Resources including e-books, e-audio and online courses increased exponentially, so much so that extra investment was required to purchase additional resources. Galway Library Service remain conscious of the digital divide within our communities and endeavors to provide simple videos informing the public as to how to use the resources. Staff were available in branch libraries to respond to any queries or to assist.

### **Contact & Collect Service:**

From June 2020 Galway Public Libraries introduced a Contact & Collect service. Library patrons contacted their local library by phone or email to request a selection of books. Children taking part in the Summer Stars reading programme were given twelve books, with a wide range of reading material including a book in the Irish language, chosen by library staff.

Patrons were allocated a date and time for collection. Books were packed in recyclable bags, ready to be collected by library patrons. This service was extremely popular while Covid-19 public health restrictions remained in place. When libraries reopened for browsing, the Contact & Collect service continued.

### **Book deliveries to older citizens and members of the public who were cocooning:**

From April 2020, a book delivery service was available to citizens who were “cocooning”. The initiative was managed by Galway City Library, who collaborated with Galway Volunteer Centre. Staff selected twelve books, based on the preferences of the library patron, and boxes of books were delivered to homes by volunteers from Galway Volunteer Centre.

The mobile library and library vans also delivered book boxes to patrons throughout the county.



### ***Library Re-opening:***

As libraries gradually reopened, great care was taken to ensure the safety of the public and of staff. Library management worked in cooperation with Facilities and Health & Safety sections of Galway County Council. Sneeze guard screens were placed on all desks where the public were being served, directional arrows on the floor informed the public of where to stand. Sanitisation stations were installed at every entrance and throughout the building. Numbers entering the building were kept to a minimum. Staff worked hard to monitor the library building ensuring public safety at all times.



Occupancy software was installed in Galway City, Westside and An Spidéal Libraries. This software further ensures the safety of the public by controlling numbers in the building at any one time. The software will be installed in Clifden library in 2021.

## **LIBRARY SERVICE EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EVENTS**

### **National Initiatives in our public library service:**

#### **Healthy Ireland at Your Library:**

Public libraries nationwide, working in tandem with the Department of Health, deliver the Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme, which establishes libraries as a valuable source of community health information.

The Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme addresses five key areas:

1. Healthy Childhood and Parenting

2. Healthy Eating and Active Living
3. Wellbeing and Mental Health
4. Positive ageing
5. Alcohol and tobacco

The programme enhances current health information in Galway Public Libraries by providing a comprehensive collection of relevant books, e-books, e-audio books, e-magazines and online courses on health and wellbeing. The Healthy Ireland book stock and e-resources are complemented by a programme of online and in-branch talks on health topics.

In early 2020, 8 Healthy Ireland events took place in library branches. Due to Covid-19 public health restrictions, all Healthy Ireland at Your Library events were online from mid-March 2020.

Topics covered included the following:

- Handling Stress and Building Resilience
- Taking Care of Your Mental Health
- CPR training
- Dementia Awareness
- Sleep
- Dealing with Workplace Stress and Burnout
- Skin Health and Skincare
- Managing allergies
- The Mental Health Benefits of Running
- The Challenge of Retirement
- Therapeutic Play
- Positive Parenting
- Diabetes Awareness
- Health Benefits of Walking

Irish language talks included:

- Codladh, Bia Sláintiúil & Bainistíocht Méachain
- Sláinte Craiceann

Professor John Sharry hosted a Webinar entitled “Coping with Psychological Fatigue during the Covid-19” crisis.



The online Healthy Ireland at Your Library events had a social media reach of 19,133.

### **Work Matters:**

*Work Matters* is a service to support (together with local partners) people seeking employment, up-skilling or developing small businesses. It includes:

- Dedicated, branded spaces with computers, broadband and wi-fi, printing and scanning facilities;
- Book-stock and online resources to support employment and business activities;
- Expertise of library staff providing support through the relevant resources;
- Events and programming on business and work-related topics;
- Work Matters and Online Resources brochure developed.

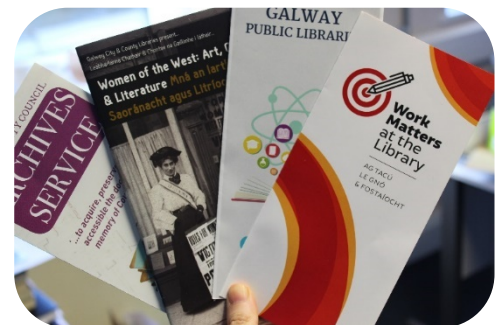


*Work Matters Area Clifden Library*

### **Right To Read:**

#### **Books and Reading - At the heart of everything we do**

Galway Libraries want to support people in their love of books and their pursuit of knowledge. A wide and diverse selection of books and other items for adults and children in all areas of literature and knowledge is provided. The Library service take every opportunity to promote books and reading.



#### **Children's Services:**

Helping children discover the joy of reading is one of the most important things we do at Galway Public Library. Children connect to reading one book at a time and we provide all kind of encouragement and incentives.

- **Children's events – *Spring into Storytime*** was delivered through online story times during April.

**Children's Book Festival 2020 - Bookit!** was a range of virtual events which covered art, history, science, wildlife, heritage, writing and storytelling, and were delivered by a host of facilitators including storytellers, illustrators, and writers. A brochure of events was emailed to all schools in Galway County and City offering the virtual events. Links were supplied to the schools offering them the opportunity to view the sessions in their own time.



**The Summer Reading Challenge** ran during July and August. This year, library staff chose books for children of all ages, including one book in Irish. Parents collected the bags from their local library.



*Galway author Patrica Forde pictured at St Augustine's National School Clontuskert for the launch of her children's book 'To The Island'. It was commissioned by Galway 2020, published by Little Island in collaboration with Galway 2020 and Galway Public Libraries. A copy of the book was gifted to every junior infant starting school in Galway in September 2020, in celebration of Galway as European Capital of Culture*



*Family Time at your Library* activities took place virtually during December 2020. *Family Time at your Library* events aim to support a family-focused approach to reading with children as part of the national Right to Read programme and to increase awareness of the benefits of reading and promote reading as a fun, recreational activity for children.

### Creative Ireland Initiatives:

Creative Ireland is a culture-based programme designed to promote individual, community and national wellbeing. Galway Libraries played a role in the local delivery of a number of Creative Ireland events during 2020 which included:

**ComicCon @ Home** took place virtually on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November. It featured several workshops from authors, illustrators, and make-up artists such as Barry Fitzgerald, Wayne O'Connor and Alan Nolan.



### Cruinniú na nÓg

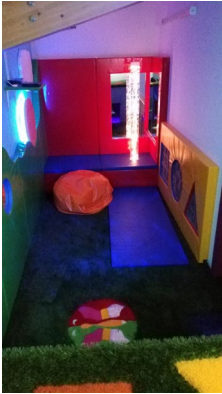
Cruinniú na nÓg is an annual national initiative celebrating the creative potential of children and young people.

Cruinniú na nÓg was celebrated on Saturday 13th June 2020. Facilitated by Creative Ireland and hosted online through Galway Libraries Facebook page.



## Dormant Account Funding:

Galway Libraries made several successful applications for Dormant Account Funding.



A multi-sensory room was created at Westside Library. This space will be available for parents/carers to book pending lifting of Covid 19 restrictions. This facility is specially designed to help individuals with additional needs by engaging and stimulating the senses through visual, tactile, auditory and vestibular stimuli.



Boxes of sensory toys were bought and will be available in all 29 branches. These will offer stimulation to those with additional needs, making their library experience a more enjoyable one.

Galway Library Service is delighted to announce that we are now offering free access to Touch -Type Read and Spell. (TTRS). TTRS takes a multi-sensory approach to learning. Through the multi-sensory approach, a user hears the words spoken through headphones or speakers, sees the words printed on the screen, and is prompted as to which fingers to press via the on-screen keyboard. Touch-Type Read and Spell resource tool is particularly useful for those with Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, ASD and ADHD. It is extremely beneficial for those who experience spelling, reading, and writing difficulties. TTRS is self-paced and can be customised to meet the needs of every learner. It is web-based so it can be used on your own device in the privacy of your own home.

### Uniquely Wonderful: An intro to Autism for Parents



Delivered by Galway Autism Partnership via Zoom  
Free to Attend

Suitable for parents and carers of autistic and neurodiverse children and young people

Funded by Galway County Council and Galway City and County Library Services

Session 1 Intro to Autism: Tuesday 12th January @ 7 pm

Session 2 Supporting Behaviours that Challenge: Tuesday 19th January @ 7 pm

Session 3 Communication: Tuesday 26th January @ 7 pm

Session 4 Sensory Perception and Regulation: Tuesday 2nd February @ 7 pm

Session 5 Your Family's Future: Tuesday 9th February @ 7 pm



Comhairle Chontae na Gallimhe  
Galway County Council

Funded by Galway Library Service through  
Dormant Account Funding provided by  
Department of Rural and Community  
Development.



Touch-type  
Read & Spell

- **One Book One Town** - Both Tuam and Galway City Libraries participated in 2020. This initiative in conjunction with the Home/School Liaison team encouraged everyone to read the same book.

### Adult Events in the Libraries and the Arts

Libraries are vibrant creative hubs where creativity and ideas are born and nurtured. The Arts are brought to people through their local Library.

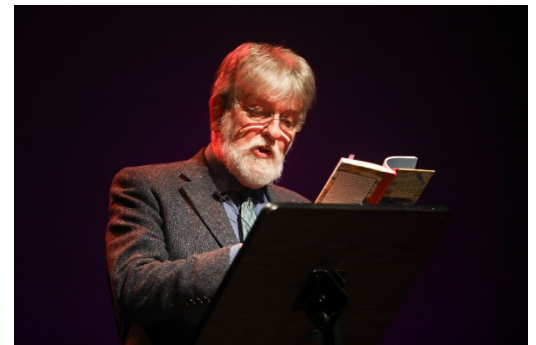


### The Galway's Great Read programme continued in 2020, funded by Creative Ireland. All events were virtual and are available to view on Galway Libraries Youtube channel.

2020 featured Eilís Dillon, in her centenary year She was one of Galway's most prolific and extraordinarily versatile writers publishing 50 titles between 1948 and 1992, writing for both children and adults.

Her themes are wide-ranging, from Island life on the Atlantic coast to her knowledge and love of language and folk tradition.

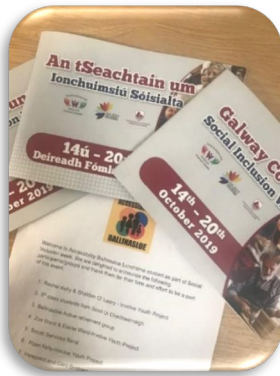
The virtual programme included: an online bookclub, which invites one into the descriptive imagination of Dillon's work; various online seminars which explored her Galway roots and place in Irish history; two new commissions which highlighted her love of art and music - a visual art piece to celebrate her life and work and a music composition in response to one of her best known and highly regarded translated works, *Caoineadh Airt Uí Laoghaire*; and a magical tour for children in our 'One Author, 5 Islands' along the wild Atlantic way.



## Europe Direct Centres in Ballinasloe and An Cheathrú Rua continue to facilitate a number of virtual events.

The Annual Soapbox event moved online. The topic this year was Everyone wants to go back to a pre-Covid Way of Life. There were the highest ever number of entries – 46 participants.

- Participants were asked to submit a pre-recorded speech of not more than 3 mins, for or against the motion.
- All recordings were assessed by a panel of judges and equal marks were awarded for content, delivery, structure and overall impact.
- The 8 Europe Direct Centres in Ireland and each centre sent forward a winner from each age category to the national final on Dec 9th. A panel of judges reviewed the regional winning entries, and the winners were announced live during the event.
- Regional winners won an iPad.



- Building improvement works were carried out in several Branch Libraries including Galway City, Westside, An Spidéal and Clifden.
- Occupancy software was installed to monitor the numbers entering these library buildings, making them safer places for the public to visit.
- ISO45001 accreditation was achieved for the Library Service as part of overall accreditation process.

## Library students

The support of Library Students from Germany greatly assisted the libraries staff in 2020. They worked in Westside and Galway City Library.

- Work will continue, based on available funding, to maintain and improve, where possible, the Library Services in Galway as per the Galway Library Development Programme 2016-2021.
- Work will continue progressing the new Galway Community/Cultural Library.
- The Healthy Ireland, Work Matters and Right to Read campaigns will continue to be rolled out across the library branch network, availing of national funding streams, with the aim of ensuring a range of service in both urban and rural branches.
- Efforts to enhance the use of technology will continue, including self-service technologies, while further promotion of the online resource package will be delivered.
- The computerization of branch libraries in the Galway service will continue, subject to financial resources

- Galway Libraries will continue to develop our events programme, engaging with individuals and communities through our branches, availing of national funding opportunities where possible, including Creative Ireland, while operating within the constraints of local funding.

## ARCHIVES AND MANAGEMENT OF RECORDS

The collective memory of the people of Galway is of vital importance in preserving cultural identities, in bridging the past and the present and in shaping the future. The documentary heritage residing in Galway County Council Archives constitutes a major part of that memory and reflects the diversity of the people, history and culture of the county. The Archives strives on a continual basis to preserve, manage and make accessible that memory. It undertakes to provide *bona fide* users access to the archives consistent with preservation requirements and within the limitations of available resources. The Section also provides policy advice to the Council on the care and management of its records.

- ❖ Continued to provide access to information on Galway County Council’s archival holdings through its descriptive lists and its fully searchable on-line catalogue, and through various archival portals, and social media posts.
- ❖ Continued processing archive collections<sup>2</sup>.



*Items from the Mack / Warren Thompson archive collection, GP11/, prior to processing*

<sup>2</sup> Collections / items processed and added to the online catalogue include Irish Red Cross, Water Safety Trophies, GS20/01; Galway County Development Team CDT/, 1965-1975; Galway City and County Enterprise Board, CCEB/, 1992-1998 ; Mack / Warren Thompson Collection, GP11/, 1825-1991; Loughrea Town Court Register (Nuisance Offences), 1878-1883, GS20/02; O'Brien, Joseph Contractor's Ledger, 1850-1864, GS20/03 ; Allied Irish Bank (AIB), Title Documents and Maps, 1852-1994, GS20/04; various Galway County Council accruals including to the series for Fairs & Markets (GC/CC/151/) and Piers & Harbours (GC/CSO/002/).

- ❖ Continued the programme of providing security backup and reference surrogates to collections, through the digitisation programme. Items included in the 2020 programme include Loughrea Poor Law Union (13 volumes, GPL2/); Galway County Libraries Committee Minutes, G01/5, Ballinasloe Town Commissioners, BT1/ (3 volumes) and Port Sanitary Authority, GPSA/1, (1 volume), and volumes of Galway County Council Manager's Orders (1960-1979)
- ❖ While on-site access to collections for research purposes was suspended for most of 2020 due to Covid19 restrictions, assistance with research queries, and the provision of research advice and guidance continued virtually.
- ❖ Monitored the environmental conditions of the archives and endeavoured to ensure their continued protection, preservation and management, despite storage facilities not meeting internationally acceptable preservation standards.



*Irish Red Cross, Water Safety Trophies, (GS20/01), 1954-1963, added to the Archives collection in 2020*

- ❖ Outreach activities were curtailed throughout the year, but did include
  - Lecture on Galway County Council Archives as part of the NUIG Spring Town Hall Talks 2020 programme, in March, just prior to lockdown.
  - 2020 marks the centenary of the local elections of 1920, which were pivotal in the history of Local Government in Ireland. As part of Local Government Archivists and Records Managers (LGARM) group worked to compile and produce the publication, ['Democracy and Change: the 1920 Local Elections in Ireland'](#) funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.
  - Issued numerous social media posts highlighting the archive collection.



- Article in *JOTS* on the Waldron Notes (GS12/10).



- ❖ Provided advice on records management best practice and assistance to Sections, as required.
- ❖ Continued the management of non-current record transfers to storage (approx. 7,152 boxes of managed material currently in commercial storage); 1,068 recall requests processed in 2020. At the end of 2020 there were just over 129,000 entries on ArcLink, the records management database.

### Strategic Goal

**To improve, protect and promote our environment, culture, heritage and language in the interests of present and future generations.**

## PROMOTION OF THE IRISH LANGUAGE

Galway County Council is committed to improving services through Irish and to continue to meet the relevant obligations under the Official Languages Act 2003 together with the implementation of an Scéim Teanga. The Council also looks to support and promote the Irish language throughout the County. Some of the activities undertaken in 2020 were:

## Lá na Gaeilge

In March, a now annual event, ‘Lá na Gaeilge’, was organised during Seachtain na Gaeilge (1-17 March 2020), in which an opportunity was given to local members of the public, businesses, community groups and so on, who conduct their business through Irish, to showcase their work to the general public in Áras an Chontae for the day. A musical showcase was also organized during this time, in which a primary school group from County Galway performed for staff and the general public. This event was held prior to the Covid19 restrictions being implemented by the Government.



*LeasChathaoirleach Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly welcoming Cappataggle Central School to Áras an Chontae for Lá na Gaeilge, Déardaoin 12 Márta, 2020*



*A musical performance in Áras an Chontae*



*Fun and activities on Lá na Gaeilge, with a puppet making workshop and show for the children and displays for the general public and staff of Galway County Council.*

## Ard-Fheis na nÓg, Rosmuc, Conamara

Galway County Council co-funded and supported the Ard-Fheis na nÓg event, that was organised by Conradh na Gaeilge. It was held over the course of two days on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020 (prior to Covid19 restrictions) in Ros Muc, in the heart of the Connemara Gaeltacht. It attracted secondary school pupils from all over the country, as well as local schools in the Conamara and Galway Gaeltacht areas.

The event provided an excellent opportunity for the pupils to get to know each other through the medium of Irish. It also provided a public platform for the pupils and encouraged the voice of young people, for them to express their opinions on a range of topics relating to their own lives.



*From left: Máirín Ní Choistealbha Seoighe; Úna Ní Eidhin, Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe; LeasChathaoirleach Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly, Cáitlín Nic Aoidh, Peadar Mac Fhlannacha, Conradh na Gaeilge, Geraldine Healy, Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe and Briocán Bairéad*



*The group of students who attended Ard-Fheis na nÓg in Ros Muc*



*Promoting Gaeilge through events and activities at Ard-Fheis na nÓg #Gaeilge*

## **Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta Phádraig Mhic Phiarais 2020 / Pádraig Pearse Scholarships 2020**

Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta Phádraig Mhic Phiarais 2020 / Pádraig Pearse Scholarships 2020 were provided again this year by Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe in collaboration with Summer Colleges in Conamara. 12 scholarships in total were provided to second level students in the County of Galway to attend Gaeltacht Summer Courses. Unfortunately, due to Covid19 restrictions, the courses themselves had to be postponed until Summer 2021.

## **Community Support**

The Irish language was specifically included as a category in the Community Support Scheme in 2020. Small scale grants totalling €8,490.00 were approved for projects by Community & Voluntary Organisations to support the promotion and increased use of the Irish language.

## **Promotion of Gaeilge**

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe continued its support of the promotion of Irish in communities throughout the County through sponsorship of a Glór na nGael Award, which was presented to Craobh Mhaigh Cuilinn, Co. na Gaillimhe, in February 2020.

The email address [gaeilge@cocogaillimh.ie](mailto:gaeilge@cocogaillimh.ie) continues to be promoted to customers as part of enhanced service delivery.

Irish language classes (beginner and intermediate levels) were organised for staff of the local authority and classes were also available for Councillors who expressed an interest in same. Options for possible immersion courses for Councillors and Staff were also sought.

Information and consultation continues to be provided to staff of Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe regarding language duties, obligations and legislation, including ensuring bilingualism on [www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie) / [www.gaillimh.ie](http://www.gaillimh.ie), in line with our language scheme.

Mobile Simultaneous translation equipment continued to be available for Council meetings or other meetings at which translation may have been required.

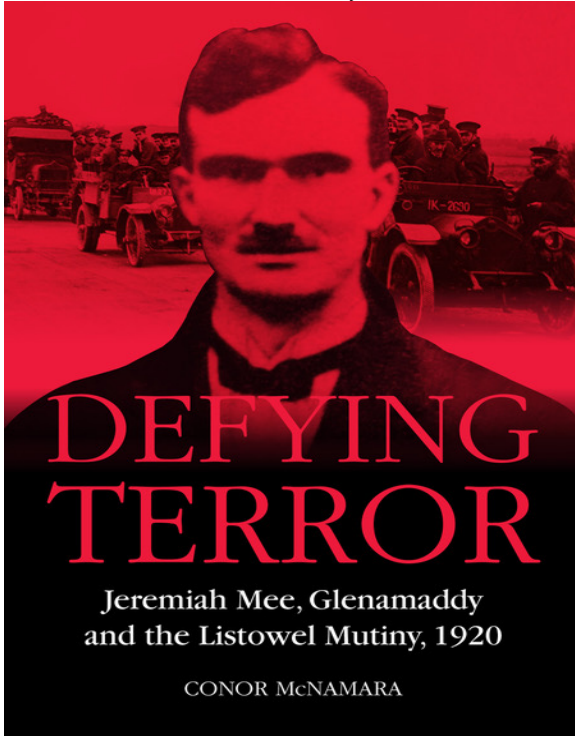
## **Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga**

The Council continued to co-operate with Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga, in dealing with issues raised by members of the public, regarding Irish language services and legislation.

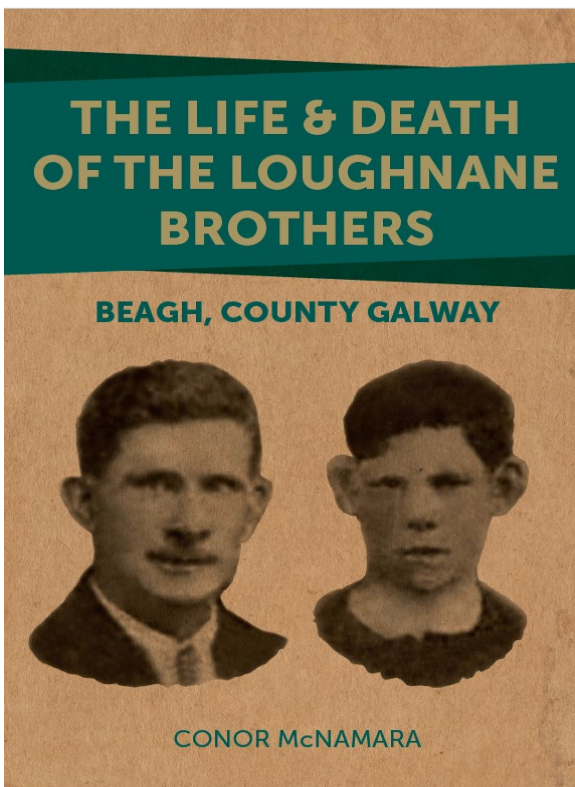
## DECADE OF COMMEMORATIONS 2013 – 2023

### Decade of Commemoration

Two new publications were produced in 2020, the first of which was entitled *Defying Terror: Jeremiah Mee, Glenamaddy and the Listowel Mutiny, 1920*.



This book was produced to mark the centenary of the Listowel Mutiny, led by Galway native, Jeremiah Mee, and his comrades in Listowel RIC barracks, who resigned from the police rather than had their barracks over the Crown Forces in June 1920.



The second publication is entitled *The Life & Death of the Loughnane Brothers, Beagh, Co Galway*. The kidnapping and murder of Volunteers Harry and Patrick Loughnane of Shanaglish in South Galway was one of the most brutal events of the War of Independence. This short study examines the events surrounding the murders, the local reaction in the district and the wider actions of the Volunteers and the Crown Forces in South Galway during this terrible period.

## Decade of Commemorations Website

Further information was added to the Decade of Commemoration bi-lingual website in partnership with GMIT Heritage Studies.

## ‘Changing Times’ Loughrea Memorial Group Virtual Conference

This conference was organised by Galway County Council in partnership with Loughrea Memorial Group. This conference was supported by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht under the Community Strand of the Decade of Centenaries programme. It is an action of Galway County Council’s Decade of Commemoration Strategy 2013-2023. The topics covered related to the following: *Galway Soldiers who defied the Crown, James Daly and the Indian Mutiny of the Connaught Rangers; Treating 'trauma': Galway's female revolutionary doctors; Connacht in the Military Service (1916 – 1923) Pensions Collection and Terror in County Galway: The Life and Death of the Loughnane Brothers of Beagh, 1920.*

The online lectures have been viewed by over 5000 people to date.





## Strategic Goal

**To ensure that quality customer service is at the centre of everything we do.**

## CUSTOMER SERVICES

- The email address, [customerservices@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:customerservices@galwaycoco.ie) and [gaeilge@cocogaillimh.ie](mailto:gaeilge@cocogaillimh.ie) remains a central point of access to information for Staff and Customers alike. Staff are asked to submit information on projects, campaigns, events, works etc. so that the Customer Services Team are aware what events are taking place across the Council and are better informed to handle queries. The general public can also email these addresses with general queries, which are acknowledged and directed to the relevant sections as required for their attention and direct reply.
- The Customer Services Officers Group (CSOG) continued to meet over 2020. The CSOG is comprised of staff representatives from all the main service areas.
- Customer Services continued to moderate and process Fix Your Street cases and follow up on outstanding cases with relevant sections. Fix Your Street is a national programme and is an on-line public forum where issues can be submitted by location to the relevant local authority.
- The centralised system for Public Notices continued in 2020 to enhance our Corporate Image in the Print Media, to generate savings through shared advertising space and meet our requirements under National Procurement Framework. Advance copies of public notices prior to notices appearing in the various newspapers appear on Social Media and are sent to Elected Members with relevant contact details included.
- Customer Services is the central point of contact on behalf of Galway County Council for the government portal for Public Consultations.
- Customer Services continues to maintain the system of re-formatting new application forms and updating existing forms when requested. We now have 292 forms and memorandums in total on our register/coding system, available via our website.
- Door access system cards and car park fobs continue to be issued and maintained by Customer Services.

### Customer Services Desk and Communications Centre

- The Customer Services Desk continues to be operated to provide efficient referral/query handling for customers as they enter Áras an Chontae. The phone service continues to be operated from the Customer Services Communications Centre on the second floor of Áras an Chontae.
- Corporate Services staff based in Customer Services are assigned to support the Mobile Phone Policy of the organisation and day to day administration of the account.

## Communications and Social Media

- Further increased use of Social Media (Twitter, FB) with 12,784 followers on Facebook and 15,100 followers on Twitter as of end of December 2020 and this is continuing to grow daily.
- Social Media has been integrated with Advertising and other Promotional Campaigns of the Council and specific attention given to the use of Social Media during severe weather events. There has been an increase in the posting of events on behalf of staff with a focus on Road Works, Water Disruptions and any other day to day events happening throughout the County.
- The Customer Services team participated in ‘Your Council Day’ twitter campaign nationally as coordinated by the LGMA on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020.



#YourCouncilDay #DoLáSaChomhairle

Dé Céadaoin 1 Iúil 2020  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

☎ : 091-509000

✉ : [customerservices@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:customerservices@galwaycoco.ie)

🌐 : [www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie)

📍 : Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill,  
Galway H91 H6KX



Galway County Council #YourCouncilDay



*Even with extra pressure due to Covid19, our Fire Service continued with its amazing, essential work, along with training & promoting community fire safety #YourCouncilDay*



*Staff preparing and delivering Covid 19 Packs to groups involved with the #Galway County Covid-19 Community Response Forum #YourCouncilDay*



*Our Severe Weather Response Team during one of their meetings #YourCouncilDay*



*Appointments held as part of Issues Paper of their Consultation for our County Development Plan Review #YourCouncilDay*



*Our Community Wardens assisting in maintaining social distancing in Áras an Chontae #YourCouncilDay*



## ECONOMIC, RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Economic, Rural and Community Development Unit is responsible for coordinating local government services offered to the community, enterprise, cultural and sports sectors. The Department works with local communities helping them to bring about improvements in their local areas and also works with local businesses and enterprises to create employment in County Galway. The Department operates over a broad spectrum stretching from sport to culture, employment creation to the physical enhancement of local areas, attraction of Foreign Direct Investment to harnessing the potential of our natural resources and improving the quality of life and employment opportunities for all citizens in County Galway through sustainable development.

### Galway County COVID-19 Community Response Forum



On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020, Eoghan Murphy T.D., Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, wrote to the Chief Executives of all Local Authorities, requiring them to implement a High-Level Framework for Local Authority Community Response to COVID-19, to ensure supports and services were in place at local level to respond to the needs of individuals who were required to cocoon as a result of the public health measures introduced in the first lockdown. The Community Development Section was tasked with co-ordinating the implementation of this Framework which required the following structures to be put in place by Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March:

- A COVID-19 Community Response Forum comprising all relevant stakeholders to ensure that vulnerable individuals were identified and supported, in addition to promoting awareness and information on the latest public health measures and guidelines to limit the spread of COVID-19. A Forum was established comprising representatives from other public agencies including An Garda Síochána, HSE, Department of Social Welfare, An Post, Tusla, Udaras na Gaeltachta, in addition to other local service providers such as Disability Federation of Ireland, IFA, GAA, Local Development Companies, Galway Volunteer Centre, Local Link, Volunteer Ambulance Services, Public Participation Network, and a representative from the Age Friendly Alliance.
- A dedicated listing of Community Groups and Voluntary Organisations who would provide collection & delivery services at local level. We were very fortunate to be able to establish this Community Call listing at an early stage as some Elected Members and Community Groups had already established supports in their area, the GAA had established a liaison with Supervalu and Centra through “Club Together”, and the PPN communicated with their extensive membership across the County to contribute to the process of establishing structures to cover all areas.
- A dedicated Community Response Helpline and e-mail address, in addition to a Call Centre, had to be established to log and deal with all requests for assistance, in addition to providing advice and signposting to all other services.

In the early stages, the efforts of the Department focused on putting in place the necessary support and administrative structures to ensure the Community Response Helpline and Forum could operate effectively, for example, establishing a Case Management System to log and monitor requests for assistance, a map of Community Call Groups which was published on our website, a Procedures Manual to enable us to respond to a wide range of scenarios, a Letter of Authorisation to travel for all staff and volunteers involved in the Community Call, and a Protocol for Volunteers to enable them to

deal with requests in accordance with public health measures, data protection, and all national requirements in dealing with the delivery of shopping, meals, prescriptions, pensions, and any other services which were required. In addition, Galway Volunteer Centre were instrumental in establishing and implementing processes to ensure all volunteers in the Community Call were Garda-Vetted. These practical supports were organised in tandem with an awareness campaign through the Community Response Forum partners and local media, in addition to a targeted national media campaign.

Almost 2,000 individuals signed up to volunteer in the County, either through the Galway Volunteer Centre or with the 110 Community Groups and Organisations who signed up to be part of the Community Call, which is evidence of the amazing community spirit which was displayed throughout the pandemic across our communities. In the first 6 weeks of operation, the Community Response Helpline dealt with 580 calls. Initially, approximately 25% of these calls were for practical supports such as collection & delivery of shopping and medication, however, as individuals were linked in with groups operating at local level, the proportion of calls for practical supports reduced, and the majority of calls were for signposting to other services and information.

The Community Response Forum met regularly throughout the year to share information on the activities being undertaken by each partner organisation, and to discuss emerging areas of need at local level. One of the areas recognised as an ongoing issue was mental wellbeing due to loneliness and social isolation, and a number of initiatives were introduced by Forum Members to implement Phase 2 of the Community Response which was aimed at helping our Communities and Individuals to maintain wellbeing:

- The Housing Department sent Care Packs to all Traveller families living in Traveller-specific accommodation.
- The Library Service made telephone contact with all older or vulnerable housing tenants to check on their wellbeing and link them in with the Community Response Helpline if required. In addition, the Libraries provided a range of online talks on mental health, coping mechanisms, online story times in various languages, lockdown reading recommendations and an amended easy registration for library services.
- The Local Development Companies and Udarás na Gaeltachta contacted all of their clients and worked with local groups to circulate a list of shops and pharmacies with local delivery arrangements and re-allocated RSS and TUS Supervisors to buddy up with individuals who required ongoing supports.
- An Garda Síochána linked in with all Community Alert groups and individuals on the Vulnerable Persons Register to provide practical and social supports.
- Galway Sports Partnership shared daily exercise videos from Age & Opportunity and distributed a home exercise DVD and booklet to older adults who did not have an online presence. In addition, Galway Sports Partnership delivered a range of online exercise sessions on their own social media outlets, in addition to an Active Homework Challenge for families.
- Healthy Galway developed an Exercise Leaflet designed in partnership with HSE Physio Services, comprising 8 gentle stretches for older people, and circulated these via groups in the Community Call.
- The Heritage Office invited communities to celebrate the heritage of their local area through initiatives such as Galway Beo and Virtual Tidy Towns.
- A Wellbeing Booklet containing a range of information and advice on physical and mental wellbeing, as well as activities and challenges, was prepared and circulated with an Activity Pack to over 3,000 older people.



*All hands on deck creating Care Packs for distribution to individuals who have been cocooning*

With the announcement of Level 5 Lockdown restrictions from midnight on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020, the Government expanded the role of the Community Response Forum to promoting community resilience through community outreach and proactive initiatives to enable individuals to keep well. The Chief Executive issued a Press Release promoting the continued availability of the Community Response Helpline and Community Call, and although requests for assistance to the Community Response Helpline were low during Level 5 restrictions, this did not take account of individuals who had already linked in with local supports and were receiving continued support through these vital structures. A Community Resilience Fund of €67,225 was allocated to Galway County Council, and the Community Department co-ordinated with other Units and the Community Response Forum to put in place a programme of events to take place over 2020 and 2021 primarily under the themes of “Keeping in Contact” and “Switching Off and getting Creative”. Some of the events which took place in 2020 under the local “Keep Well” Campaign were:

- An online resource on the Council’s website consisting of tips and tricks across the 5 themes (Keeping Active, Keeping in Contact, Switching Off and getting creative, Eat Well, Minding Your Mood) and signposting to additional resources and services.
- A collaboration between the Community Department and the HSE to develop a “Keep Well” booklet containing advice and information for older adults on how to maintain physical, mental and emotional wellbeing, and accompanying videos created by HSE professionals working in each of the service areas. Over 6,000 booklets were distributed through HSE and Community Call Networks throughout the County.
- A collaboration between the Community Department and the PPN to create a series of activities and Care Packs to reach out to vulnerable members of communities at Christmas.
- An online Traditional Singing event to keep families connected at Christmas.
- A Cathaoirleach On-Call initiative whereby on request, the Cathaoirleach would send a personalised Christmas Card to those who may be alone, or in Nursing Homes, at Christmas
- A return of GAA Legends On-Call which had been hugely popular earlier in the year, whereby on request, a GAA Legend of Hurling or Football would ring an individual for a chat.
- Signposting to HSE “Stress Control”, “Minding Your Wellbeing” and “Living Well” online courses aimed at managing individual wellbeing during these difficult times.

## Funding

The COVID-19 pandemic had a detrimental financial impact on all sectors, therefore, a vital function for the Community Department was circulating and distributing information in relation to national funding sources for various sectors. In addition to the targeting of existing funding schemes to respond to local needs due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Rural and Community Development provided a specific COVID-19 Emergency Fund to enable the local authority to fund vital frontline services and respond to local needs which were identified in collaboration with the Community Response Forum. The allocation received by Galway County Council was €85,789 which was distributed as follows:

- €12,100 to frontline services for food vouchers in recognition of the financial hardships being experienced due to lockdown, particularly for families.
- €16,650 to Meals on Wheels services, in recognition of the increased demands upon their services, most of which had doubled over the course of the pandemic.
- €9,300 for Voluntary Organisations and Charities for online technology aids, in recognition of the need to facilitate continued engagement with vulnerable individuals and clients.
- €36,726 for PPE Equipment and adaptation of premises of frontline services to enable them to deliver services safely.
- €7,000 for Groups/Organisations to prepare and distribute Resource Packs to vulnerable individuals for their continued wellbeing and mental health.
- The remainder of the fund was attributed to cover volunteer expenses and bulk purchase of PPE which was distributed by the Local Development Companies to individual and group volunteers delivering supports in their areas.

### **Strategic Goal**

**To facilitate the broadest possible participation by citizens in local decision making and the sustainable development of their communities and their county**

## **GALWAY COUNTY LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)**

The Galway County Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) has 19 members drawn from the public and private sectors. The membership brings together the expertise and skills of people actively working in local development and community development with local authority members, officials, and state agencies, to implement a joined-up, cross-sectoral approach to local and community development programmes. Cllr. Noel Thomas was elected as Chairperson of the LCDC in November 2020, and at that meeting, Mr. Terry Keenan was appointed Vice-Chairperson. Mr. Kieran Coyne, A/Senior Executive Officer, has held the position of Chief Officer since November 2020.



The LCDC has direct oversight and responsibility for some funding schemes in addition to the roll-out and monitoring of the delivery of SICAP (Social Inclusion and Community Activation



Programme) which is in line with their key function to achieve a more strategic, joined-up approach to local and community development. These funding schemes were re-aligned by the Department of Rural and Community Development to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the LCDC were central to the process of identifying local needs and tailoring expenditure and programmes to meet these needs.

## SICAP (Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme) 2018-2022

The SICAP (Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme) provides funding to tackle poverty and social exclusion and supports disadvantaged communities and individuals including unemployed people, people living in deprived areas, people with disabilities, single parent families, people on a low income, members of the Traveller and Roma community and other disadvantaged groups. Following the initial lockdown in March 2020, the basic needs of clients became the priority, rather than a focus on lifelong learning and labour market supports to promote employment opportunities. A County Response Plan was drawn up to identify the challenges arising due to lockdown and the appropriate responses, and based on this Plan, some of the activities during 2020 were as follows:



- Galway Rural Development CLG worked with other agencies, in particular Tusla-led Child and Family Support Networks, to pinpoint and assist vulnerable and isolated persons, and also assist individuals in the preparation of social welfare forms. There was an increased focus on disseminating official information and useful resources through social media platforms which grew to almost 9,000 followers, a ten-fold increase since the start of the SICAP programme.
- The provision of food parcels and food supports was vital due to the added pressures on disadvantaged families from children being at home full-time. In addition, the LCDC approved the redeployment of 2 staff members to Food Cloud in Oranmore, to assist in packing and distribution of food supplies to those in need.
- Funding was diverted towards grants to support communities, and a total of €83,000 was distributed to over 38 community groups to provide funding for food, PPE, children's activity equipment educational materials, etc., with a particular focus on assisting disadvantaged areas, Traveller Organisations and Organisations supporting People with Disabilities.
- A total of €9,000 was allocated towards grants to individuals for lifelong learning and upskilling. The average grant was €350 and the range of courses provided included social care, special needs training and business courses for women; and chainsaw, forklift, and health & safety courses for men. Over the course of the year, additions were made to the existing suite of online courses, such as HACCP Certified courses, TEFL, Driver Theory, Personal Development, etc.
- Galway Rural Development CLG worked closely with the COVID-19 Community Response Forum and arranged 2 bulk purchases of PPE during the year for distribution to Community Groups who were caring for vulnerable individuals in their local area. In addition, PPE was provided for Family Carers and was distributed in partnership with Galway Volunteer Centre, who organised volunteers to help with the distribution of the PPE across the County.
- The New Communities Women's Group continued to be supported by SICAP and digital equipment was loaned to enable them to continue to participate in group activities online.

Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, SICAP responded to the changing needs at local level and was a vital element of the COVID-19 Community Response efforts at County level. In addition, the programme was adapted for online and telephone delivery of supports very quickly, resulting in the achievement of both KPI's in a difficult year. In reviewing the supports provided

during 2020 and the emerging issues, the LCDC selected “Older People” as the emerging needs group for SICAP supports for 2021, particularly in relation to issues which had been highlighted during the lockdown, i.e. lack of online skills & digital devices, loneliness and social isolation, and the focus will be on implementing initiatives and supports to counteract these issues. A SICAP Case Study is prepared each year to demonstrate the impact of the Programme, and for 2020, the SICAP grants were selected and a Video Story was developed to demonstrate the breadth of supports and the impact which these had on beneficiaries.

## HEALTHY IRELAND FUND

Healthy Ireland is a Government-led initiative which aims to create an Irish society where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health, and where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was not possible to commence community engagement & information sessions at venues across the County as envisaged. Therefore, a revised Programme of Work was submitted to Pobal which aimed to move activities online where possible and reallocate savings to additional activities. These revisions were approved, in addition to the transfer of allocated monies from Year 1 to Year 2 of the Programme which is envisaged to be extended under 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

An allocation of €30,000 was received by the Galway County LCDC for Community Mental Health Fund Small Grants between €2,000 - €5,000, and this was allocated across 6 projects encompassing wellbeing activities, creative activities, a pilot social prescribing initiative, and other online programmes to foster community wellbeing.



## COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME 2020

The Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) provides funding to communities to enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas or promote inclusion of disadvantaged groups. It is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and administered by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) in each Local Authority area. Two rounds of funding were received under the programme during 2020, with both targeted at addressing local needs arising in local communities at the time:

- A total of €63,249 was received in Round 1 of the Community Enhancement Programme and the primary focus was on re-opening of community facilities following the first lockdown. A total of 44 grants were awarded primarily for adaptations and/or PPE at Community Facilities in addition to a range of small-scale grants under €1,000 for equipment and amenity works.
- A total of €159,940 was received in Round 2 of the Community Enhancement Programme and the primary focus was on capital grants towards the maintenance, improvement and upkeep of community centres and community facilities. A total of 65 grants were awarded primarily towards energy efficiency works at Community Centres with grants ranging up to €10,000.

## LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP)

The purpose of the LECP is to set out, for a 6-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support economic and community development in the County, in partnership with other socio-economic stakeholders. The LCDC is responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the community elements of the LECP, whereas the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC are responsible for implementation and monitoring of the economic elements of the LECP. Throughout

the year, priority actions in the LECP were targeted under the LCDC funding schemes and in addition, the LCDC received presentations on other elements of the LECP including rural funding, Broadband Connection Points (BCP's), the Music Generation Programme, the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) and the development of a Migrant Integration Strategy. Departmental Guidelines on a full review of the LECP are expected in 2021, however, in the absence of same, the LCDC continues to address priority objectives throughout the range of programmes and supports across all of the agencies.

## GALWAY COUNTY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

Galway County Public Participation Network (PPN) is a network which is open to all community and voluntary groups based in the County. The purpose of the PPN is to allow these groups to have their voices heard within the formal decision-making structures of the Council and the PPN is also the main link through which the Council connects with groups active throughout the County. During the year, Ms. Charlotte May was appointed initially as PPN Support Worker in February 2020 and was subsequently appointed as Acting PPN Resource Worker in June 2020, and in September 2020, Mary Mullen was appointed to the role of PPN Support Worker. Despite these staffing changes and the significant challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, at the end of 2020, the PPN reached a significant milestone of 1,000 Member Groups, making it one of the largest PPN's in the country.



While the activities of the PPN as set out in the original Workplan and Budget were severely restricted due to COVID-19, the PPN played a vital role in the COVID-19 Community Response Forum as outlined earlier, primarily in terms of building up the number of groups in the Community Call, and acting as an information hub for distribution of information on public health measures and other advice for communities. The following is a summary of the PPN activities under their 3 main categories of activity:

### Information-Sharing and Communication:

A significant focus of the PPN as part of their role in the COVID-19 Community Response Forum was to keep all Member Groups updated on the latest public health measures and signposting to supports and resources. A COVID-19 Section was established on the PPN's website, and in addition, dedicated newsletters and leaflets were distributed to Members. Significant work also took place on the PPN website with a view to better sharing of information from PPN Representatives on Committees. Due to the increased importance of funding schemes to Community & Voluntary Groups, a series of Webinars were organised during the year to provide information on rural funding schemes, Community Enhancement Programme, including targeted advice for Community Groups on how to re-open their facilities in compliance with public health requirements.

### Build Capacity of PPN to contribute to their local area:

The original workplan outlining training and development for the year had to be significantly revised due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with a revised focus on delivering online training in areas identified by PPN Members through a training needs survey conducted in May. Some online courses which were delivered as an outcome of the survey were through a series of Tuesday Trainings including "How to write Funding Applications", "Designing a website for your Group", "Growing your Groups Online Presence". A later series of Wednesday Workshops focused on "Setting up Systems for Groups", "Strategic Planning for Groups" and a Workshop was also held on the Sustainable Development Goals during the year. In addition, in light of the number of PPN groups involved in delivering supports at

local level, there was a particular focus on sharing the webinar series of Volunteer Ireland, which focused on volunteer management during COVID-19.

#### Facilitate Participation in Decision-Making and Representation:

During the year, 2 Secretariat vacancies were filled and in addition, 1 representative was nominated to the Galway Sports Partnership and 1 replacement nominee was made to the Climate Change & Biodiversity SPC. All nomination and election processes were completed online. In light of the PPN's role in representing the voice of the community, a particular focus in 2020 was on the voice of groups at particular risk of not being heard. In particular, the Galway County PPN, together with other Organisations, signed a "Joint Statement on the Rights of People with Disabilities during COVID-19" which advocates for a number of actions to ensure access to information, health services, and person-centred supports. In order to strengthen the representative role of the PPN, a number of Linkage Groups were established during the year - one of these was the Galway Disability Forum who made a submission to the Joint Committee on Disability Matters. The PPN's Green Recovery Working Group also made a call for a ban on the sale of Wet Wipes in an open letter to Minister Eamon Ryan. In order to strengthen representation of minority communities, an Intercultural Forum was established within the PPN, and the Older Persons Council representing the voices of older people was also formally established within the structures of the PPN. The PPN organised a consultation event with its member groups and collated a Submission to the Galway County Development Plan on behalf of its members and communities. The PPN also co-ordinated and organised Make Way Day 2020 in collaboration with the Council and the Disability Federation of Ireland.

## **SOCIAL INCLUSION**

The Local Authority and Public Participation Network (PPN) both have a role in ensuring representation of socially excluded or minority groups and ensuring their voices are heard. While much of the COVID-19 Community Response work revolved around social inclusion, some additional work by the Community Development Section in this area occurred as follows:

- A collaboration with the Housing Unit to celebrate National Play Day on 4<sup>th</sup> July, by providing and distributing Play Packs to families in areas with high rates of deprivation.
- Social Inclusion Week was held virtually from 19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> October and small-scale funding was provided for 12 events to celebrate participation, equality and inclusion.
- Co-ordinated 3 meetings of the Traveller Interagency Group to discuss implementation of the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy.
- Comhairle na nÓg continued to meet online and were very proactive in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by preparing a "Top Tips during Lockdown" booklet aimed specifically at young people maintaining their wellbeing during the pandemic. Their 2020 chosen topic was mental health and the Comhairle members carried out a survey through second-level schools on the mental health status of young people during COVID-19, and also incorporated a workshop on mental health as part of their online AGM. At the AGM, the topic which was selected for 2021 was "Body Positivity and Self-Confidence", and in addition, a launch of the Mental Health Survey and an accompanying Radio Advert and Campaign around Mental Health was planned.

The Age Friendly Alliance held 2 meetings during the year but many of the agencies were already represented on the Community Response Forum and carrying out supports and services aimed at older people. A full update on all of the funding and activities initiated through the Community Response Forum was provided to the Age Friendly Alliance at their December Meeting, while 4 meetings of the Older Persons Council Executive Committee were held during the year to update them on developments and stay connected throughout the pandemic.

## SPORTS

Galway Sports Partnership (GSP) plays a lead role in the co-ordination, development and delivery of sport and physical activity opportunities for the communities of Galway, and key activities throughout 2020 included:

- Sourced and secured sufficient funding from available sources – Sport Ireland, Dormant Accounts, Local Authorities, HSE and Government Departments to fund the Operations of Galway Sports Partnership in 2020. Funding from Sport Ireland, HSE Dormant Accounts Funds and Dept. of Transport, Tourism and Sport secured to run all programmes in 2020.
- Sports Hub-Ballinasloe hub equipment - secured funding from Dormant Accounts Fund.
- Secured funding for and oversaw the implementation of Sport Ireland Programmes and other programmes in our five-year Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020, with particular emphasis on the GSP main target groups. Programmes included Outdoor Adventure, Women on the Water, Youth at Risk Programme, Walking Football for Older Adults, Senior Circuits, Buggy Buddies, Midnight Soccer, Meet & Train.



Funding secured and programmes implemented. Some complete, others in progress to end of year.

- Established Sports Linkage Groups in consultation with the County PPN. This is ongoing.
- Organised community walks as part of Operation Transformation in association with local communities across Galway. – 14 walks organised, 2052 people took part altogether across Galway.
- Increased participation in sport and physical activities, through GSP Programme Funding. Activity programmes – Women on the Water, Youth @ Risk, Senior circuits – all organised, some completed and others still in progress to end of year. See also below under HSE funded programmes, schools programmes and Disability programmes.
- Delivered Training Programmes – Safeguarding 1, 2 and 3, Activity leader, First Aid, Walking leader, Cycle Training, Disability Inclusion Training, Disability Awareness Training, Coaching Children Workshops,
- Most of our training and education programmes are now being run online due to Covid-19 restrictions.
- Delivered Disability specific programmes – boccia, walking football, learn 2 cycle, Boccia ongoing, learn to cycle programme being delivered in Presentation National school.
- Delivered walking programmes, swimming programmes, Men on the Move programmes and Couch 2 5K programmes across Galway. HSE funded programmes, - 3 Men on the Move, 4 Couch 2 5K , 8 Buggy Buddies programmes, Disability Swimming programme completed.
- Delivered the Be Active After Schools and Mile Walk programme to primary schools across Galway. All these programmes delivered and finalised.
- Arranged and facilitated meetings of GSP Steering group and relevant workgroups throughout 2020. One online meeting held and workshops planned for remainder of the year.
- Applied to and secured funding from the DTT&S towards the delivery of events and programmes for Bike Week 2020. A total of 25 events, 11 in the county took place as part of Bike Week celebrations involving a total of 702 persons, adults and children.
- Organised and delivered physical activity programmes for older adults as part of the Bealtaine festival 2020. Printed and distributed older adults exercise leaflets around the county.



**Strategic Goal**

**To maximise the continued and sustainable economic and enterprise development of our county**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES**

- Worked with the Broadband Officer and other stakeholders in the preparation of the Digital Strategy for County Galway and assisted in identification of locations for Broadband Connection Points.
- Progressed relevant actions under the Regional Enterprise Plan to 2020 West and participated at Committee level.

- Worked with the WDC and Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC) network on regional projects, including the development of hubs along the AEC and developed content for ‘More to Life’ campaign and development of Talent Tool.
- Administered Hub Outreach Scheme and assisted new hubs in progressing via funding and advice.
- Continued to work with GRD on funding and supports available through the three-year Artisan Fund.
- Development of ERG legacy projects such as the Discover Galway series to be continued beyond 2020
- Progressed the development (currently at construction stage) of the BIA Innovator Campus, Ireland West Food and Rural Development Innovation Hub in association with the CLG and partners. Continued to provide strategic leadership in an advisory capacity and at Director level on the Board and provided financial support including assistance with grant applications and administration. The project was delayed as construction has been impacted by Covid-19 and all parties continue to work in partnership to ensure delivery. Elements of the project have been adjusted to take account of the new environment and future workings. The project when completed will be a significant asset in the region and will help the recovery and job creation.



*Image Source: BIA tender documents*



- Continued scoping work on the potential for a Galway Food Strategy to be developed in association with the BIA Innovator Campus and the LEO.
- Ongoing role in the management of the Airport site including the management of a number of short-term leases/licences such as the Galway Flying Club. Worked with the Planning Department and engaged with a number of stakeholders in relation to the longer-term development options for the Former Galway Airport Site at Carnmore to secure optimum economic benefit for the Galway region.
- Facilitated agreement with the Health Services Executive for use of part of the Property at the airport site as a testing facility in connection with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic.
- Facilitated Galway 2020 Flagship Commission by Branar at the airport site “Sruth Na Teanga” Teatár de Pháisti.
- Facilitated Royal Visit landing at the Airport Site, Liaised with Department of Foreign Affairs, British Embassy, RAF, An Garda Síochána, Army, Aircorps and Armed Response Unit.

## TOURISM

- Progressed the work done previously on the Tourism Strategy, to create a strong long-term vision for tourism through a clearly researched evidence based Tourism Strategy that attracts significant investment for the County. Process to be initiated in 2021 following the decimation of the Tourism Industry in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic.
- Set out project proposal and management of Capital Investment funding for Destination Towns, where Galway County Council will add to Failte Ireland award; with a total fund of €666k to

support a number of town centre enhancements including a visitor facing signage strategy and public realm improvements in Clifden.

- Supported the RRDF application for Clifden which was awarded over €700k to enable Galway County Council to develop a masterplan for the enhancement of Clifden with improvements planned to the public realm in the town centre, on Beach Road and proposals to develop the Harbour Park, a crucial amenity for the town. It is also proposed that a remote working hub will support an increase in economic activity in the heart of Connemara.
- This combination of funding will enable the development of interventions which will build on the vibrancy of Clifden as a tourist destination as a hub on the Wild Atlantic Way, and increase even further its attractiveness as a place to visit, live and invest in.
- Developed a steering committee of multi-agency stakeholders to work together to drive the potential realisation of Portumna as a Tourism destination building on the Ireland Hidden Heartlands brand, the Shannon Masterplan and the Lough Derg Visitor Experience Destination Plan. The Tourism Officer and Regeneration Team worked up tourism aspects of applications for RRDF across a number of county towns; in Portumna; €1.2 million was allocated from the Department where the projects will include pre-development works to conserve and restore Portumna Courthouse to its former glory and begin a new life as a community arts, enterprise and tourism hub, as well as plans to improve the public realm and streetscape in partnership with local stakeholders. The project will also place a strong emphasis on way-finding and interpretation to animate the burgeoning visitor experience within the town with plans to integrate Portumna's unique heritage assets within Portumna Forest Park and Lough Derg.
- Developed a brief for branding, signage and wayfinding for Athenry to capitalise on RRDF funding by delivering tourism infrastructure improvements in the public realm. Project ongoing for delivery in '21.
- Developed opportunities for the Agri-Tourism Sector, building on the funding secured through the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine which supported over 40 local producers in Galway County through the Discover Galway series; actions included creating a training programme for producers wishing to expand into tourism projects through, online workshopping and separately, delivering a marketing strategy to promote and increase of the excellent food offering in the region.
- Planned and developed new Tourism product in the region for food producers, developing twelve on-farm visitor experiences and brochure for hospitality to be rolled out in 2021
- Developed a considerable bank of photography, commissioning 4 photographers to capture differing styles of image for tourism promotion, for PR, marketing and social media campaigns
- Evaluated and provided grants for over 45 festival and events; assisted new festivals, events and experiences to develop while providing mentoring and supports to reimagine festivals in time evolving government public health restrictions.
- Supported the initiation of a visitor facing marketing strategy that included setting up social media profiles on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook and reviewing the Discover Galway website with a view to delivering a consumer website to inform and inspire the visitor.
- Evaluated and supported the development and refreshment of the Lough Derg website in line with Government safety guidelines.
- Initiated the redevelopment of the Connemara.ie website including establishment of a new service level agreement for use with CGCA; supporting CGCA with LEADER funding for redevelopment. Attained Town and Village funding to develop a first time marketing strategy for Connemara and the Islands; including PR; social media strategy; photography and stakeholder engagement sessions
- Participation on the Connemara and Aran Islands Tourism Network (CAITN) in the rollout of the Connemara Visitor Experience Development Plan



- Supported Costa Gaelach Conamara & Arann in partnership with CAITN, FLAG West and Údarás na Gaeltachta to enable the engagement of a Tourism Officer and rollout of tourism initiatives for Connemara.
- Participated on and contributed to the Lough Derg Marketing group and commenced discussions with a number of key national and local partners for the development of destination experiences and investment in product development and business support.
- Supported promotion and development of Connemara Greenway and visitor facing outdoor recreation projects including application for Western Way and Derroua
- Supporting partners on the Athlone to Galway Greenway including public consultation process
- Continued to development strong working relationships with Failte Ireland to support the development and rollout of Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and the Wild Atlantic Way destination brands including scoping out key opportunities for the east of the County for the IHH brand which is a very welcome addition that will provided investment and growth in this region. Strong level of engagement with 3 Destination Recovery Taskforces in the County.
- Membership of GCC Creative Ireland team involved developing a tourism book of poetry and images which will be published in 2021



*Athenry Castle*

### ***Strategic Goal***

**To ensure that our physical and social infrastructure is sufficiently developed to support economic development, and to enhance our quality of life**

The Economic, Rural & Community Development Department supports the revitalisation of towns and villages to improve the living and working environment of their communities and increase their potential to support increased economic activity into the future.

## **STREETSCAPE ENHANCEMENT**

The Department developed 2 pilot Streetscape Enhancement Schemes for Athenry and Ballinasloe which are currently being implemented.

**RURAL REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND**

The Department is rolling out funding approvals under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) for the following locations;

**Athenry:**

An allocation of €3,554,000 has been made to Athenry Town and the BIA Innovator Campus. This project will provide a significant regeneration of Athenry Town with a number of improvements to be made in the Town Centre and will provide a significant level of funding to enable the delivery of the BIA Innovator Campus, Ireland West Food Innovation and Incubation Hub on the Teagasc Campus on the outskirts of the town. The BIA Innovator project which is led by Galway County Council in partnership with Teagasc, GRETB, SCCUL Enterprises, the WDC and Athenry Community Council involves collaboration among a wide range of partners and will deliver essential infrastructure and a tailored ecosystem to support the food, agri-food, rural development and rural tourism. The works to the town centre will see physical improvements and enhanced public realm, improvement to shop fronts and development of the Athenry Town Park. The works will be delivered collaboratively by a range of partners including the local area office, Athenry Community Council, Athenry Tidy Towns, Athenry Heritage Centre, the business community and a local social enterprise group.

**Tuam:**

An allocation of €175,000 has been made for the development of a comprehensive Tuam Regeneration Development Strategy. The contract for the development of the Tuam Masterplan was awarded to The Paul Hogarts Company in early 2020 and they worked closely with the Regeneration Team to progress the delivery of the plan. The first public consultation took place just prior to lockdown and the team altered the engagement to suit the prevailing public health circumstances, establishing a town team of key stakeholders to work with. This process proved to be very worthwhile and feedback and buy in from the different stakeholders being very positive. The plan was progressed significantly during the year with finalisation due in 2021.

**Loughrea:**

This project will regenerate Loughrea Town Hall, a derelict heritage building in the centre of the town, to provide a cultural, enterprise and tourism hub. This project will help drive growth in Loughrea and place an historic asset back into everyday use in the town centre. €1,628,879.00 has been approved with €125,000 of that to go towards proposed public realm works on Barrack Streets as per the original submission.

**Dunmore:**

An allocation of €960,909 has been made for works to assist the regeneration of Dunmore. The funding will enable the Council to develop the detailed design for the removal of derelict properties from Dunmore, create an improved aesthetic for Bridge Street and enhancing the remaining buildings in terms of accessibility and visibility.

**Kinvara:**

An allocation of €124,781 has been made for the Kinvara Boardwalk and Walkway. This project will realise connectivity between Kinvara and Dungaire Castle creating greater connectivity and building on the tourism potential of the town, Dungaire Castle and the Wild Atlantic Way. The Funding will enable the development of detailed designs and bring to planning stage a boardwalk and walkway

and provide safe pedestrian access from the village to this national heritage site and onto the tendered upgrade works on the N67.

#### **Portumna:**

The Department recently secured €1,192,855 in funding from RRDF for improvement works including Public Realm, Streetscape, Sculpture Park and Public Art, Urban Design Framework (Burgage Plots), Abbey Street development. The Department also prepared a preliminary design and Part 8 for Portumna Courthouse.

#### **Clifden:**

The Department also recently secured €792,030 in funding from RRDF for Clifden for improvement works including Public Realm, Harbour Park and Clifden co-working hub.

## **OTHER RURAL FUNDING SCHEMES**

The allocation received by Galway County Council for Rural Funding Schemes in 2020, marked the biggest investment in these Schemes since 2016. The Town and Village and CLÁR programme saw approval of 29 new projects with 7 Town and Village Projects approved in 2019, commencing at the end of 2020 after delays due to public health restrictions on construction. This programme of 36 projects in 36 communities across the County is ongoing and represents an investment of €2.167m. Schemes demonstrated a pivot towards supporting communities to address challenges inherent in adapting to COVID-19 with support for Broadband Connection Points, small hubs, rural and town infrastructure, amenities and promoting areas of the County including shopping in Ballinasloe, Connemara.ie and local retailers and designers under the Made in Galway / Shop Local directory. Adapting to working remotely, the Unit undertook a series of Webinars in association with the PPN to provide advice on Rural Schemes with over 90 communities representatives. In July, 109 Expressions of Interest were received by the Council. In the July to September period, €415k was secured for 15 communities from the Department of Community and Rural Development under three rounds of the new Town and Village Accelerated Measures. A further €690k was approved for 7 areas under the Main Town and Village Programme and €262k secured for 7 areas under the CLÁR programme. In 2020, the 2019 Main Town and Village Programme (€800k) was delayed due to construction restrictions but, commenced prior to year-end.

## **OUTDOOR RECREATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME**

The Department supported communities to secure funding under the Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) which is a scheme to develop outdoor recreational infrastructure which contributes to healthy active lifestyles and supports the economic and tourism potential of the locations for both local communities and visitors/tourists alike.

<b>Name of Project</b>	<b>Description of Project</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Approval:</b>
Connemara Trails & Eurovelo Route	Upgrade of existing 10km walking trail. Replacement of 2 bridges along the route of the Western Way. Upgrade of an existing mountain bike trail at Derroua Oughterard and	Cappahoosh Trail, Western Way Bridges Oughterard & Leenane, Derroua Bike Trail Oughterard, Eurovelo	€500,000

	the signing of the Eurovelo cycling route from the Mayo border at Leenane to the Clare border at Kinvara	Route Leenane to Kinvara	
The Walks Project	Continued regeneration of The Walks, specifically 3 sections from the river bend to the bank which will be repaired/restored.	Loughrea, Co. Galway	€200,000
Aughrane Forest Trail Project - Phase 1	Development and enhancement of trail.	Aughrane Forest, Ballygar, Co. Galway	€17,685
Glenamaddy Frass Looped Walks Phase 1	The minor upgrading of the existing bog road and upgrade of existing carpark.	Frass Clooncon Bog, Glenamaddy, Co. Galway	€18,000
Lismany Kylemore Boardwalk	Replacement/Upgrading of boardwalk and viewing platform	Lismany Kylemore Bog, Lawrencetown, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway	€20,000
Lismany Kylemore Trail	Trail Upgrade	Lismany Kylemore Bog, Lawrencetown, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway	€20,000
Clonbur Walking and Bicycle Trails (Maintenance)	Trail Maintenance	Clonbur Woods, Clonbur, Co. Galway	€18,000

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCHEMES

The Community Development Support Schemes are fully funded by Galway County Council and provide funding support across 3 distinct support schemes – economic development, community development and cultural development. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 restrictions in place, it was not possible for many festivals, events and activities to take place throughout 2020, however the Department worked with all applicants to ensure a flexible approach was taken to enable re-allocation towards capacity building training, equipment or other activities which could sustain Community Groups moving forward. Funding support was provided for amenity works to over 40 groups, including Tidy Towns Groups, who are to be commended for carrying out works and drawing down funding despite the cancellation of the National Tidy Towns Competition, and also participating in a local Virtual Tidy Towns project to engage with their communities during this difficult year. In addition, a range of funding was provided for upgrades to Community Buildings, which was supplemented by various Departmental funding schemes, and helped custodians of these important facilities to reduce ongoing running costs which was very important in light of the loss of fundraising capacity and income from activities.

**Strategic Goal**

**To improve, protect and promote our environment, culture, heritage and language in the interests of present and future generations**

**ARTS**

The Arts Office continued to promote all elements of the arts, supporting an ethos of participation, access and inclusion in the arts without compromising on quality. Involvement in the arts in the County is strong; the demand for cultural services and supports is growing with many artists living and working in the county. Key initiatives include;

- *Galway County Council Arts Grants*: delivered the Arts Grants through the Community Support Scheme 2020.
- *Agents of Change Programme*: Galway County Arts Office continue to lead and advance delivery of this large-scale regional Arts Council Project, an action research capacity building programme with Galway County, City and Roscommon's leading festivals and producers in collaboration with Irish Theatre Institute, Drama at NUIG, Galway City Council and Roscommon County Council. Festivals/Organisations supported include: Shorelines Festival, Clifden Arts Festival, Traidphicnic, Headford Lace Project, Interface Inagh and Áras Éanna.
- Provided ongoing professional arts information and advice service to community groups, individual artists, festivals in the county and advisory service to adapt to Covid-19 restrictions.
- Progressed the draft *Galway County Council Arts Plan 2020 -2024* which was approved by the Plenary Council in December. The document sets down the strategic vision for the continued development of the Arts in the County up to 2024.
- *Artists Bursaries*: Continued to offer bursaries to artists and ensured excellence and rigour on peer assessment panels for all awards. Committed to developing a policy statement that supports fair remuneration for artists.
- Developed ongoing professional development opportunities in collaboration with ITI, VAI, Tulca, ISACS. In 2020 we worked directly with TULCA and Galway Dance Project on CPD programmes for artists.
- *Artists Residencies 2020*: Supported residencies in Áras Éanna, Tyrone Guthrie Centre and Cultural Centre Irlandais Paris. Focused on supporting local arts residencies and venues to include Interface Inagh and Brigid's Garden. Supported existing residency partners to offer actual Residencies where safely possible but also an "in absentia" residency on Aras Éanna during lockdown.
- Progressed a new **Galway County Council Public Art Policy 2020-2024** which was approved by the Plenary Council in December 2020.
- **NEW NATIONAL COMMISSION**: -Galway County Arts Office supported and took project lead on PLATFORM 31; a nationwide artist development scheme led by the 31 Local Authority Arts Offices with the Arts Council. PLATFORM 31 - a national opportunity for artists to develop their practice and test new ideas of collaboration, research, audience development, place-making and sharing their work. Designed to support and offer career development for 31 emerging or mid-career artists (one artist in each of the 31 local authorities around Ireland), participating artists receive an €8,000 bursary to invest in themselves and their practice, combined with participation in an advisory and developmental framework and a national peer network.

- **Artists in Educational Settings:** Offered 6 schools the opportunity to take part in artists in schools programme and created a number of other arts programmes for schools, working with GRETB early school leavers programmes, Youthreach services and the creative School networks. School programme was postponed in March but have begun to work with schools again in Autumn 2020. Created a new training programme for artists working in schools with Covid precautions and offer online/zoom workshops as an additional support.
- Continued to expand the **Children’s Book Festival “Book It”** in conjunction with the Library Service. Plan to offer an online version in 2020 and a potential hybrid (online/in person) programme for 2021.
- **Youth Arts Programme:** Continued to work the Galway Community Circus to deepen engagement the engagement with the group of young people in Gort. Collaborated and extended the programme for street art performance with Macnas in Athenry. Supported Athenry Group Gliondair, who work with teenagers, training and performing in site specific theatre. Supported Muintereas Óg, on a performance exchange with Pontio University in Bangor, Wales, this has currently been postponed but will continue as soon as is practical, otherwise and alternative arrangement to complete online will take place.
- Continued to offer other programme supports for children and young people in partnership with our professional partners: Baboró International Arts Festival for Children, Branar T  tre do Ph  ist  , Tulca, Galway Music Residency, Galway Junior Film Fleadh and Galway Film Centre who present and tour in the county.
- Worked in partnership with **Music Generation Galway County** to support Music Education Programme in collaboration with GRETB.
- **Arts in Disability:** Supported Blue Teapot Theatre Company on a theatre and film project in the County with a few their ID members. Blue Teapot have committed to doing action research in a few locations in the county over the next 6-12 months alongside Galway company Speckled Egg in partnership with the Arts Office. We have supported film and animation workshops with Blue Teapot in two locations in Ballinasloe and Tuam in 2020 which were to culminate in the BIG DAY OUT as part of Crossing the Line Festival which was due to be held in May 2020 but was cancelled due to COVID-19.
- **Focus on Arts in Older years for 2020:** Worked with Dance Artist Bernadette Divilly in Ballinasloe on a dance project with older women which took place prior to lockdown and continues in an outdoor space in early in Ballinasloe once when public health advise allows
- Begin research into the creation of cultural hubs in the county which is a noted action in the 2020-2024 Arts Plan.
- Embraced environmental sustainability by building in environmental impacts into funding for creative organisations and provide environmental awareness and sustainability training for festivals and community events.
- **Creative Places Tuam:** This initiative is congruent with the Arts Plan and the Galway County Arts Office plays a key supporting role. The legacy of this programme will feature greatly increased cultural capacity in Tuam during the life of this pilot, which will in turn provide benefits beyond the Tuam area. Initiatives were created through this programme in 2020 and it has created other opportunities for the Arts Office to develop relationships with artists and communities in the area beyond the project.

- **Culture Night 2020:** Delivered a successful Culture Night 2020 programme of 34 events which included many new commissions and events took place both online and offline.



*Ballinderreen Culture Night - Róisín Curé - Artist*

- **Key Community projects supported:** We have supported key projects/creative communities this year through our arts programme and in some cases where applicable in partnership with Creative Ireland to include: *Inishbofin Lockdown* by documentary maker Kieran Concannon with the community on Inishbofin. *Headford Lace Project, The Space Between;* A visual art trail of artists response and the publication of the work created. *Carrying the Songs:* Interface Inagh and *Creative Places Tuam* Seed projects.
- Supported Screen Commission West, UNESCO City of Film and Wrap Fund.
- Supported Aras Éanna (Arts Centre on Inis Oírr).
- Worked collaboratively with Galway 2020 to support delivery of programmes within the county.
- Arts Office holds the Coordinator role for **Galway County Council's Creative Ireland Programme**. Arts Office led, managed and administered the Creative Ireland Programme 2020 and directly curated and programmed Cruinniú na nÓg 2020 (national creative day for children) in Galway county. In 2020 we directly supported Branar to develop new rhymes for children which were animated and featured on RTE as part of national programme.
- **Erasmus+:** Galway County Council Arts Office is one of 6 partners in the successful Erasmus + application Culture UP 2020-2022. "CULTURE UP" Capacity building of Cultural Institutions and Local Authorities in non-urban and peripheral areas" project sets out to share and exchange knowledge and practices of cultural development across the public, private and civil sector in five European non-urban and peripheral areas. The goal is to facilitate learning opportunities to upskill, inspire and motivate cultural institutions and local authorities in rural areas to strengthen their capacity development to the benefit of their local communities. The project will focus on the ordinary and everyday governance of culture in rural areas. Galway County Council Arts Office and Áras Éanna will take part in this professional exchange programme beginning early 2021.



*Leitir Meallain Creative Ireland*

### ***Strategic Goal***

**To maximise organisational capacity through the continuous review of operational efficiency, financial and risk management and the development of our Staff and Elected Members**

In 2020, all the community supports/grants provided by Galway County Council were administrated in a co-ordinated fashion. This involved heritage grants schemes, community grants schemes and arts grants schemes.

The unit is undergoing a review on allocation of work as it absorbs new programmes and schemes. The Unit is working with other units of the Council on various programmes as outlined above and will continue to do so.

### ***Strategic Goal***

**To ensure that quality customer service is at the centre of everything we do**

Corporate Services continued to coordinate customer services activities in the Council and to liaise with the service units to assist with communication of messages and service delivery. While we continue to be challenged from a resource perspective and with the impact of Covid-19, the unit played a key role in ensuring that the challenges faced and the new way of doing business was communicated to the public, steering activity online, by telephone and through the use of ICT as most appropriate. The rapid set up



of the Covid-19 Community Response initiative, the cooperation with the PPN in terms of information dissemination, the delivery of Webinars on funding schemes and the new models of engagement using online platforms are examples of the unit working to deliver on this strategic priority.



**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**  
**Galway County Council**

**HOUSING**

## HOUSING UNIT

### *Delivering Homes – Building Communities*

### Rebuilding Ireland

Rebuilding Ireland - The Action Plan on Housing and Homelessness launched in July, 2016 sets out a road map, for Local Authorities as well as the Voluntary and Private Sectors, regarding Social Housing provision through a number of concrete actions, timelines and importantly, financial resources for the delivery of new social housing units.

The plan is comprehensive and aims to address all aspects of the housing system under five pillars which are as follows:

**Pillar 1: Address Homelessness**

**Pillar 2: Accelerate Social Housing**

**Pillar 3: Build More Homes**

**Pillar 4: Improve the Rental Sector**

**Pillar 5: Utilise Existing Housing**



The Housing Unit of Galway County Council has delivered a significant number of houses through various programmes in 2020:

149 new homes were brought into active social housing stock through build, acquisitions, leasing programmes in 2020. This number is comprised of -

- 115 build
- 13 acquisitions
- 21 leasing

Despite a highly challenging Covid-19 environment, Galway County Council renovated 60 dwellings under its Voids programme in 2020.

605 new build social housing units are now at various stages of approval to be delivered directly by Galway County Council and Approved Housing Bodies on 27 sites.

The Council supported an additional 328 households to meet their housing need by means of the Housing Assistance Payment enabling individuals to work and have autonomy in choosing the location and type of accommodation, depending on their own particular preference. Over 1,859 recipients have now signed up to the Housing Assistance Payment scheme to date.

An additional 68 households were supported in meeting their housing needs by means of the Rental Accommodation Scheme, 4 in privately owned properties and 64 in Approved Housing Body Properties.

In addition to the delivery of new social housing supports, 160 housing adaptation grants (63 adaptation grants and 97 Mobility aid grants) were awarded by Galway County Council in 2020 to support individuals to remain in their own homes.

71 households were accommodated in 2020 under the Traveller Accommodation Programme, with a total of 111 households to be accommodated over the period 2019 – 2024.

In a very challenging housing and rental sector, with limited opportunities for leasing, 21 homes were delivered through direct leasing and long-term leasing schemes.

Galway County Council engaged in extensive major renovation works in various Specific Group Housing Schemes at Capira and Craughwell Halting Sites, Canal Road, Ballinasloe, Sandymount, Killimor and Moyne Park, Abbeyknockmoy. The construction of 6 houses and 2 halting site bays was substantially progressed at the new Traveller Specific Group Housing Scheme at Cluain Órtha, Craughwell.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic Galway County Council renovated and fitted out 4 houses for isolation purposes within a tight timeframe for any vulnerable household as identified by the Health Services Executive. All families in living emergency accommodation were provided with more secure and COVID-19 compliant housing with the support and co-operation of other organisations. Additional services such as running water, port-a-loos and clean-ups were provided to families in halting site and to those residing on the roadside. The Council continued to work with roadside families to identify housing suitable for their needs in their preferred areas of choice.

### **Strategic Goal**

**To ensure that our physical and social infrastructure is sufficiently developed to support economic development, and to enhance our quality of life.**

The Housing Unit of Galway County Council strives to provide a service for those individuals and communities that require assistance in the areas such as social housing provision, social housing tenancy and estate management, housing adaptation/alteration, assisting homeless, regulation of standard in the private rented sector and control of horses. The housing unit carries out its activities within the governance frameworks of the local authority sector.

### **Part V Activity**

Despite the Covid Pandemic and the lockdown to the Construction sector nationally, a total of 15 units were acquired by Galway County Council under Part V of the Planning and Development Act in 2020. Many of these Part V units were historical Part V agreements which have now been closed out.

## Housing Construction Activity

The core to delivery of social housing is the Local Authority Build Programme and this is where the majority of the core works for housing delivery are focused. The in-house expertise has greatly grown and fruits of which beginning to blossom as more and more Local Authority Construction projects are coming through the planning system and going to construction.

- **Gort na gCloch, Hospital Road, Clifden (26 units)** - Construction work commenced in Q3 on this development which includes major conservation works to 2no. protected structures, (a former industrial school and a laundry building), converting these into 8 apartments.
- **Plás an Iarla, Barrack Street, Loughrea (5 units)** – Construction commenced following release of Covid-19 lockdown and reopening of the Construction sector. The units will be completed early in 2021.



*Plás an Iarla, Barrack Street, Loughrea – under construction*

- **Fána Bhuí, Tuam (49 units)** - Works commenced in Q4 on this new development located off Cloontooa road. Units will be completed in phases from end of 2021 to early in 2022.



*Fána Bhuí, Tuam – under construction*

- **Cnoc na Carraige, Roundstone (14 units)** - Works remained ongoing at this development, with the exception of a period when the site was closed due to Covid-19 pandemic response measures. 8 units were completed by the end of the year, the remaining 6 being due for completion in early 2021.



*Cnoc na Carraige, Roundstone – under construction*

## Design & Planning Activity

- **Bridge Court, Ahascragh (18 units)** – a planning application was lodged with An Bord Pleanála for demolition of 10 existing units, refurbishment of 6 existing units and construction of 12 new units. Decision is due Q1 2021.
- **Gort Ui Lochlainn, Maigh Cuilinn (31 units)** – design and surveying work continued throughout the year toward preparation of planning application documentation for a 31 unit development.
- **Caislean Raithlín, Ardrahan (12 units)** – design and hydrogeological surveying work continued on this project which will culminate in a planning application in early 2021 for 12 new units.



*Caislean Raithlin, Ardrahan*

- **Cartron, Kinvarra (10 units)** – following receipt of Part 8 planning permission, preparation of tender documents proceeded in the 2nd half of the year for a development of 10 new units. Tender publication and award the construction contract will take place in 2021.
- **Single rural dwellings (9 units)** - Documentation for separate Part 8 planning applications was completed by Q4 for 6 units at various locations throughout rural County Galway. A further 3 similar units were progressed toward planning also.
- Expertise within the housing unit commenced preparation of tender documentation to replenish 2 Galway County Council Architects Frameworks that were due to expire on 31st December. Full design teams will be appointed from the higher and lower value frameworks, with initial projects early 2021 comprising:
  - Droim na Gaoithe, Baile Chláir (7-acre site)
  - Ballymoe, Co. Galway (0.5 acre site)

## House Purchases

Under the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan a total of 13 properties were purchased in 2020 by Galway County Council and Approved Housing Bodies.

## HAP

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) is a social housing support that has been in operation in Galway County Council since November 2015. HAP is available to anyone with a confirmed social housing need. The introduction of HAP means that housing authorities can now provide housing assistance to many more households with a long-term housing need, including many long-term rent supplement recipients.

HAP will provide for the transfer of responsibility for recipients of Rent Supplement with a long-term housing need from the Department of Social Protection (DSP) to housing authorities and provides a new approach in responding to households with a social need.

However, unlike Rent Supplement recipients, HAP recipients can work full-time and retain their HAP support - thus removing a barrier to employment. HAP recipients will source their own accommodation in the private rented market and will enter into a tenancy agreement with the landlord of the property.

Those households eligible for HAP are:

- Any household that qualifies for social housing support;
- Any current Rent Supplement recipients who qualify for social housing support.

In order to further assist homeless households in exiting emergency accommodation, the Homeless Place Finder Service is also available in Galway County Council. It is a targeted support for homeless households who are finding it difficult to secure HAP tenancies. It provides additional financial and related supports to tenants and landlords.

The Council supported an additional 328 households to meet their housing need by means of the Housing Assistance Payment in 2020 enabling individuals to work and also have autonomy in choosing the location and type of accommodation, depending on their own particular preference. Over 1,859 recipients have now signed up to the Housing Assistance Payment scheme to date.

### **Strategic Priority**

**To facilitate the broadest possible participation by citizens in local decision making and the sustainable development of their communities and their county.**

### **Record of Qualified Households (Housing Waiting List)**

Galway County Council completed an assessment of housing need in 2020. The applications of 1,580 households, which had not been reviewed since the previous Summary of Social Housing Needs Assessment in 2019, were reviewed and assessed to ascertain if they still qualified for social housing supports. The assessment of housing need was completed under the following headings:

1. Provision of Housing Accommodation in its functional area for persons who require accommodation from Galway County Council and who, in the opinion of the County Council are in need of such accommodation and unable to provide it from their own resources.



2. Provision of residential caravan parks for members of the Traveller Community in the functional area of the County Council for persons who are likely to require sites from the County Council are in need of such sites and unable to provide them from their own resources.

Applications from persons who are eligible for and in need of social housing support are qualified for such support under the following headings:

1. Income;
2. Residency Status;
3. Availability of accommodation;
4. Rent Arrears.

The total number of valid housing applicants received during 2020 was 600.

The total number of offers of social housing issued to applicants was 240 of these 150 were accepted & 73 were refused with 17 outstanding at year-end.

The total number of Housing Applicants on the Housing List at 31st December 2020 was 3,634

### Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) / Short-Term Leasing

The Government has allocated funding for local authorities and approved housing bodies to lease or rent private residential properties for applicants on the housing list. Traditionally RAS is aimed at persons who are in receipt of rent supplement for a period in excess of 18 months. Since the 1st April 2011, any housing applicants that are in RAS type accommodation are deemed to have their housing need met.

The (RAS) / Leasing is operated on a tenancy by tenancy basis and Galway County Council has been entering into such arrangements, with private landlords, since 2007.

The following table outlines the current RAS and Leasing agreements that Galway County Council has entered into with private Landlords.

Description	Galway County End of Q4 2020:
Number of Applicants accommodated in private rented accommodation through contracts agreed with private landlords	165
Number of Applicants accommodated currently through contracts agreed with voluntary organisations	185
Number of Applicants accommodated currently through short-term leasing contracts	23

Table 1: RAS and Leasing agreements that Galway County Council has entered into with private landlords

## Minimum Standards for Rented Accommodation

Galway County Council undertook some 890 inspections in 2020, to ensure compliance with standards for rented houses. This includes some 859 first inspections, with a further 31 re-inspections having been carried out. Some 616 or 99.51 % of dwellings first inspected were found not to be compliant with the required Regulations.

83 properties were compliant following on from re-inspection/s.

## Repair and Leasing Scheme

The scheme is a key action under Pillar 5 of the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness, which is aimed at better utilisation of existing housing stock. The houses to be targeted under RLS are in areas of social need in town centres, urban and rural areas all around the country. Properties must be vacant for at least 1 year, and property owners and contractors engaged under the scheme must demonstrate that they are tax compliant through the provision of tax clearance certificates on request.

The ideal units targeted under the RLS will require a low level of investment to bring them to the required standard for renting. Capital repairs cost on a single unit must not exceed €60,000 (inc VAT). All direct leases must be for duration of between 5-20 years. No shorter terms will be eligible. The cost of the repairs shall be offset against the agreed rental payment until the value of the works is repaid.

The benefits of the RLS in conjunction with the long-term lease arrangement to the property owner include -

- Guaranteed rent on a property that has not been generating an income;
- Upgrade of property that might otherwise become derelict;
- No loss of rent during vacant periods;
- No dealing with tenants and day-to-day maintenance;
- No need to collect rent or find a new tenant;
- Avoid advertising costs;
- The property will be returned to the property owner at the end of the term in good repair order and condition, save for fair wear and tear.

In 2020, Galway County Council received a number of expressions of interest. One property is almost completed with Galway County Council.

Of the 50,000 social housing homes to be delivered under Rebuilding Ireland, some 10,000 are targeted to be delivered using a combination of the social housing leasing arrangements under Pillar 2 – “Accelerate Social Housing”.

## Mortgage to Rent Scheme

The Mortgage to Rent (MTR) scheme is a government scheme which was introduced in 2012 to help homeowners who are at risk of losing their homes due to mortgage arrears. It lets homeowners in mortgage difficulty switch from owning their home to renting their home as social housing tenants.

The MTR scheme is a social housing option only available if one is eligible for social housing support and the mortgage is unsustainable. To qualify for the scheme the property owner must have participated in their lender's Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process (MARP), a process which the lender and the owner must take in order to try and resolve their financial difficulties.

Approved applicants will voluntarily surrender possession of their home to their mortgage lender who immediately sells it to a housing association who will then rent it back to the family. The proceeds from the sale of property to the housing association will go towards the mortgage debt and the applicant makes an arrangement with their lender for any remaining payments owed, if any. There is potential to buy back the home after a period of 5 years if the household's financial situation improves.

11 applications were received in 2020 with 14 applications receiving approval.

### Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

A Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan is a new Government backed mortgage for first time buyers. It became available on the 1st February 2018.

As a first-time buyer one can apply for a Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan to purchase a new or second-hand property, or to build a home. The loan is a normal Capital and Interest-bearing mortgage which is repaid by direct debit on a monthly basis.

- Maximum market values of the property that can be purchased or self-built are €320,000.
- Approved applicants may borrow up to 90% of the market value of the property.
- This limits the amount that can be borrowed to no more than €288,000.

71 applications were received during 2020 with 23 applications approved. The average loan approved was €175,000.



*Carton, Kinvara*

## Voluntary Housing

The (Capital Advance Leasing Facility) CALF is a facility available to Approved Housing Bodies to assist them in accessing Private or Housing Finance Agency finance for the purchase or construction of units. The units are made available exclusively for social housing purposes under a leasing agreement for a set period of time, typically 20 years.

23 units were delivered in 2020 under the Capital Assistance Scheme and a further 26 units were also delivered under the CALF scheme.

Several potential units have been identified and agreements are under active consideration for inclusion under both schemes in the future.

There are 43 units in progress under the CAS scheme and 58 units in progress under the CALF Scheme.

## Tenant Purchase

During 2016 the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016 came into effect and replaced the 1995 Tenant Purchase Scheme which came to an end on 30th June 2014. Under this scheme, eligible local authority tenants can apply to buy their local authority home, at a discounted rate based on the applicant's income. If approved, the purchaser must continue to live in the house for as long as they own it. An incremental purchase charge is placed on the house which will be equal to the discount applied on the purchase price of the house. The charge will remain in place for 20, 25 or 30 years (depending on the discount given). The purchaser will be able to resell their home at any time if the local authority agrees. However, if the purchaser sells before the end of the 20, 25 or 30 years, they will have to pay back the value of the outstanding charge on the house to the local authority.

Throughout 2020, Galway County Council received 21 valid applications from local authority tenants to purchase their house and issued 19 house purchase offers, of which 16 were completed.



*Single rural dwelling at Cor an Dola*

## Housing Aid for Older People, Mobility Aid Grant and Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability

Housing Aid for Older People grant continues to provide funding to persons aged less than 66 in certain circumstances depending on their state of health, their current housing conditions and their

ability to assist themselves. Supporting documentation is required where the applicant is citing medical needs. Assistance was also provided in cases where the house was not considered to be in poor condition, but the works would, by addressing deficiencies, improve the quality of life of older persons.

- 256 valid applications received during 2020 for Housing Aid for Older People
- 333 valid applications received during 2020 for Mobility Aid and Housing Adaptation Grant for people with a disability Scheme.

### **Housing Adaptation Grants for Local Authority Houses**

The Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability living in Local Authority Houses is made available to assist in carrying out works which are reasonably necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person who has enduring physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual impairment. Galway County Council continues to assess applications under this scheme and prioritise those in most need.

A total of 27 local authority homes had housing adaptation works completed during 2020, including 2 properties on which extensions were completed. The total allocation of €274,000 for Disabled Persons Grants (DPG's) and Housing Extensions was spent in full in 2020.

### **Housing Maintenance**

The Council has a housing stock of 2,598 properties at the 31st December 2020. A significant programme of maintenance works is ongoing in these properties.

2798 repair requests were received in 2020, which is an increase of 1161 requests from the same date in 2018 and represents an 70.9% increase in logged maintenance requests in 2 years. 1233 of these repair requests were deemed to be valid requests by the technical team.

During December 2020, the Maintenance Unit launched an Online Logging Repair Request system which allows tenants to log their housing repair requests online. These requests may be logged through the Report It of [www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie) or through the link at <https://gccapps.galwaycoco.ie/RepairRequest/>. There has been a large level of take-up by our tenants who have found it to be a very easy to use system. The advantage of the new system is that tenants are updated as their repair request is progressed by the maintenance team.

Net expenditure of € 1,879,336 was spent from Galway County Council's own resources on the maintenance of Galway County Council housing stock in 2020.

Major refurbishment works were carried out in 60 vacant properties which facilitated the enabling of new tenancies.

### **Energy Efficiency & Retrofit Programme (EERP)**

In County Galway work commenced under the Midlands Energy Retrofit Programme in 2020, wherein tenders were issued for a suite of energy efficiency improvement works on 72 properties,

including 21 in Portumna, 16 in Eyrecourt, 19 in Ballinasloe, 10 in Killimor and 6 in Tynagh. It is envisaged that these works will commence in early 2021, following evaluation of tenders received.

Funding of €98,000 was allocated under the Midlands Energy Retrofit Programme to Galway County Council in 2020.



*Sustainable housing delivery: Gort an Chláir, Tuam*

## Homelessness

Galway County Council is part of the Western Region for Homeless Services together with Galway City Council, Mayo and Roscommon County Councils. Galway City Council is the lead agency and all funding are channelled through it. The Director of Services in Housing from the four Authorities form the Western Region Homeless Management Group and have the responsibility to assign funding.

Tackling homelessness is a key priority for Galway County Council. A further increase in the demand for homeless services was noted in 2020 including the number of families presenting together with a more recent notable increase in the number of single people presenting as homeless during 2020. Our aim is to identify pathways out of homelessness for those individuals and families in emergency accommodation as quickly as possible. A Tenancy Sustainment Officer and a Homeless Outreach Worker have joined the Homeless Unit in late 2020 and both posts are being funded under Section 10 Homeless Funding by the Department. These posts will provide an essential support in our overall plan to assist people who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or who have difficulties in sustaining tenancies.

There was an average of 12 new applicants per week presenting as homeless in 2020. An average of 11 families per week were accommodated by Galway County Council in Emergency Temporary Accommodation for 2020. Single people accommodated in homeless accommodation averaged at 27 at any time in 2020. Currently, there are 9 transitional houses in the County, located in Tuam, Athenry,

Loughrea, and Ballinasloe. A total of 28 applicants deemed homeless were offered a permanent tenancy by Galway County Council during 2020.

### **Homeless Place Finder Service**

The appointment of the Homeless HAP Place Finder in November 2018 has played a significant role in reducing homeless numbers in County Galway. In 2020, some 92 families with children, couples and single people were assisted in securing HAP properties, with most of these having been long-term homeless who had resided previously in Emergency Accommodation. Others who have been assisted under the highly successful programme include those who have been served with Notices-to-Quit from their accommodation, people leaving hospital or other institutions after long-term care and those from Direct Provision.

## **Traveller Accommodation Programme**

The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 requires that each Housing Authority adopts a Traveller Accommodation Programme for its functional area.

The Traveller Accommodation Programme, adopted in September 2019, outlines the accommodation requirements of the Traveller Community over a five-year period from 2019 – 2024. County Galway has the highest number of Travellers in the country with a total of 2,647 Travellers living in the County.

In developing this Programme, a strong emphasis was placed on consultation with all interested parties including adjoining local authorities, the Health Service Executive, local Traveller organisations, individual Travellers, the Local Traveller Consultative Committee (LTACC) and the public in general. This extensive consultation was to ensure that the interests of all concerned with or affected by proposals for Traveller accommodation were considered and to facilitate a planned and comprehensive response to the accommodation needs of Travellers.



*Development of Traveller Specific Accommodation at Cluain Órtha, Craughwell*

In the preparation of this Programme, the Galway County Traveller Interagency Group and the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee agreed to develop an equality and human rights statement to reflect our commitment to equality and human rights.

It addresses our obligations under the Irish Human Rights Equality and Commission Act 2014 to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity, and protect human rights in carrying out our functions.

Our commitment to equality and human rights is motivated by a particular set of values, that have been established as shared values in motivating the work of the Galway County Traveller Interagency Group. These values are **Dignity, Diversity and Participation**.



*Major renovation works completed at traveller specific accommodation at Canal Drive, Ballinasloe*

In accordance with Section 9 of the Housing Act 1988, as amended, and Section 6 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, Galway County Council assessed and identified the current and projected accommodation needs of Traveller families to be met during the period of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019–2024. The Programme identified a requirement of 111 accommodation units to meet the then current and projected need, comprised of a current need of 71 and a projected need estimated at 40 units.



### Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019–2024: Targets

The Projected Need over the 5-year period of this Accommodation Programme is for 40 households which added to the existing need gives a total estimated need of 111 houses.

Accommodation Type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2024	Total
Group Housing Scheme – Existing	1	1	1	1	1	5
New Group Housing	0	6	0	0	0	6
Permanent Halting Site Service Block - Existing	1	3	1	1	1	7
Local Authority Standard Housing	7	9	11	11	11	49
Rental Accommodation Scheme / Long term Leasing	1	0	1	0	1	3
Voluntary Housing	2	2	3	2	3	12
Purchase by Travellers		1		1		2
Housing Assistance Payment/ Private Rented Accommodation with/out Rent Supplement	5	7	5	5	5	27
<b>Totals</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>111</b>

Table 2: Targets & Delivery 2019-2024

In accordance with a review and verification exercise undertaken by independent experts in 2019, in relation to the preferences identified by Travellers in their application for social housing support, it was established that the expressed accommodation preference of the majority of Traveller housing applicants is for standard local authority housing or private rented accommodation. Accordingly, it is anticipated that the overall housing need will be met over the period of this Accommodation Programme predominantly through the provision of standard Local Authority Housing and through Housing Assistance Payment (HAP).

Galway County Council has continued to prioritise the installation and replacement of fire safety equipment, signage in its halting sites during 2020.

This prioritisation reflects the responsibilities of the Council and those of the residents of Traveller accommodation to enhance and maintain appropriate and necessary fire safety standards.



*Fire Hose Reels Installed at Tuam Halting Site*

In 2020, Galway County Council engaged in extensive works through a series of projects in Traveller accommodation. This involved the development and upgrade of traveller specific accommodation at various locations, including:

- Completion of improvement works to service facilities at Capira Halting Site;
- Substantial completion of the refurbishment of 4 properties on traveller specific group housing scheme at Canal Drive;
- Progression of major refurbishment and renovation of 3 properties on traveller specific group housing scheme at Sandymount, Killimor;
- Construction of COVID-19 compliant temporary halting site at Dunkellin Park, Craughwell;
- Substantial progress on construction of 6 detached bungalows and 2 halting site bays at Cluain Órtha, Craughwell

The relocation of several large families on a temporary basis was necessary to enable the works to commence on the above properties.

The Council has, through experience and consultation, identified standard housing as the preferred accommodation option for the vast majority of Traveller families. Standard housing, including HAP, RAS and Private Rented Accommodation, provides for the inclusion of Travellers in mainstream housing programmes and aids the integration of Travellers into the community.

71 Traveller families were accommodated in 2020 in standard Local Authority housing, Traveller Specific Group Scheme Housing and under the HAP Programmes. In the absence of an ethnic identifier there is a reliance on local and historical knowledge of staff in relation to the identification of individuals as travellers.

## **Disability Strategy**

The vision of the “*The National Housing Strategy for People with Disabilities 2011- 2016*”, which was extended to 2020, is equal access, opportunity and choice, with regards to housing and supports, for persons with disabilities. The first priority is to offer persons living in congregated settings accommodation in the community. With Interagency cooperation significant work has already taken place in this area over the past 2 -3 years in the County. The strategy covers all persons with

disabilities and categories referred to in the Strategy are: (a) sensory disability (b) mental health disability (c) physical disability and (d) intellectual disability.

In co-operation with Approved Housing Bodies, Galway County Council has housed people under the disability strategy in shared housing, with supports in Loughrea and Ballinasloe. The Council continues to offer greater flexibility to people with disabilities with the provision of shared housing with support services, which may be provided by visiting or live-in services.



*Finishing Disability Access Units – Esker Fields, Ballinasloe*

## Tenancy and Estate Management

The Tenancy & Estate Management Unit was established in 2013 within the Housing Unit of Galway County Council to clearly show the Council's commitment to provide secure and lasting homes and the care and support to develop stable and sustainable communities, prevent tenancy breakdown and possible homelessness,

The Tenancy Sustainment Strategy for the County was reviewed, updated and adopted in 2020 and it outlined the interventions and supports available to assist our tenants in sustaining their tenancy and contribute positively to their neighbourhood and community.

An inter-departmental and inter-agency approach is adopted by the Housing Unit and its partners, in an effort to improve the quality of life for residents in our housing estates. Staff members from the Housing Unit held meetings with the Health Service Executive, Galway and Roscommon Educational and Training Board and Gardaí throughout the year and worked together to provide supports to our tenants.

Galway County Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy was reviewed, amended and updated in consultation with relevant stakeholders and adopted by the Council in 2020. It is recognised that anti-social behaviour can have an adverse effect on the quality of life of our tenants and the stability and sustainability of communities. The Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy acknowledges the importance of a multi-agency approach in preventing and reducing incidences of anti-social behaviour.

This Strategy outlines the responsibilities and contributions of both the Council and the tenants to the development of sustainable communities. It also lays out the process for investigating and dealing with complaints including setting out the actions that may be taken by the Council in relation to same. This can include the use of CCTV systems, in accordance with Galway County Council’s CCTV and Data Protection Policies. CCTV systems have been installed in 8 locations in Cullairbaun, Athenry; Gortbride, Loughrea; Bridgecourt, Ahascragh; Crowe Street, Gort; Gilmartin Road Tuam; Tuam Halting Site; Tirboy, Tuam and Parkmore, Tuam.



*Gort an Chláir, Tuam*



**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**  
**Galway County Council**

**PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES**

## PLANNING UNIT

In 2020 the Planning Unit continued to promote and support development within the county so that our customers can live in vibrant communities, where cultural differences are valued and encouraged, where everyone can be actively involved in economic, social and cultural life, where people have access to an acceptable level of services and infrastructure.

### Strategic Goal

**To facilitate the broadest possible participation by citizens in local decision making and the sustainable development of their communities and their county.**

## STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

*The Planning, Environment, Agriculture & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee*  
The Planning Environment, Agriculture & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee had 3 meetings in 2020.

The main policy issues discussed during the year included: -

- County Development Plan Process (C.D.P)
- Waste presentation Bye Laws.
- River Basin Management Plan

### Strategic Goals

**To maximise the continued and sustainable economic and enterprise development of our county.**

**To ensure that our physical and social infrastructure is sufficiently developed to support economic development and to enhance our quality of life.**

## FORWARD PLANNING

- Continue the process of the preparation of the County Development Plan 2022-2028 and supporting plans and strategies:
  - a) Core Strategies,
  - b) Landscape Character Assessment,

- c) Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy (LARS),
  - d) Transportation Strategy,
  - e) Housing Need Demand Assessment,
  - f) Urban Design Frameworks
  - g) SEA/AA/SFRA reports.
- Preparation of a number settlement plans for inclusion in the County Development Plan
  - Prepared Funding application under URDF/Climate Action Fund where appropriate
  - Prepared Submissions to National documents eg National Marine Planning Framework and the Review of national Development Plan
  - Made returns to Government Departments on various Performance Indicators
  - Provided Planning inputs into various Steering groups relevant to the County
  - Participated in the national e planning initiative
  - Participated in the Planning Spatial Data Capture Pilot initiative with the Department of Planning Housing and Local Government
  - Arranged and managed the translation of all new policy in accordance with the Sceim Teanga.

## DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SECTION

- 2067 Planning Applications were presented to the Planning Office in 2020.
- 1,635 Planning decisions were made in 2020.
- €805,655.81 was received in Planning Fees in 2020.
- 90 Exempted Development Declaration Applications were presented to the Planning Office in 2020.
- Strategic Housing : 5 stage 1 pre-planning consultations with developers, 2 stage 2 pre-planning consultations with An Bord Pleanala, 1 decision made by An Bord Pleanala.

## ENFORCEMENT MEASURES

No. of complaints received in 2020	281
Warning Letters served	330
Enforcement Notice served	85
No. of new cases referred to Law Agent and external Solicitors for Summary Proceedings	30

It is the policy of Galway County Council to secure compliance with Planning Permission and to prevent Unauthorised Development in accordance with the statutory requirements as set out in the Planning and Development Act and the Planning and Development Regulations.

## BUILDING CONTROL

The Building Control staff carry out the following duties in conjunction with other Statutory Bodies.

- a) Validating and registering Commencement Notices/7 Day Notices through the Building Control Management System,
- b) Processing applications for Fire Safety Certificates and Disability Access Certificates through the Fire Service,
- c) Advising Designers/Assigned Certifiers in relation to issues of compliance with the Building Regulations 1997,
- d) Validating and registering the Certificate of Compliance on Completion,
- e) Maintaining the Statutory Register,
- f) Inspecting construction works in progress in relation to compliance with the Building Regulations 1997 and carrying out enforcement as necessary.
- g) Ensuring compliance of Construction Products in line with EU (Construction Products) Regulations 2013(S I No. 225 of 2013)
- h) Ensuring compliance of Building Energy Rating Certificates in line with the EU (Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulation 2012 (SI No. 243 of 2012)

### Commencement Notices for 2020

Number	Status on BCMS
740 no.	<b>‘Complete’ status of Commencement Notice on the BCMS:</b> (732 no. Valid Commencement Notices and 8 no. Invalid Commencement Notices)
85 no.	<b>‘Revised Information’ of Commencement Notice on the BCMS</b>



## HERITAGE

During 2020, the Heritage Office of County Council continued its work to promote awareness, knowledge and appreciation of biodiversity. The Heritage Officer works to promote interest, education, knowledge and pride in the heritage of County Galway. The following are some of the projects undertaken in 2020:



### ***An Illustrated Guide to the Ecclesiastical Heritage of the County of Galway* launched in Loughrea Library**

Cllr Gabe Cronnolly, Leas Cathaoirleach, Galway County Council launched the bi-lingual publication entitled, *An Illustrated Guide to the Ecclesiastical Heritage of the County of Galway*. This 187 page publication, draws on audit reports, a photographic archive and documented findings from six years of community consultation, desk research and site visits to 140 churches in County Galway. The six-year audit involved photographing and recorded all identified artworks, furniture and fittings as well as consultation with stakeholders, including the church clergy, custodians, the local communities and the various artists associated with the artworks. A number of websites and online databases were also consulted for information on artists and architects working in the field of church art and architecture in Ireland. They included dedicated sites for professional practitioners, artists' personal websites, online art galleries and general websites such as local community-based sites and the Galway Community Heritage website, [www.galwaycommunityheritage.org](http://www.galwaycommunityheritage.org). Information was collected and collated on the architecture of the churches as well as the architects and designers involved in church building and design.

Local community websites and publications proved a very valuable source of information in a number of cases.

The depth of the audit can clearly be seen in this publication which gives a wonderful insight into the archaeological, historical, architectural, artistic, and visual significance of the ecclesiastical heritage resource in our county.

The book showcases the rich ecclesiastical heritage assets that are in the county. It gives the public, clergy, pastoral councils, administrators, academics, artists and people interested in heritage a flavour of the wealth of ecclesiastical heritage in the County of Galway.



*Photo left to right: Joe Loughnane, Clare Doyle and Christy Kelly*

## Geological Heritage Project



*View from Benchoona northward over Lough Muck, with the Rosroe Pensiula. Killary Harbour and Mweelrea in the distance*

The aim of the project is to develop a geological resource guide for Junior Certificate Students. Given that the Geological Heritage Audit for Galway was completed at the end of 2019, and the raw materials were there to develop a number of educational and general information literature resources for the county, in which the initial step was the generation and development of a workbook for schools on the geological heritage of County Galway. The educational benefits of workbooks on somewhat complex scientific topics, such as geology, is long and well known. They allow children to work independently, as well as in groups. They promote interesting discussion, and in-depth analysis of the subject topic. They are entertaining and provide a solid education on the topic as the facts are correct. They teach critical thinking skills, none more so than those focussed on one's home area. And they fill in educational gaps, which has always been an issue with geology to some degree.

The workbook includes an everyday English summary of the geological history of Galway County, and includes numerous specifically drafted diagrams to illustrate some of the more complex ideas behind the geological history of rocks in the county. Regional summaries of the bedrock history are given, and as much as possible, well known sites with specific geological features around the county are described and outlined. The text is punctuated with many high-quality colour photographs, and quizzes and queries help the enquiring nature of the workbook be applied constantly throughout. A substantial section at the end on geology in everyday life in Galway tries to relate the Earth's resources of the county to agricultural, industrial and heritage

aspects. In addition to this online Geoheritage videos of the Geology of Galway were produced for Heritage Week. It is intended to translate the text into Irish in 2021 and to print and design the workbook.

### Joyce Country and Western Lakes geopark project

The aim of the project is to develop a geopark in the area surrounding Joyce Country on the Galway-Mayo border, and Loughs Mask, Carra and Corrib, with the intention of applying for full UNESCO Global Geopark status. Geoparks are places of internationally important geology which are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and economic development. UNESCO Geopark status carries no additional legal status or planning restrictions to those already in place by local, national or EU legislation. The Heritage Officer is a member of the Steering group and attends meetings. For more information see:

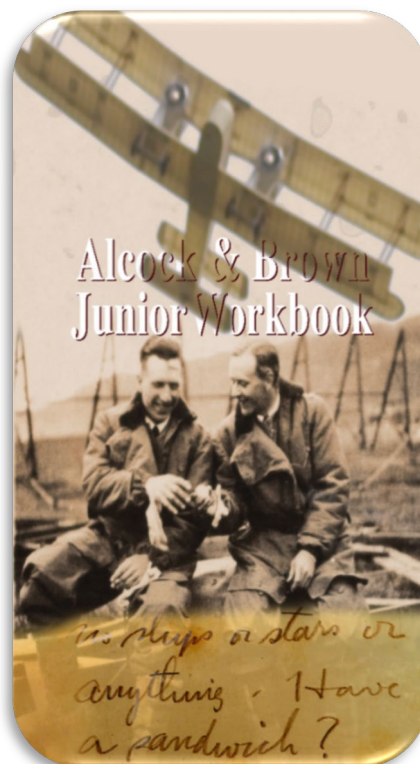
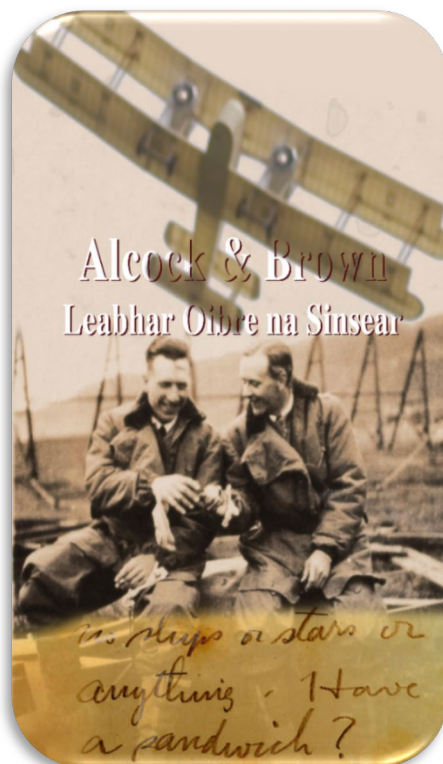
<https://joycecountrygeoparkproject.ie/en/>

### Galway West of Ireland Region of Gastronomy Heritage Projects 2020

The Heritage Office continued working with local communities and organisations gathering information relating to the gastronomical heritage of the county and produce written, audio and video outputs for the website.

### Alcock and Brown

Two bi-lingual workbooks relating to Alcock and Brown were designed and printed for Junior and Senior Classes in Primary Schools. The workbooks will be distributed to primary schools in the county of Galway.



**Heritage Grant Scheme as part of Community Grants:**

Assessed grants, assigned conditions, provided assistance to groups and schools and processed grant payments.

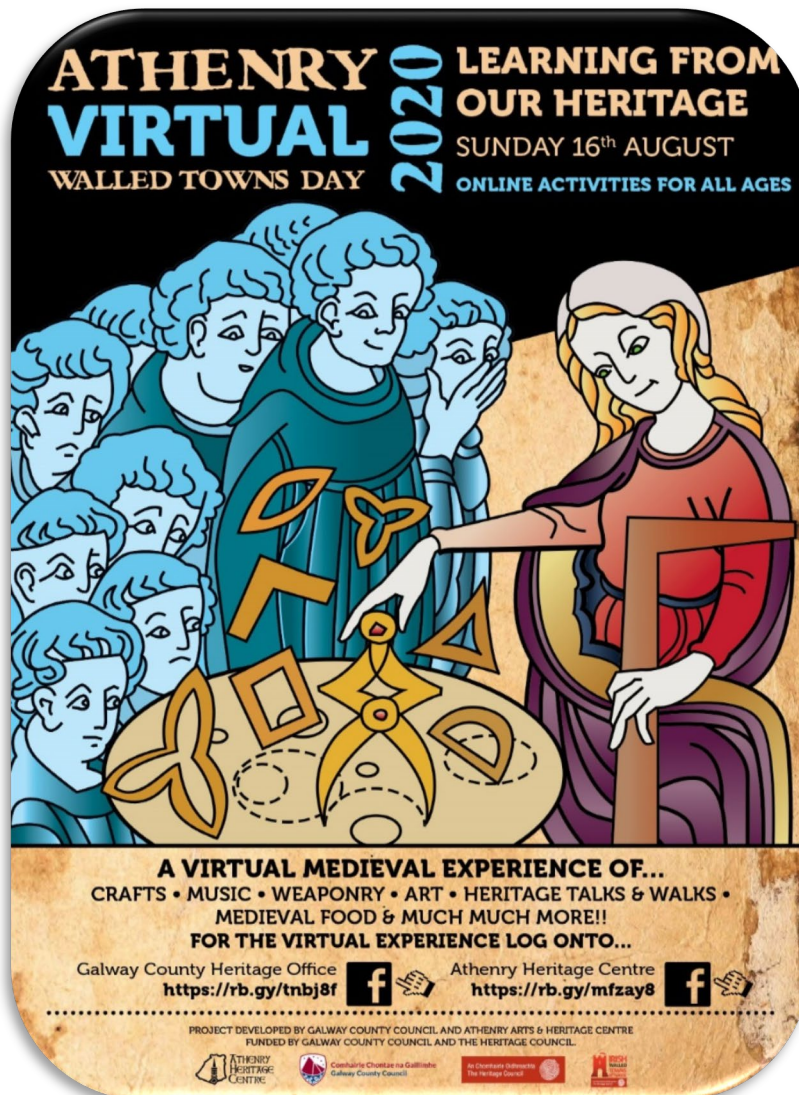
**Athenry Medieval Walled Town: Past and Present Booklet**

*Photo: Dominican Friary Athenry*

This publication provides an easy insight into the rich medieval heritage of the town of Athenry. It also charts the conservation work that has been done over the past 13 years and also lists resources that have been produced that are of interest to a variety of people including local schools, businesses and those interested in local history and heritage and visitors to Athenry. It also highlights the joint work of the local committee, community, Galway County Council, Heritage Council and IWTN in relation to conservation, managing and promoting this incredible medieval heritage resource that is the town of Athenry with its various heritage elements such as the North Gate, Dominican Friary, Castle etc. To see the online version of this publication go to <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/heritage-publications/athenry-medieval-walled-town-2>



## Athenry Virtual Walled Towns Day



This family fun day was held on Sunday 16 August 2020 and the theme was ‘Learning from our Heritage’. The events were programmed to suit all age groups and have a strong educational and awareness building theme. This year due to Covid19 Athenry Walled Town Day moved to a virtual platform and the theme of this year’s event is ‘Learning from our Heritage’. Athenry Virtual Walled Towns Day 2020 was designed to be inclusive, accessible, fun and free for all to view on our websites and social media platforms. The programme reflected the medieval history of Athenry and is on an online platform to showcase craft, food, art weaponry music, the rich heritage assets of the town. The 39 videos, podcasts and documents showcased the wealth of the built and cultural heritage in medieval Athenry. This was delivered online on Galway Beo Facebook and the <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/athenry-virtual-walled-town-day>

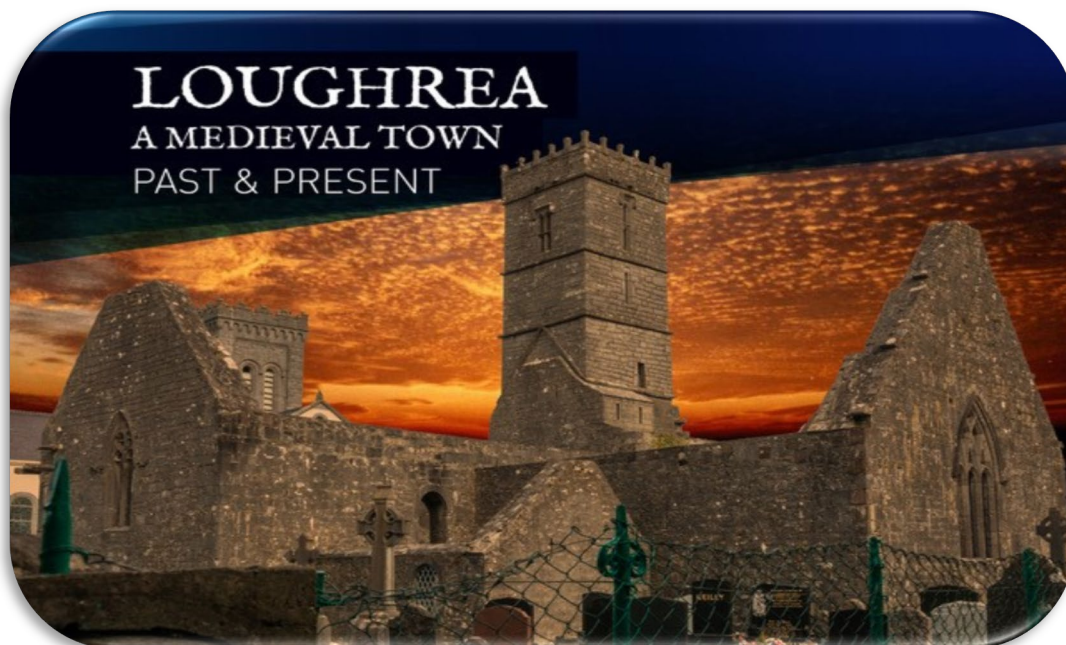
## Loughrea Virtual Medieval Festival



Due to Covid19 Loughrea Medieval Festival had to move to an online platform. The festival theme was 'Learn, Connect & Celebrate our Medieval Past'. Over 40 videos, activities, and podcasts were developed and were designed to be inclusive, accessible, fun and free for all to view on our website and social media platform. This online event was premiered on Galway Beo Facebook page on 23<sup>rd</sup> August and the website <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/loughrea-virtual-medieval-festival>

It was developed in partnership with Loughrea Medieval Festival Committee and funded by Galway County Council and the Heritage Council. There 41 videos, films, podcasts and documents uploaded on the website and are available for all free of charge to enjoy and gain a greater awareness of the medieval heritage of Loughrea.

## Loughrea Medieval Town: Past and Present Booklet

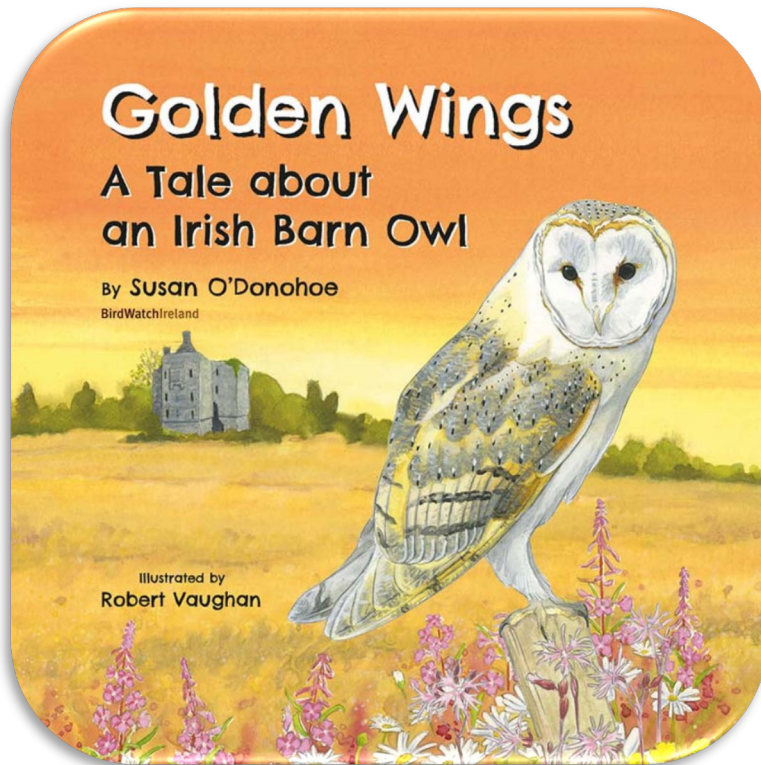


*Loughrea Medieval Town: Past and Present* seeks to create an awareness, knowledge and pride in the rich medieval heritage of Loughrea and this in turn will lead to better management and conservation of this important heritage resource. The booklet provides an outline of the history of the medieval town and highlight the key buildings, structures and documents that are available to help the local and visitor to have a broad appreciation for the medieval aspects of the town. It also charts the work of Loughrea Medieval Festival Committee, Galway County Council and the IWTN and The Heritage Council from 2014 to present.



**Creative Ireland:**

The Heritage Office delivered the following projects as part of Galway County Council's Creative Ireland initiative in 2020:

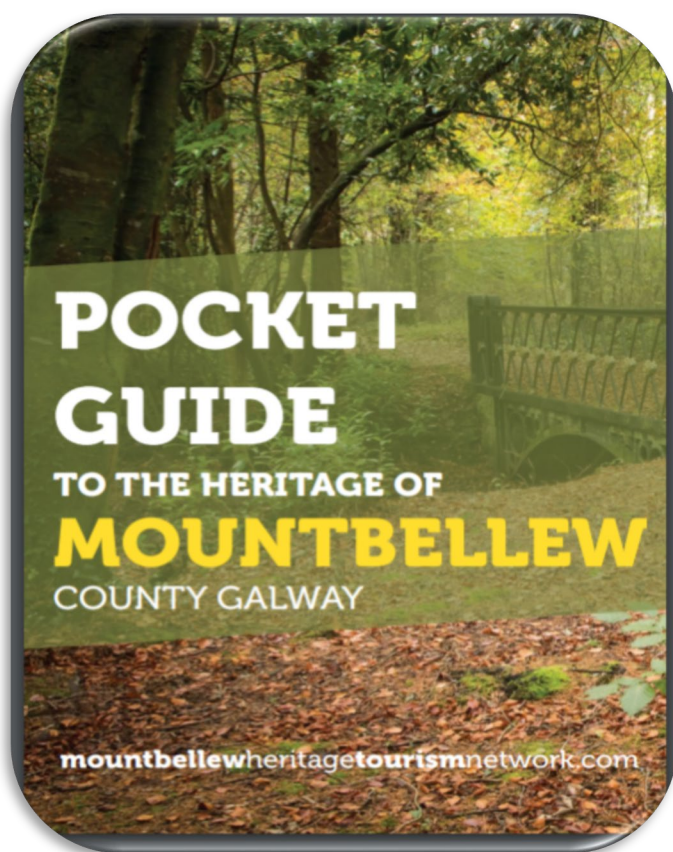
**‘Golden Wings’ reveals the secret world of Irish Barn Owls**

‘Golden Wings’ follows the journey of a female Barn Owl from hatching to starting her own family, and all her encounters and experiences in between. The reader views the world through the eyes of ‘Golden Wings’, which provides a unique understanding the lives of Barn Owls and the challenges they face in the modern Irish countryside.

Like many other farmland birds in Ireland, the changing agricultural landscape has resulted in dwindling resources and suitable habitats available to the Barn Owl. Barn Owl populations have declined and although most people have never seen a Barn Owl in the wild, they remain one of our best-known and loved birds. ‘Golden Wings’ captures the innate interest that children have for Barn Owls and explores some of the reasons why they are so rare in the Irish countryside in a way that is accessible and appealing to children.

The book was produced by BirdWatch Ireland and Galway County Council Heritage Office and is an action of Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2017-2022 and the Galway County Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018-2022. It was funded by Creative Ireland and Galway County Council.

## Reading the Landscape: Mountbellew Project



In 2020 the second phase of this project resulted in the production of a pocket guide to the heritage of Mountbellew. Working in partnership with Mountbellew Heritage Tourism Network the booklet documents 28 heritage sites in and around the town of Mountbellew. Zena Hoctor, Heritage Consultant worked the local heritage and tourism group in Mountbellew who undertook the 'Reading the Landscape' to produce this booklet. In all 5000 booklets were produced and are being distributed locally.

### **GlanFest**

Assistance was given to Glenamaddy Boyounagh Heritage Group in the development of GlanFest and online heritage festival for the diaspora. For more information see: <https://www.glenamaddyheritage.com/events/>

### **Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre**

The Heritage Office worked in partnership with the Corporate Services Section on the development of education resources for the Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre.

## Biodiversity Project

Providing advice and guidance on various aspects of biodiversity including tree planting, dealing with invasive species and pollinator plans to Tidy Towns, Community and Schools Groups throughout the county.

## The Galway Buzz!

International Biodiversity Day took place on May 22<sup>nd</sup> the aim of which was to celebrate the value of biodiversity in our everyday lives. The theme for 2020 was ‘Our solutions are in nature’, reflecting the potential to use nature-based solutions to improve our quality of life and the natural world we depend on.

**THE GALWAY**

**BUZZ!**

**Celebrating National Biodiversity Week in the County of Galway 22<sup>nd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020**  
**Ceiliúradh ar Sheachtain Náisiúnta na Bithéagsúlachta i gContae na Gaillimhe, 22 - 29 Bealtaine 2020**

**Connecting people with nature**

**Competition**

Send us in a short video, photograph or drawing on any aspect of the wonderful biodiversity that is on your doorstep or what you are doing for pollinators in your garden or community. For some inspiration see <https://pollinators.ie/resources/local-communities/>

We have some wonderful prizes for children and adults for the winning entries. Closing date for receipt of entries is Friday 29th May 2020. Please email your entries to [thegalwaybuzz@gmail.com](mailto:thegalwaybuzz@gmail.com)

**Comórtas**

Seol fiseán gearr, grianghraf nó líniocht chugainn ar aon ghné den bithéagsúlacht álainn atá ar leac an dorais agat nó ar atá ar siúl agat ar mhaithe leis na pailneoirí i do gharraí nó i do cheantar féin. Féach ar an nasc seo a leanas chun ábhar inspioráide a fháil <https://pollinators.ie/resources/local-communities/>

Tá duaiseanna iontacha againn do leanaí agus do dhaoine fásta a n-éireoidh leo an comórtas a bhuachan. Dé hAoine an 29 Bealtaine 2020 an dáta deiridh a nglacfar le hiarratais. Seol bhur gcuid iontrálacha ar ríomhphost chuig [thegalwaybuzz@gmail.com](mailto:thegalwaybuzz@gmail.com)

**An ceangal a chothú idir an duine agus an dúlra**

Comhairle Cheantae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council

Galway  
COMMUNITY HERITAGE

people & nature

ALBAHA  
COMAIRLE  
COMAIRLE  
COMAIRLE

Galway County Council celebrated International Biodiversity Day and National Biodiversity Week virtually through ‘The Galway Buzz’. There were different biodiversity-related theme every day of The Galway Buzz including a focus on birds, hedgerows and trees, the work of Tidy Towns groups, water and wildlife, pollinators, community-based biodiversity projects, resources for schools and children, and finally how to become a biodiversity champion.

The Galway Buzz was all about connecting people with nature and inspiring them to protect the natural world on which we all depend.

Many community groups, Tidy Towns groups and schools in Galway work tirelessly to protect and enhance our natural heritage and the Galway Buzz showcased some of their work and provide resources for future projects and activities. A week long competition was also held in partnership with Galway Bay FM and people were asked to share their biodiversity and wildlife photographs and prizes were given out each day.

To find out more information about this initiative see:

<https://biodiversity.galwaycommunityheritage.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/peopleandnature/>

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_bWW4CrzofP-4HlMwjTMfg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_bWW4CrzofP-4HlMwjTMfg)

### **Galway County Council became a partner to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan**



*Formal signing of the Pollinator Plan left Cllr James Charity, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway and Kevin Kelly, CE Galway County Council*

Councils play a leading role in making the island of Ireland a place where pollinators can survive and thrive and therefore Galway County Council signed up to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan in September 2020. <https://pollinators.ie/councils/council-partners/>

## Carrownagappul Bog Video and Educational Resources



A video was by BirdWatch Ireland and Galway County Council, and funded through the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (National Biodiversity Action Plan) called 'Life on the bog'; it showcases the rich biodiversity of Carrownagappul, the wildlife that is slowly returning to the bog and the efforts to restore this special site. The video was showcased on RTE news and has also featured on local and national press. In addition to the video other educational resources were produced relating to 'Galway's Living Bog'. For further information see:

<https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/carrownagappul-bog>

### Your Galway Genealogy

The records of our family history tell us about our ancestors and give us an insight into their lives. Every family is different but the process of finding out more about them is the same and involves a focus on people, place and time. A series of 9 tutorials has been produced to help people to understand the record sources available and how to interpret them. They range from the Tithe Applotment Books, Griffith's Valuation, Church parish records, births, deaths, and marriages and records of graveyard headstone transcriptions. Starting with what you know about yourself, you can work back to learn more about earlier generations. The records can give people information about the home place but it's the people who are at the centre of the story. To view these resources see: <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/your-galway-genealogy>

## Galway Virtual Tidy Towns



**Tionscadal Bhaile Slachtmhara Fíorúla Chontae na Gaillimhe**

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe agus Grúpaí Bailte Slachtmhara ag obair le chéile agus ag fanacht ceangailte.

Fad atá gach duine ag fanacht slán sa bhaile agus ag fanacht óna chéile, tá daoine fós ag déanamh nithe go leor mar ag bearradh gairdíní (cuimhnigh áiteanna a fhágáil gan bearradh do phalaineoirí), ag cur bláthanna is maith leis na beacha sa ghairdín, ag beathú na n-éan, an dramháil a chosc, a scagadh agus a laghdú, múirin a dhéanamh srl. Smaoinigh ar na meáin shóisialta a úsáid chun a bhfuil ar bun agat sa bhaile agus sa ghairdín a roinnt leis an bpobal ar mhaithe leis an bpobal agus an timpeallacht.

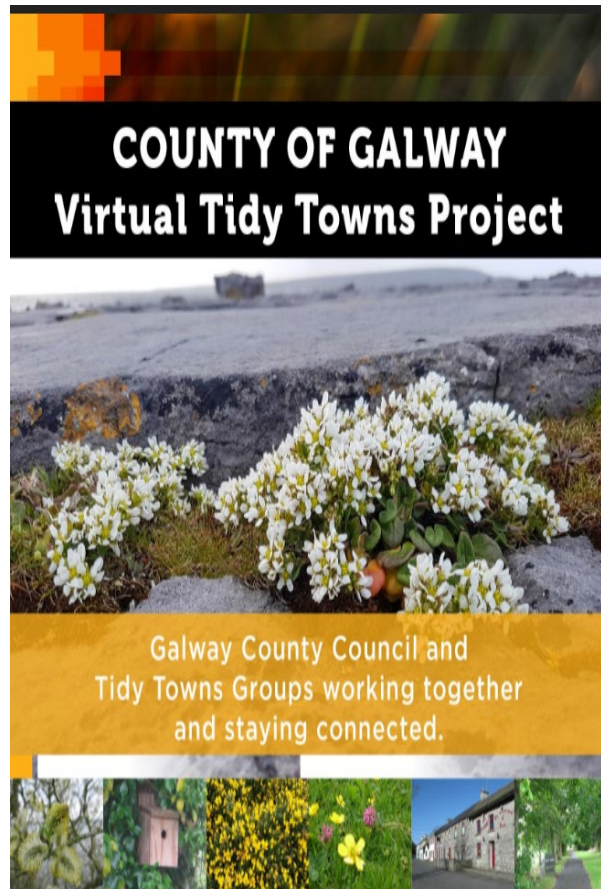
Ar an tsli chéanna, má bhíonn tú amuigh ag siúl gar don teach, ach ag fanacht amach ó dhaoine ag an am céanna, seol grianghraf nó pictiúr d'aon nithe sa dúlra, sa bhfiadhúra nó a bhaineann leis an oidhreacht chuig do ghrúpa áitiúil Bailte Slachtmhara ar Facebook le roinnt daoine eile nó bunaigh leathanach Baile Slachtmhar fíorúil do do cheantarsa. Chun moltaí agus noda a fháil, féach leathanach Facebook Bailte Slachtmhara Fíorúla Chontae na Gaillimhe nó seol ríomhphost chuig [Galwayvirtuallt@gmail.com](mailto:Galwayvirtuallt@gmail.com) <https://galwaycommunityheritage.org/>

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe Galway County Council

Ai Chomhairle Oidhreachta The Heritage Council

Member of GALWAY COMMUNITY HERITAGE

County of Galway Virtual Tidy Towns



**COUNTY OF GALWAY Virtual Tidy Towns Project**

Galway County Council and Tidy Towns Groups working together and staying connected.

Tidy Towns groups throughout the County of Galway came together virtually to stay connected while staying safe during the Covid-19 outbreaks.

Williamstown Tidy Towns led the way by starting a Virtual Tidy Towns Facebook group for their area to provide a platform for people to show what they are doing in their own place in these challenging times for their family, community and the environment, and to celebrate their local heritage and biodiversity.

While everyone is staying at home and maintaining social distancing many people are still doing things such as cutting the grass (remembering to leave areas uncut for pollinators!), planting bee-friendly flowers in the garden, feeding the birds, preventing, reducing and segregating their waste, composting etc. Williamstown Virtual Tidy Towns encouraged people to send in a photo or description of what they are doing to share with others in their village and stay connected. People were encouraged while out for a short walk near their homes (while maintaining social distancing) to send a photo, poem, story or picture to their local Tidy Towns group Facebook page to share with others.

## Embedding best practice in Galway County Council in relation to biodiversity and pollinators



Online training and consultation sessions were held with staff in the main sections in Galway County Council in order to identify areas in the Council plans and work programmes that have the potential to impact positively and negatively on biodiversity.

The main aim of these sessions was to embed a best practice approach to the protection and conservation of biodiversity in all Galway County Council operations and to identify additional training needs and guidance to assist staff in their work.

The training and consultation sessions were tailored for the different sections in the Council and covered a wide range of topics including invasive species, grassland management for pollinators, protecting water quality, the legal framework protecting biodiversity, community projects, tree planting and managing trees etc. The short films that accompanied the Working near Water and Working with Heritage were promoted again during Biodiversity Week 2020 and Heritage Week 2020 (<https://biodiversity.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/new-contributions/water-and-wetlands>).

An Excel database of published and unpublished biodiversity and Galway-related reports and publications has been created. A comprehensive search of the internet was undertaken to identify relevant publications and links. NUI, Galway, GMIT staff and students, local experts and organisations were also contacted for submissions. The database should provide a useful

resource for Galway County Council staff and those working on biodiversity and heritage projects in the county.

### **Invasive Species Working Group.**

The Invasive Species Working Group comprises members from the Roads Section, Community Wardens, Environment Section, Community Waters Office and IT. The Invasive Species Working Group dealt with queries from members of the public in relation to invasive species on public lands and queries from the public. An invasive species decision support tool for staff of Galway County Council was produced in 2020. In addition to this a small number of select sites that had infestations of Gunnera and Japanese knotweed were treated.

### **Invasive Species Decision Support Tool**

An Invasive Species Decision Support Tool has been developed for Galway County Council staff. It deals with the following topics:

What is an invasive species?

How do I identify invasive species?

Legal Framework

What is the economic impact of invasive species?

What is the approach of Galway County Council?

Who do I notify if I find an invasive species?

What should I do if invasive species are present in a current or potential works area? (e.g. road verge, public park, council-owned properties)

a. Japanese Knotweed

b. Giant Rhubarb

c. Himalayan Balsam

d. Giant Hogweed

How do I plan a control programme?

What do I need to consider when controlling invasive species on a site?

What are the control methods for invasive species?

Considerations for prioritising species for control

Specific advice for particular works

Hedgecutting

Road works

Use of herbicide as part of invasive species control programme

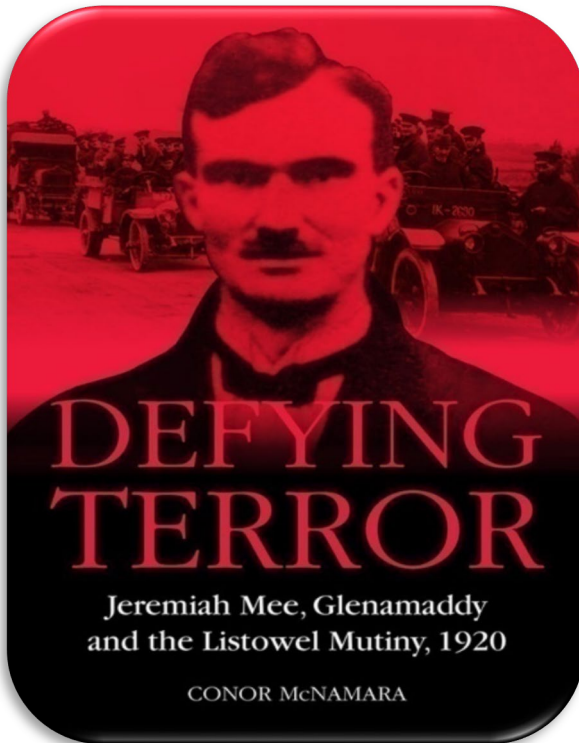
Grasscutting

Further Information

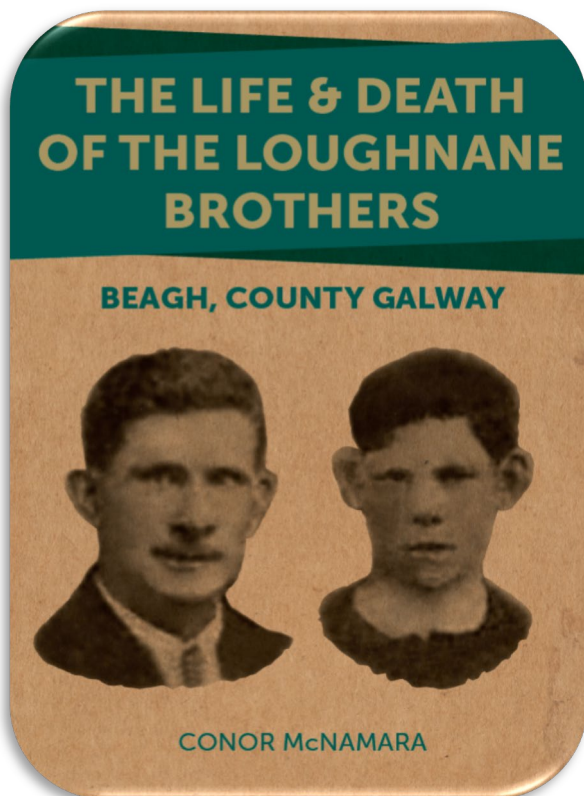


### Decade of Commemoration

Two new publications were produced in 2020, the first of which was entitled *Defying Terror: Jeremiah Mee, Glenamaddy and the Listowel Mutiny, 1920*.



This book was produced to mark the centenary of the Listowel Mutiny, led by Galway native, Jeremiah Mee, and his comrades in Listowel RIC barracks, who resigned from the police rather than had their barracks over the Crown Forces in June 1920.



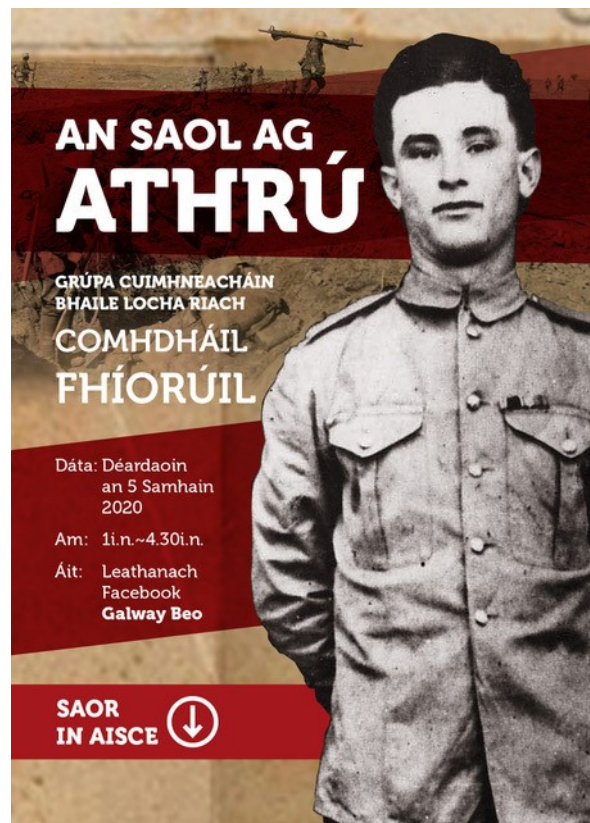
The second publication is entitled *The Life & Death of the Loughnane Brothers, Beagh, Co Galway*. The kidnapping and murder of Volunteers Harry and Patrick Loughnane of Shanaglish in South Galway was one of the most brutal events of the War of Independence. This short study examines the events surrounding the murders, the local reaction in the district and the wider actions of the Volunteers and the Crown Forces in South Galway during this terrible period.

Further information was added to the Decade of Commemoration bi-lingual website in partnership with GMT Heritage Studies.

### ‘Changing Times’ Loughrea Memorial Group Virtual Conference

This conference was organised by Galway County Council in partnership with Loughrea Memorial Group. This conference was supported by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht under the Community Strand of the Decade of Centenaries programme. It is an action of Galway County Council’s Decade of Commemoration Strategy 2013-2023. The topics covered related to the following: *Galway Soldiers who defied the Crown, James Daly and the Indian Mutiny of the Connaught Rangers; Treating 'trauma': Galway's female revolutionary doctors; Connacht in the Military Service (1916 – 1923) Pensions Collection and Terror in County Galway: The Life and Death of the Loughnane Brothers of Beagh, 1920.*

The online lectures have been viewed by over 5000 people to date.



### Emigration and Diaspora Projects

#### *Tuke Emigration Scheme Project*

The Heritage Office continued to work with the Clifden 2012 Committee and Oughterard Heritage Group and Emigration Centre Carna on this project. Developed and produced online information relating to emigration and diaspora. See link

<https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/galway-emigration-and-diaspora-connections>

**ICAN – Community Heritage website.**

The Heritage Office continued to work in partnership with the Museum of County Life Castlebar and various communities throughout the county to further develop this website. Both technical and heritage training has been provided to the groups throughout the year.

**Féile na gCloch Virtual 2020**

**féile na gCloch**  
INIS OÍRR

2020  
FÉILE FHÍORÚIL

**SRUTHÚ BEO:**  
Dé hAoine agus Dé Sathairn an 18 agus 19 Meán Fómhair  
ag 1pm ar  
<https://tinyurl.com/yxjmsfo4>

TÓGÁIL BALLAÍ • PÁBHÁIL • SNOÍODÓIREACHT CHLOICHE • SCEITSEÁIL

**Dé hAoine agus Dé Sathairn  
an 18 agus 19 Meán Fómhair 2020**

Téigh agus fiosraigh an cheird a bhaineann le ballaí cloiche a thógáil, litreoireacht, a bheith ag obair le haoil, sceitseáil agus go leor leor eile...ó Inis Oírr, ó cheantair éagsúla ar fud na tíre agus ar fud an domhain.

**Comórtais**

Cuir isteach ar ár gcomórtais iontacha agus téigh ar thuras fíorúil chuig Inis Oírr.

.....

**Chun sult a bhaint as an eispéireas fíorúil seo logáil isteach ar:**

Galway Beo <https://tinyurl.com/yxjmsfo4>  
Láithreán Gréasáin: <https://tinyurl.com/y3gwfbs7>

Working in partnership with Comhar Caomhain Teo and the Drystone Walling Association of Ireland, Tír Chonaill Stone Wall Fest, Stein und Wein (Austria) and Stone Carvers from USA a virtual festival was premiered on Galway Beo On Friday 18 and Saturday 19 September 2020. There are now 63 videos, films and articles relating to wall building, lettering, carving, paving, sketching and hot lime demo from all over the world included Ireland, Inis Oírr, Austria, USA, Korea, Switzerland, and Australia and are available to be seen on the website <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/feile-na-gloch>

### FEILE NA 3CLOCH

INIS OÍRR  
FEILE FHÍORÚIL 2020

**Comortas Claíocha Beaga a Thógáil**  
Bain sult as an gceird a bhaineann le claíocha cloiche a thógáil agus fu ar do chomrad sa bhaile trí larratais a dhéanamh ar ar gcomortas claíocha cloiche beaga a thógáil. Is féidir na claíocha seo a thógáil trí uasail a bhaint as na príomhailí. Chaitheann a uasailéar chun gnáthclaíocha a thógáil. Bain úsáid as ar dtíoraíoch ar líne chun do chial ar lárthír a thógáil. Oibríodh an teachlath ar fad sult a bhaint as an togra seo.

Comortas idirnáisiúnta atá ann agus is féidir le daoine ó gach aiceirghrúpa larratais a dhéanamh. Chun go gcuirfead d'ealíon san áireamh ní b'fhéadfaid a bhíochan, bí cínnte agus do ghrianghraf nó a físeán a chur ar líne ag uasail na hainchóibeanna.

**#Fellagacloch #miniaturewalls #drawstonewalls**  
nío seol nómhóid chugainn ar infóidíne ar agus cuirfidimid do chuid saothair cloiche ar fad suas ar láithreán gréasáin agus ar ardaíon meán shóisialta. Féilte na gCloch ar fad.

Dé Máire an 25 Meán Fómhair 2020 an dáta deiridh a nglactar le hiarraidh. Ar na duaiseanna beidh: T-íreite agus gearnaithe cothallacha na féile, earraí DSWAI agus níos mó.

**IMEACHT CLAÍOCHA CLOICHE BEAGA A THÓGÁIL**  
<https://www.dswai.ie/manature-walling-festival>



Chun sult a bhaint as an eispéireas fíorúil seo logáil isteach ar:  
Galway Beo <https://tinyurl.com/yxjmsfo4>  
Website: <https://tinyurl.com/y9grbw7>

### FEILE NA 3CLOCH

INIS OÍRR  
FEILE FHÍORÚIL 2020

**Scéitseáil**  
Cuidigh linn áilleacht claíocha cloiche agus taobh tíre Inis Oírr a roinnt trí pháirt a ghlacadh inár n-imeacht scéitseála. Comortas idirnáisiúnta atá ann seo agus is féidir le daoine ó gach aiceirghrúpa larratais a dhéanamh.

Chun go gcuirfead d'ealíon san áireamh ní b'fhéadfaid a bhíochan, bí cínnte agus do ghrianghraf nó físeán a chur ar líne ag uasail na hainchóibeanna.

**#Fellagacloch #drawstonewalls #drawstonewalls**  
nío seol nómhóid chugainn ar infóidíne ar agus cuirfidimid suas ar láithreán gréasáin agus ar ardaíon meán shóisialta. Féilte na gCloch ar fad.

Dé Máire an 25 Meán Fómhair 2020 an dáta deiridh a nglactar le hiarraidh. Ar na duaiseanna beidh: T-íreite agus gearnaithe cothallacha na féile, earraí DSWAI agus níos mó.


**IMEACHT SCEITSEÁLA CLAÍOCHA CLOICHE**  
<https://www.dswai.ie/draw-stone-walls>



Chun sult a bhaint as an eispéireas fíorúil seo logáil isteach ar:  
Galway Beo <https://tinyurl.com/yxjmsfo4>  
Website: <https://tinyurl.com/y9grbw7>

The mini walling and sketching competitions were extremely successful and saw a large number of entrants from all over the world including Canada, USA, Australia and Austria


## Galway Beo



**Galway BEO!**  
*Connecting with Our Heritage*

**O**ur heritage is everywhere around us in old buildings and graveyards, streets and country lanes, rivers and coastlines, hedgerows and gardens, stories and songs. Let's highlight and share the rich heritage of the County of Galway.


Please send in a photograph, drawing, poem or story to help celebrate the wonderful heritage of the County of Galway. We will upload as much as possible to [www.heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org](http://www.heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org) to share with all.



**Galway BEO!**  
*Nasc a dhéanamh lenár nOidhreacht*


**T**á an oidhreacht le brath i ngach uile áit, sna seanfhoirgnimh agus reiligí, ar na sráideanna agus bóithríne faoin tuath, in aibhneacha agus le cósta, sna fáilte sceaich agus gairdíní atá thimpeall orainn agus leis na scéailte agus amhráin atá againn.


Seol grianghraf, líníocht, dán nó scéal chugainn chun cuidiú linn oidhreacht iontach chontae na Gaillimhe a cheiliúradh. Cuirfidimid an oiread agus is féidir linn ar [www.heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org](http://www.heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org) chun iad a roinnt leis an bpobal.



**Email your contribution to GalwayBeo@gmail.com**


An initiative of the Heritage Office, Galway County Council and the communities of the County of Galway





**Seol d'ábhar féin ar aghaidh chuig GalwayBeo@gmail.com**

Tionscnamh de chuid na nOifige Oidhreachta, Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe agus pobail Chontae na Gaillimhe



Established Galway Beo Project in March 2020 due to Covid19 restrictions . People were asked to send in a photograph, drawing, poem or story to help celebrate the wonderful heritage of the County of Galway.



*Photo: Miller's Cottage, Templetogether, Williamstown by Leo Finnegan*



*Photo: Bluebells, Aughrane Wood, Ballygar by Paul Connolly*



*Six spotted burnet moth, Inis Oírr by Paddy Crowe*

A Facebook page, interactive map, website and YouTube channel were set up. Videos were created for a number of weeks of selections of photos and paintings that were submitted see <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/places/galway-beo-project/galway-beo-video-01>

There is a huge response to this initiative with over 1000 photographs, paintings, poems, videos and stories being sent on by the people of the county of Galway. See <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/galway-beo-project> and Galway Beo Facebook page

### **Community Events, Conferences and Workshops**

Assistance, advice, and support was also given to numerous Tidy Town, Community Heritage and schools groups in 2020 and included advice and guidance on heritage publications, development of heritage trails, oral heritage recordings, Heritage Week Events, graveyards, biodiversity, monuments, museums, heritage trails and signage, heritage training and relevant local heritage conferences and seminars etc.

### **Digital Mapping of Graveyards in the County**

The Heritage Office and GIS Section of Galway County Council continued to work with Galway Rural Development and community groups on mapped and memorial inscriptions will be recorded and up loaded to [www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie). We are currently working on a new mapping system with GIS Department to incorporate the use of drones and Survey 123. In addition to this, resources were developed in partnership with Galway Rural Development to assist groups manage, protect their graveyards and digitise memorials. See link: <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/care-recording-and-conservation-of-graveyards>

**The Beo Schools Project** with INSIGHT, NUIG and Galway Education Centre is ongoing. Had an online campaign seeking photos etc during the year which was very successful. Brendan Smith, INSIGHT, NUIG undertook online training sessions with local communities on the colourising of old photographs.

## Holy Wells Audit Phase 1

**TOIBREACHA  
BEANNAITHE  
NA GAILLIMHE**

Déan ceiliúradh  
ar Lá Náisiúnta  
na dToibreacha  
Beannaithe ar  
an 14 Meitheamh  
2020

INIÚCHADH LE DÉANAMH AR THOIBREACHA  
BEANNAITHE i gCONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

- An bhfuil tobar beannaithe i do cheantarsa?
- An mbíonn lá pátrúin ar siúl gach bliain ag an tobar?
- An bhfuil aon seanchas agat faoin tobar?

Táimid ag iarraidh an oiread eolais agus is féidir a bhailiú faoi gach gné a bhaineann le toibreacha beannaithe an Chontae.

Ba mhór againn dá ndéanfadh sibhse an t-eolas sin a roinnt linn.

Seolaigí bhur gcuid scéalta, taithí agus grianghraf ar ríomhphost chuig  
[galwayholywells@gmail.com](mailto:galwayholywells@gmail.com)

Tionscadal arna mhaoiniú ag Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe agus ag an gComhairle Oidhreacht



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

An Chomhairle Oidhreacht  
The Heritage Council

a member of  
GALWAY COMMUNITY  
HERITAGE



The Audit of the Holy Wells in the County of Galway was initiated in order to collect and collate as much information as possible about this valuable aspect of our intangible heritage.

Information about our holy wells may be in danger of being lost due to a largely, older generational knowledge base and development pressures, including land clearance. It is planned to undertake the Galway County Audit in a series of phases, due to the geographical spread of the County and the number of recorded (Records of Monuments and Places – National Monuments Service) and potentially unrecorded holy wells present. Phase One was undertaken between May and October 2020.

The focus during this phase was: • the planning and development of a comprehensive, future proofed, digital field data collection methodology and a searchable database for storage and dissemination of information • the collecting of baseline information on each of the recorded holy wells in the County, through desk research and community consultation • awareness raising in regard to the Audit and facilitation of community participation in data collection.



*Derrynacrag Holy Well*

Outputs consisted of: • the development of a comprehensive data collection, storage and dissemination model (mobile app and web based platform) which is ready to use for future field data collection during subsequent phases of the Audit and is transferable to other Counties for similar purpose • the uploading of desk research and community derived background data on each of the recorded holy wells within the County to an EXCEL sheet • a community consultation programme which resulted in a comprehensive awareness rising and socially interactive data gathering process which can be repeated during each subsequent phase of the Audit.

Two videos were also produced one for National Holy Wells Day and another one for Heritage Week. For more information see

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

### **Community Archaeologist Programme**

The Community Archaeologist worked with numerous groups in the county with regards to the provision of advice and guidance with regards to their archaeological heritage. Due to Covid19 the role and work of the Community Archaeologist had to be reviewed and changed to take cognisance of our new reality. In the early days of Covid19 a lot of the work of the Community Archaeologist was spent creating online resources and communicating with the communities and people in a virtual way. As restrictions were lifted she was able to undertake site visits but taking Covid19 guidelines into account. This approach worked very well and there is a large bank of online information available for all to use including Archaeology and Tidy Towns and Funding advice with regards to the Community Monument Fund. She also provided advice to several



community groups with regards to the Community Monument Fund. To see these resources please see <https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/>



*Bernie Doherty, Galway County Community Archaeologist visiting Mountbellew Walled Garden Project*

# GALWAY COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGIST



The Galway Community Archaeologist provides advice and support relating to archaeological monuments in the community. She is available to answer your queries on maintenance, preservation, education and promotion of our diverse range of archaeology which spans over ten thousand years. Now available to liaise with educators, community groups, farmers, individuals and custodians of Galway's archaeological heritage.

- Contact:** Bernadette Doherty  
Carra, Bullaun, Loughrea, Co. Galway
- Mobile:** 086 100 3888
- Website:** <https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/>
- Email:** [g.c.archaeology@gmail.com](mailto:g.c.archaeology@gmail.com)
- Facebook:** Galway Community Archaeology

*This project is funded by Galway County Council and The Heritage Council*



## Reading the Landscape



**(Photo relates to a previous course - not taken in 2020)**

The aim of the project 2020 was to update the text and images of the publication *Reading Your Local Landscape – A Heritage Audit Toolkit for Local Community Groups* to include new resources and sources of information that have come online since original publication date and methods of survey which have been developed/updated since 2015. In addition to this an online course was developed and held online with 30 people attending the course. The course dealt with the following subject matters: Course Introduction and Townland survey basics, The Shape of the Landscape, An Introduction to Archaeology, The basics of Architectural Design, Voices from the past: An Introduction to Oral Tradition & Oral History and Digital Outputs: An overview.

### **Heritage Week Events:**

The Heritage Office provided advice and assistance to several groups in the county with regards to developing digital/online Heritage Week events.

In addition to this the following initiatives were held during Heritage Week:

### **Online Traditional Song Workshops for Children, Heritage Week 2020**

Traditional Singer Rachel Uí Fhaoláin delivered an online programme of Traditional Song Workshops for Children during Heritage Week 2020 for the Heritage Office, Galway County Council. These online tutorials in traditional song were delivered on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of August through Zoom from 10am -11am. The workshops focused on the process of writing

songs in the traditional style while using local existing airs from the tradition and the Irish language.

### Galway and Its Diaspora

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August the Heritage Office of Galway County Council in partnership with Galway Bay FM held a live discussion on ‘Galway Talks’ about our long history of emigration.

**OIDREACTH na hIMIRCE GAILLIMH AGUS A DIASPÓRA**

Tionófaidh Oifig Oidhreachta Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe i gcomhar le Galway Bay FM plé beo ar an gclár

**'GALWAY TALKS'**

ar

**DÉ hAOINE AN 14 LÚNASA AG 10.10AM**

nuair a phléfidh an láithreoir **Sally Ann Barrett** gnéithe den stair fhada imirce atá againn leis an **Dr Gerard Moran**, **Uiltan Cowley**, **Máirtín Davy Ó Coisdealbhá** agus **Máirtín Ó Catháin**.

Chun tuilleadh eolais a fháil, bí ag éisteacht le Galway Bay FM, féach ar

[www.heritageweek.ie](http://www.heritageweek.ie)

agus

<https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/galway-emigration-and-diaspora-connections>

Photo: Tea break on the M1, England, 1963  
Griangraifadóir: John Loring & Son (níl ag trádaíl níos mó)

Tionscnamh de chuid na hOifige Oidhreachta, Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe & Galway Bay FM Radio

**GALWAY AND ITS DIASPORA OIDREACTH na hIMIRCE**

Galway County Council, Heritage Office, working in partnership with Galway Bay FM, will be holding a live discussion on Galway Bay FM's programme

**'GALWAY TALKS'**

on

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August at 10.10am**

when presenter **Sally Ann Barrett** will discuss aspects of our long history of emigration with **Dr Gerard Moran**, **Uiltan Cowley**, **Máirtín Davy Ó Coisdealbhá** and **Máirtín Ó Catháin**.

For more information please tune into Galway Bay FM, and visit...

[www.heritageweek.ie](http://www.heritageweek.ie)

or

<https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/galway-emigration-and-diaspora-connections>

Photo: Tea break on the M1, England, 1963  
Photo credit: John Loring & Son (ceased trading)

An initiative of the Heritage Office, Galway County Council & Galway Bay FM Radio

### Townland Research

Working with Galway Community Heritage, Forum Connemara, Galway Rural Development, Carna Emigration Centre and Cornamona on recording and documenting townland historical research. <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/townlands-of-county-galway>

The following are links to this work specific to areas in the county:

**Conemara Townland Research** : There are now 360 townlands recorded and documented see: <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/connemara-roots-nw-connemara-heritage>

**Ceantar Dhúiche Sheoigheach**: There are now 87 townlands recorded and documented see: <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/joyce-country-places/joyce-country>

**East Galway Townland Research**: There are now 190 townlands recorded and documented see:

<https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/galway-east-townland-research>

The *Golden Mile Calendar* was produced in December 2020 in partnership with Galway Rural Development.

### Digital Skills Training for Heritage

This 4 session online course was run online in October and November 2020. The course dealt with using your phone to make a video, using YouTube, Zoom, Facebook, video publishing and video conferencing.

### Traditional Singing for Families

Traditional singer Rachel Uí Fhaoláin delivered an online programme of Traditional Singing for Families. This initiative involved Galway County Council Heritage Office, the Galway Age Friendly programme and Healthy Ireland: Keep Well in your community. This online programme of traditional song was delivered on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December through Zoom. The workshop was a special virtual gathering where Rachel brought children, their parents & grandparents, friends and extended family at home and abroad together to share traditional songs in English agus as Gaeilge and they enjoyed this special evening together for Nollaig 2020.

Stay connected  
Keep Well  
this Christmas

Ceol Mo Chroí & Traditional Archive Channel present  
**Traditional Singing for Families**  
le Rachel Uí Fhaoláin agus a clann

A special Christmas virtual gathering for children, parents, grandparents, friends & extended family at home or abroad

Thursday the 17th of Dec at 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Contact Rachel by emailing [ceolmochroi@gmail.com](mailto:ceolmochroi@gmail.com) or phone 087 2988473 to join us on Zoom for Nollaig 2020!

Le tacaíocht ó hOifig na hOidhreacht,  
Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe

"My father played the melodion outside at our gate:  
There were stars in the morning east and they danced to his music....."  
A Christmas Childhood by Patrick Kavanagh

### Community Monument Fund 2020

The Community Monuments Fund was established as part of the €1.4m in additional capital earmarked for national monuments under the Stimulus Plan. The core objective of the Community Monuments Fund was to support the conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of local monuments and historic sites. It contained a number of different measures aimed at enabling conservation works to be carried out on monuments which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support, encouraging access to monuments and improving their presentation and also building resilience in monuments to enable them to withstand the effects of

climate change. Galway Community Archaeologist and Heritage Officer worked with a number of community groups in the county and the following four projects received funding in 2020:

### **Abbeygormican Church and Graveyard Recorded Monument GA107:002**



Work in progress, Abbeygormacan | B. Doherty 2020

Abbeygormican Cemetery Committee were successful in their funding application for conservation works to a collapsed medieval wall within the graveyard. This wall was part of the medieval abbey. The following works were undertaken in 2020:

- Essential repairs to chancel walls of abbey, including the removal of trees and ivy
- Removal of ivy from nave wall, transept chapel and tomb
- Conservation management plan, including input from archaeologist, structural engineer, Heritage Officer, community archaeologist and community
- 3D photogrammetry record of chancel wall and double piscina
- Archaeological monitoring, recording and reporting including proposed outline for future reconstruction of chancel piscina (subject to future funding)

**Ballinastack Megalithic Monument and Children's Burial Ground Recorded Monument  
GA006:005**

*Looking South showing the cap stone of tomb and surrounding grave-markers by Bernie Doherty*

Ballinastack Megalithic Monument and Children's Burial Ground is on privately owned land. The owner appreciates the importance of allowing the public to visit this site. Maintenance of recorded monuments required permission from the National Monuments Service and archaeological supervision. The following works were under Clean-up and removal of overgrowth at Recorded Monument GA006:005 (Megalithic Tomb and CBG), monitored by Consultant Archaeologist and recorded using 3D Photogrammetry. A short film was produced showing the benefits of Community Monuments Funding to the landowner, custodian of a Recorded Monument and the wider community.

## Kilclooney Tower House

Kilclooney Tower House, is one of Milltown's most impressive antiquities. This ruined tower house, popularly known as Kilclooney Castle, was once the seat of a bardic school. It lies roughly halfway between Tuam and Claremorris just off the N17. The following works were undertaken Conservation management plan by conservation architect, with archaeological and structural engineering input from approved professionals. Purchase and installation of harris fencing for immediate protection of structure.



*Discussions regarding the importance of Kilclooney Tower House as a cultural asset within the Milltown/ Tuam area by Bernie Doherty*

## Lydacan Tower House, Kiltartan



Lydacan Castle is a tower house on lands adjacent to a turlough in the ownership of Galway County Council. The works included a Conservation management plan (Including Archaeological Input). Essential repairs to vault within tower house. Gate design, manufacture and installation and archaeological monitoring and reporting.





*Fieldtrip with Paul Rondelez examining the Sliabh Aughty blast furnaces*

## ENVIRONMENT

The role of the Environment Section is to protect and enhance the Environment in the County of Galway in the interests of quality of life, economic development and regulatory compliance. This is to be achieved through the implementation of numerous plans, measures and programmes to be delivered throughout the Unit.

### Strategic Goal

**To maximise the continued and sustainable economic and enterprise development of our county**

### Environmental Awareness

- The awareness team continued to engage with the domestic and commercial sectors in promoting environmental awareness.
- Community awareness events have taken place up to the beginning of March 2020 focusing on waste management, waste prevention, food waste, home composting, household hazardous waste, energy conservation and water conservation.
- Information was provided on awareness and environmental activities through local media, social media, libraries, schools, voluntary groups etc
- There was ongoing involvement with Tidy Towns groups.
- The Green Schools programme continues with over 90% of county schools involved.
- A number of Anti-Litter initiatives were funded.
- Grants given to communities who maintain bring banks and burial grounds.
- Delivery of National Spring Clean, Community Clean Up Initiatives, National Tree Week and Christmas Tree Collections.
- The Local Authority Prevention Network continues its work to identify actions within community, business and public sectors in areas such as waste prevention, energy conservation, water conservation, training and awareness.



### Strategic Goal

**To ensure that our physical and social infrastructure is sufficiently developed to support economic development, and to enhance our quality of life**

#### Waste Services

- The contract for the operation of the Civic Amenity Sites (CAS) at Clifden, Ballinasloe & Tuam was tendered, and Barna Recycling were selected and will operate the new contract for a three-year term commencing in 2021. A site for an additional CAS for South Galway was identified and it was agreed with the Municipal District members to progress the planning application. Discussions were held with a landowner for a CAS site in South Connemara and the council would be hopeful to progress this further next year. Waste management service contracts for Inishboffin was renewed for a two-year term and Rehab Glassco were successful in renewing their contract for bottlebank collection services also for a two-year term. New customer signage was erected at a number of the bottlebank sites.

Over 28,000 customers availed of the facilities at the Civic Amenity Sites in the year and 5035 tonnes of glass were collected from our network of bottlebank sites.

- Waste acceptance operations ceased at the Kilconnell Facility in March. The final section of landfill capping was completed in October and site remediation works are now substantially complete. The project milestones agreed with DECC for the Site Resolution Plan have been achieved and the landfill will commence the aftercare phase next year.

In response to the Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations 2008 (SI 524/2008) the Council have undertaken risk assessments at Closed Landfills in Clifden, New Inn, Gort, Tuam and Glenamaddy. It is expected that reports on the assessments will be finalised next year and Certification of Authorisation applications will be made thereafter to the EPA.



### *Strategic Goal*

**To improve, protect and promote our environment, culture, heritage and language in the interests of present and future generations**

- 210 planning applications with a significant environmental risk were reviewed and recommendations and advice were provided where required.
- 107 inspections of septic tanks or domestic wastewater treatment systems were carried out under the national inspection plan.
- 21 inspections were carried out under the farm inspection programme.
- The scheduled monitoring programmes for rivers, lakes, discharge licences, bathing waters and drinking water private supplies were fully completed.
- 110 inspections of sites with discharge licences were carried out. Follow up enforcement action was carried out where required.

## Beaches

The following 6 beaches achieved Blue Flag status in 2020:

- Trá an Dóilín, An Cheathrú Rua
- Traught, Kinvara (Trácht, Cinn Mhara)
- Loughrea Lake
- An Trá Mhór, Indreabhán
- Cill Mhuirbhigh, Inis Mór
- Bathing Place at Portumna



*An Trá Mhór, Indreabhán*

The following 6 beaches achieved Green Coast Award status in 2020:

- Trá Inis Oírr (Main Beach)
- Aillebrack, Ballyconneely
- East End, Inishbofin
- Duamch, Inishbofin
- Rinvyle Beach (Whitestrans Beach)
- Poll na gCaorach, Formna, Inis Oírr

Actions were taken to protect public health by continuing to monitor bathing water quality and implement non-compliance protocols at 26 beaches during the bathing water season. Public health was also protected through the implementation of the Irish Water SLA for drinking water and wastewater facilities.

Investigations were carried out in response to complaints received from the National Illegal Dumping line, general public, council staff and EPA referral in line with national priorities and within the timelines set out in the Enforcement Policy where possible.

Waste enforcement inspections were carried out in relation to permitted and certified waste facilities, commercial premises, permitted and bogus waste collectors, illegal dumping and C&D sites.

An application for a grant of €126,000 was approved for the roll out of an Anti-Dumping Initiative in 2020. A number of projects were completed using this funding including clean-ups of dumping black spots, Bulky Goods Collections, a Bikes for Africa project and a public awareness campaign.

Full details in relation to inspections and enforcement activities in the areas of waste, water, air and noise will be set out in the RMCEI returns for 2020.

### *Strategic Goal*

**To maximise organisational capacity through the continuous review of operational efficiency, financial and risk management and the development of our Staff and Elected Members**

## **Burial Grounds**

There are 233 burial grounds listed on the Council's burial ground register. A number of extensions were completed or advanced during the year while with the participation of the many local burial ground committee's improvement and maintenance works were carried out throughout the county. An annual grant of between €300 - €600 was provided to committees who maintain burial grounds in their area and 148 committees were awarded a grant.

## **Veterinary Services**

The Council provides a Veterinary Public Health Inspection Service in both Galway City and County. This service fulfils the terms of its service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland. There are two fulltime veterinarians in the service. There are 11 low throughput abattoirs in the county which slaughter cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry, and process wild game. The Council also supervises 14 approved and three registered meat processing premises in both the city and county. One new low throughput abattoir was granted EC approval in 2020. Galway County Council's Veterinary Service also has an advisory role for existing and prospective meat food business operators at start-up phase and is involved at steering level in the development of the BIA Innovator campus Athenry.

## Dog Control

- Dog control and the promotion of responsible dog ownership in the County continues to be monitored by our two fulltime wardens, utilising 2 leased dog holding facilities. While no dog licencing campaigns were possible from March onward due to the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic, dog licencing numbers have remained roughly on par with that of 2019. All complaints received by the warden service continued to be logged and responded to during 2020. 35 fines for breaches of the Control of Dogs Act were issued during 2020. Approx. 90% of dogs which came through the LA pound system were rehomed in 2020.
- The Council also provides a large Animal Pound facility at Ballinasloe. The Council veterinary service provides advice and assistance to the Housing Section in the implementation of the Control of Horses Act.
- Training was given to Dog Wardens and Veterinary Personnel on an agreed An Garda Síochána/Local Authority Dog Warden protocol. The Council will liaise with a nominated representative from the Garda Inspectorate in the event the dog warden service is requested to assist the Gardaí in carrying out their duties. One additional breeder was added to the Dog Breeders Register during 2020. Nine DBEs are registered with Galway County Council and these are inspected, and risk assessed as per the DBE legislation.
- Galway County Council's Veterinary Service continues to participate in the cross agency Western Zoonosis Committee with the HSE and DAFM. Animal Welfare/Marine Mammal cases were logged and where relevant, investigated

### *Strategic Goal*

**To facilitate the broadest possible participation by citizens in local decision making and the sustainable development of their communities and their county**

## Green Initiatives

- Information meetings and workshops on waste prevention, food waste prevention, home composting, energy conservation and water conservation have been delivered throughout County Galway in conjunction with community groups, voluntary groups and tidy towns committees up to the beginning of March 2021.

- The implementation of the Green Schools programme is on-going and has been very successful to date with 183 schools being awarded the Green Flag in the County.



- Anti-Litter Initiatives such as the National Spring Clean and the Galway Dog Fouling Campaign have been implemented throughout the county.



*Galway Dog Fouling Campaign*

## Strategic Goal

**To ensure that quality customer service is at the centre of everything we do**

The Environment Unit within Galway County Council provide a number of services to the public including Waste Management, Litter Management and Environmental Enforcement, Environmental Awareness, Burial Grounds and Veterinary Services and Control of Dogs.



## EMERGENCY SERVICES

### *Galway Fire and Rescue Service and Galway Civil Defence*

#### **Introduction**

Galway Fire & Rescue service (GFRS) has the following responsibilities in that it:

- Responds to emergencies other than just fires, such as road traffic collisions, hazardous materials incidents, water rescues, flooding and major accidental hazards;
- Aspires to prevent emergencies happening in the first place through a range of fire prevention and technical fire safety work carried out within the County and City and various community fire safety initiatives.
- Is the Local Authority Principal Emergency Service (PES) in Galway City and County Councils, who as Local Authorities are Principal Response Agencies (PRA) in accordance with the National Framework for Major Emergency Management 2006.

There are currently 11 stations serving Galway County with a population of 179,048 people and Galway city with a population of 79,504 (CSO statistics 2016) as shown in Figure 1.



*Figure 1: GFRS Fire Station Locations*

Fire Stations are located at:

- Athenry
- Ballinasloe
- Clifden
- Galway City (Headquarters)
- Gort
- Inis Mór
- Loughrea
- Mountbellew
- Portumna
- Tuam
- An Cheathrú Rua

An Cheathrú Rua Fire station went operational in February 2016 as the 11th Fire station in the county. The Council now employs 167 fire-fighting personnel in Galway Fire and Rescue Service including full time and retained fire-fighters in the City and County, senior fire officers, a brigade mechanic and a Civil Defence Officer. In addition, Galway FRS has 4 civilian administrative support staff as Headquarters staff who are based in Galway City Fire station.

In October 2018 the new fire station and training centre in Tuam (see Figure 2) became operational. Constructed at a cost of €2.4 million including site and design team costs, the station significantly enhances crew safety, training delivery and the services provided in North Galway.



*Figure 2: New Fire Station in Tuam Operational October 2018*

## COVID-19

As with all Irish society, COVID-19 has had a dramatic impact of the service provision of the Fire Service. The fire services are considered an essential service and are obliged to maintain its services throughout the pandemic. Galway Fire and Rescue Service developed a comprehensive and robust Business Continuity Plan specific to the pandemic to ensure business continuity. Throughout this portion of the annual report, COVID-19 will be referred to where it had an impact on the provision of service by Galway Fire and Rescue Services.

### Strategic Goal

**“To improve, protect and promote our environment, culture, heritage and language in the interests of present and future generations.”**

## KEEPING COMMUNITIES SAFE – A FRAMEWORK FOR FIRE SAFETY IN IRELAND

“Keeping Communities Safe”, which is the outcome of a review of Fire Services and Fire Safety in Ireland was published in February 2013 by the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management (NDFEM). “Keeping Communities Safe” (KCS) is an integrated blue-print for the development of the critical public safety roles performed by Fire Services, to be implemented in the period of 2013-2015, that manages risk, by addressing public safety improvement, incident reduction, response standards and service delivery structures for the decade ahead.

The draft area risk categorisation (ARC) for all Fire Station grounds in Galway had been completed and was submitted to NDFEM in summer of 2015 to form part of the 1<sup>st</sup> National External Validation Group (EVG) report, as requested by NDFEM Circular 05/2015. A national EVG 1 Report was issued by NDFEM in 2016. A second round of EVG visits was due to take place in 2020.

Because of the pandemic, it was not possible for the NDFEM to conduct the planned EVG II visit in 2020. In its stead the NDFEM conducted a “Capacity Review” of all fire services to ascertain how those services planned and conducted its business during the pandemic. The “capacity review board” issued its report in October 2020. Galway Fire and Rescue Service fared very well in the report and was held up as an example of the use of ArcGIS for information recording and management in the area of Community Fire Safety and Severe Weather Emergency Management.

## CAMP WEST (WEST REGION FIRE CONTROL)

Galway FRS continued to run and pilot the CAMP Next Generation mobilisation trial at Galway City fire station as part of roll-out of new out-station equipment in Fire Stations in West region as part of Camp C<sub>TH</sub> project. Technical preparatory work has been carried out in 2018 and 2019 in all Fire stations to enable the transfer over to the National digital radio system (TETRA) in all vehicles and HQ Fire Station which has now been completed. This system replaced the existing VHF network and will be followed by an upgraded command and control system common to all regional fire communication centres in 2021.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT

Galway FRS Health and Safety policy is contained in Galway County Council's Local Authority Safety Management System Manual / Safety Statement. The Council Safety manual as customised for Galway FRS addresses the working environments encountered by the Fire Service, where combining need, risk and resources in a wide range of situations has long been a feature of service management. Galway County Council's Local Authority Safety Management System Manual / Safety Statement sets out the approach, which this Fire Authority adopts in relation to managing safety and in particular meeting its statutory obligations under Section 20 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005.

### ISO 45001: OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Having achieved accreditation to the OHSAS 18001 safety management system in December 2016 the retention of this accreditation and the H&S management programme have been major drivers of much of the fire service's H&S related activities in 2020. and are briefly summarised as follows: -

- **ISO 45001:** In October 2018 Galway FRS successfully achieved accreditation to the new Internationally Recognised Standard ISO 45001 Surveillance audits conducted by the accreditation body (NSAI in this case) play a key role of the ISO 45001 system to ensure that safety management systems are constantly maintained and consistently improved as per the requirements of the code of practice. In this regard Galway FRS successfully passed two surveillance audits that that were conducted in June and November of 2020 and the next audits are scheduled for June 2021.



Figure 3: OHSAS 18001 Presentation 2018

- **Fire Station Safety Checks:** A new initiative of carrying out regular safety checks in fire stations was commenced in 2017. The purpose of these checks, which are conducted on a six monthly basis for county retained fire stations and on a quarterly basis for Galway City fire station, is to augment the existing suite of static risk assessments of our fire stations (which are reviewed on a three yearly basis). They also allow for the early identification of potential hazards in the fire stations thus expediting the implementation of appropriate control measures and corrective actions. A total of 20 such checks were carried out in 2020 across all GFRS fire stations.
- **Meetings / Consultations:** Galway FRS H&S Steering Group continued to meet on a regular basis in 2020. The majority of such meeting were held via the MS Teams platform due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The conduction of H&S Operational Group meetings for the City & City Retained personnel and separately for County Retained personnel was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic as the feasibility to hold on site meetings was very much restricted. Nonetheless a reduced amount of such meetings took place in 2020. It is planned that through the introduction of new tablets / devices to fire stations in early 2021 that these meeting will be able to be held on a more regular frequency of every two months.
- **Audits:** As mentioned above the last ISO 45001 surveillance audit was conducted in June and November 2020 by the NSAI. Due to Covid-19 restrictions the audits were conducted over MS Teams with the fire stations of Clifden (June) and Loughrea (November) were selected as the locations of the audits. Fire service personnel at both locations made significant efforts to ensure that their fire stations were well presented. The NSAI found that there was no area of concern to warrant the withdrawal of certification and the ISO 45001 certification was successfully retained. The next audits are scheduled for June 2021.
- **Legionella Control:** Following the legionella risk assessments of the fire stations that took place in 2016 a Legionella Control programme was developed and instigated in 2017. The programme involves the monthly monitoring of water services infrastructure in all fire stations by a specialist

contractor. In parallel to this particular programme a separate programme of carrying out remedial works to water services infrastructure in all fire stations was initiated to address issues identified in the legionella risk assessments. These works were predominantly concluded in December 2017. Legionella monitoring continued in 2020 in order to continue to lower the legionella risk rating in fire stations.

- **Hygiene Sub Group:** Following international research into the potential health consequences of exposure to the products of combustion to fire fighters, and in response to discussions held during the Health and Safety Operational Group meetings, a Hygiene Sub Group was established consisting of representatives of fire service management and retained and full-time fire fighters. This group is looking at national and international research and has produced a draft report containing possible control measures to be considered to reduce any potential risks.

- **H&S Documentation:** A number of documents relating to the safety management system were reviewed & updated in 2020 and copies of same issued to fire stations. We have continued to upload documentation relating to the safety management system onto the Library function of the Incident Control Room software system and appliance tablets. It is planned to keep all such H&S documentation in this manner thus ensuring that the most up to date documentation will always be available to all fire crews. All operational guidance is circulated in the same manner.

- **Incident Reporting:** 22 Incidents were reported in 2020 and were broken down as follows:

- 5 Dangerous Occurrences
- 13 Accidents
- 4 Near misses

While there is an increase in reported incidents and dangerous occurrences from last year, from an organisational point of view, it is considered beneficial for a heightened level of incident reporting to help prevent future occurrences.

- **Covid-19:** the onset of the Covid-19 brought about the introduction of additional H&S related oversight / roles, new procedures, practices and administrative functions across all areas of the fire service. It is envisaged that same will continue throughout 2021.

## FIRE OPERATIONS (RESPONSE)

The total number of emergency responses by Galway Fire Rescue Service (GFRS) in Galway City and County respectively, in 2020 was 1531 (1388 incidents) with 604 in Galway City Fire Ground and 927 emergency responses in remainder of Galway County. The overall call rate is almost identical to 2019 with an increase of approximately 40 calls in the City and corresponding decrease in the County. Figure 4 shows the trend of incidents /responses from 2010 – 2020 for Galway City and County. Following in increase in the trend of the number of incidents / responses attended in 2017 and 2018 there was a significant drop in the number of incidents attended in 2019 and 2020. Figure 5 shows trends of incidents / responses in the City and County Fire ground areas respectively from 2010 -2020.

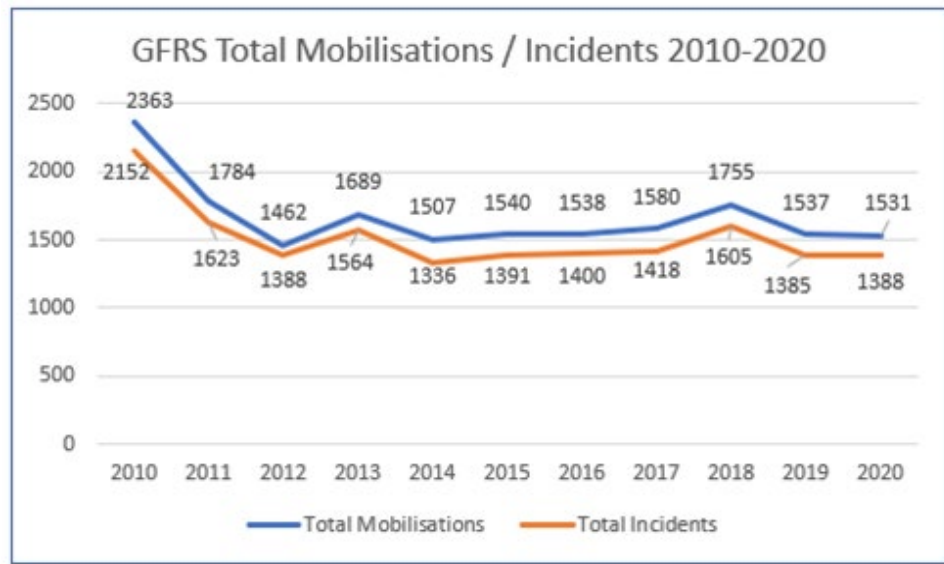


Figure 4: Incident Trends for Galway City and County 2010 – 2020

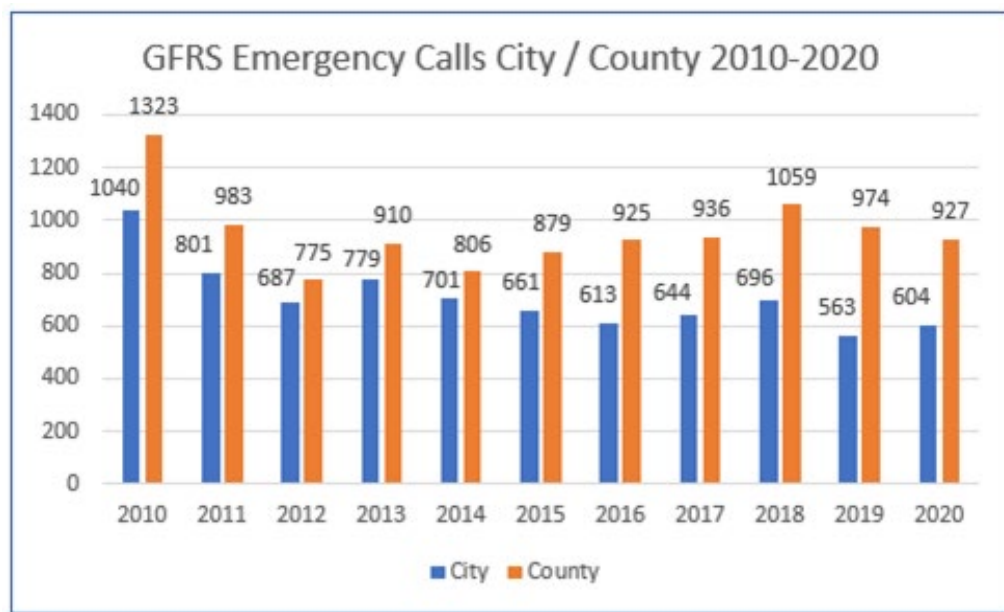


Figure 5: Incident Trends for City & County Fire Ground Areas 2010-2020

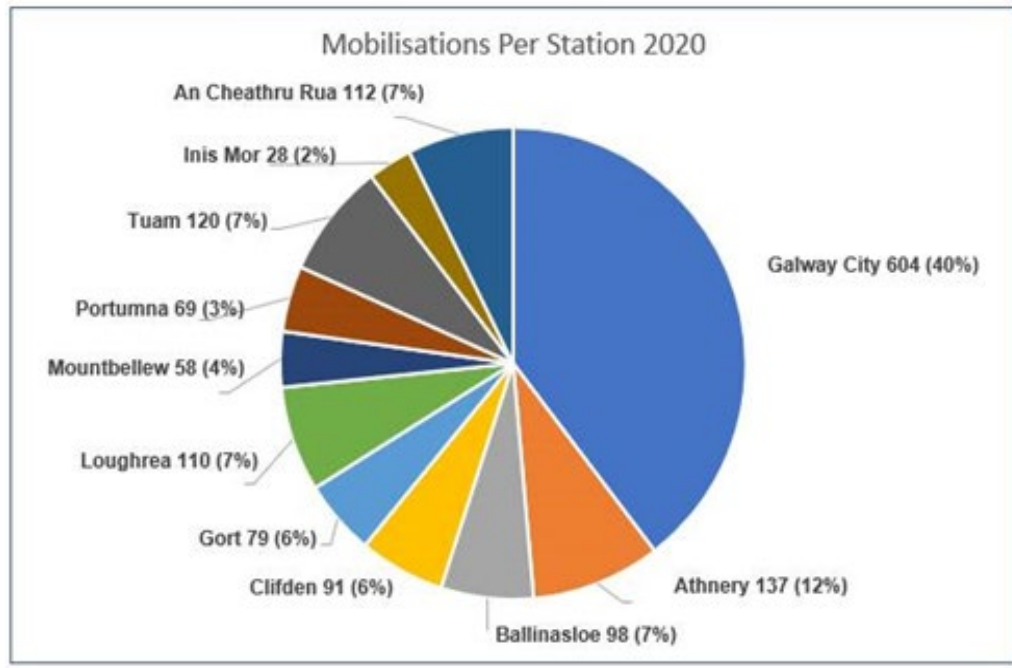


Figure 6: Breakdown of Mobilisations per Station in 2020

Figures 6 & 7 give a breakdown of mobilisations per station and incidents by Station ground for 2020. Overall activity levels have remained the same as 2019 levels with the percentage activity per station remaining relatively steady.

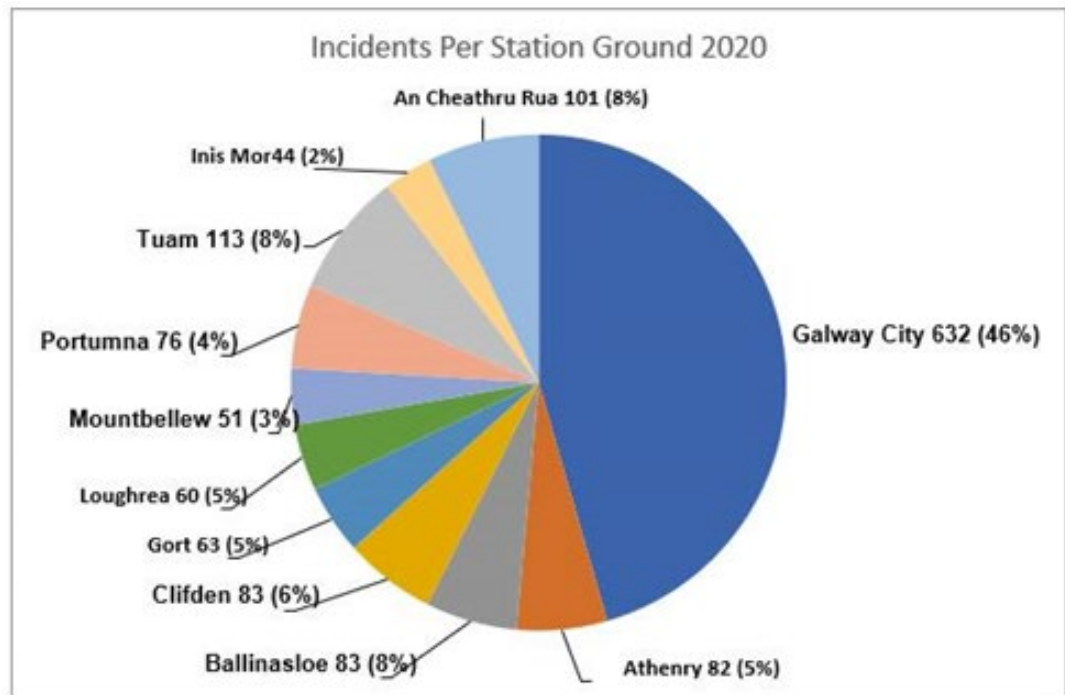


Figure 7: Breakdown Incidents per Station Ground in 2020



**Fire Fatalities**

Regrettably, there was one fatality due to accidental fires in 2020 in Galway city and county.

## MAJOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (MEM)

The Major Emergency Development Committee (MEDC) which was established by the Council as part of New National Framework for Major Emergency Management (MEM) continued its work. The GCC Major Emergency Plan was submitted to the Executive Team for sign off along with the GCC Severe Weather and Flood Response Sub-plans.

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic a Mortality Management Plan was prepared by Galway Fire & Rescue Service (GFRS) and the plan was exercised during an inter-agency exercise conducted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July. A software system GEMMS (Galway Emergency Mortality Management System) (*Figure 8*) was created by the GCC GIS Officer and GFRS to manage excess mortality. The system was adapted from the SWEMS (Severe Weather Event Management System) within a very short time period. The system was also tested during the exercise and can be used as an inter-agency tool to track all fatalities. To add resilience and to increase GCCs body holding capacity, 2 No. rigid refrigerated vehicles (*Figures 9 & 10*) were purchased by GFRS. Each vehicle was shelved and has a capacity of 24 No. bodies. A claim for recoupment of the cost of the vehicles was submitted to the NDFEM by GFRS.

As part of Severe Weather planning, Galway County Council continued the development of a Severe Weather Incident Mapping System (SWEMS) as shown in Figure 11. The system can be used for reporting and recording on an ARC GIS live map, the locations and incidences of all flooding events in the Galway County Council functional area. The system is linked automatically to the GCC Weather Related Road Closure Map on the GCC Website, to MapAlerter and to the GCC Twitter page, which all allow for automatic updates to be provided to the public during a weather event. GFRS rolled out a SWEMS training programme to all municipal districts and completed training for all personnel in December 2020.

Locally, the MEM committee continued their work on the revision of External Emergency Plans (EEP) for Upper Tier Seveso Site (under the Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances Regulations 2015). Under these regulations the relevant Principal Response Agencies (PRA's), termed Local Competent Authorities (LCA's), must review EEPs every three years including the running of exercises. The agencies (LCA's) involved include Galway County Council (including Galway Fire and Rescue Service as it's PES), Galway Garda Division, HSE West (including the National Ambulance Service (NAS)) and the site operator and other agencies including the Port Authority, if applicable. Although no plans were reviewed in 2020 work commenced on the Colas (Upper Tier COMAH Site) EEP in December 2020 with a view to having a revised plan complete in early 2021.

The following major emergency exercises were held in 2020;

- Covid 19 Mortality Management Inter-Agency Exercise 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020;

- Indreabhán Airport Inter-Agency Exercise 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

As part of these exercises, GFRS continued to embed the Mobile On-Site Co-Ordination Unit (based in Gort fire station) as shown in Figure 14 and the Local Co-Ordination Centre. Both use the new electronic information management system (eIMS).

Galway County Council personnel also continued their participation in both the MEM West Regional Steering and the MEM West Regional Working Groups involving members of the Principal Emergency Services (PES) in the West Region (Local Authority Fire Services, Local Garda Divisions and HSE West Ambulance Service).

Galway County Council Headquarters continues as the main location of the Local Co-Ordination Centre (LCC) for the three Principal Response Agencies (PRA's), Galway County Council, HSE West and Galway Garda Division, for Major Emergencies in the Galway City and County area. In mid-2018 a case was submitted to the NDFEM for funding to provide a back-up generator for the LCC as part of GCC's business continuity plan. The generator has been procured and was delivered in early 2020. GFRS submitted a claim and recouped the cost of the generator from the NDFEM in mid-2020.

Galway County Council also managed the annual regional claim on behalf of the 8 PRA's in the West Region in 2020 as in previous years.

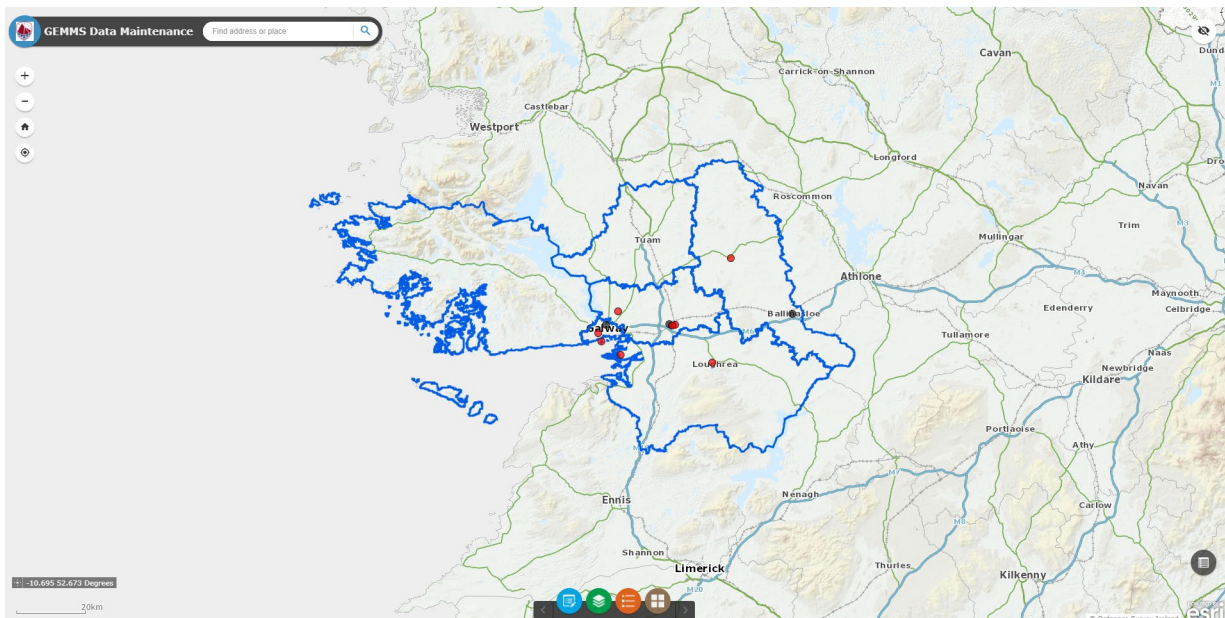


Figure 8: GEMMS Mapping System



Figure 9: Covid 19 Mortality Management Exercise



Figure 10: GFRS MFU-01 Refrigerated Body Holding Truck

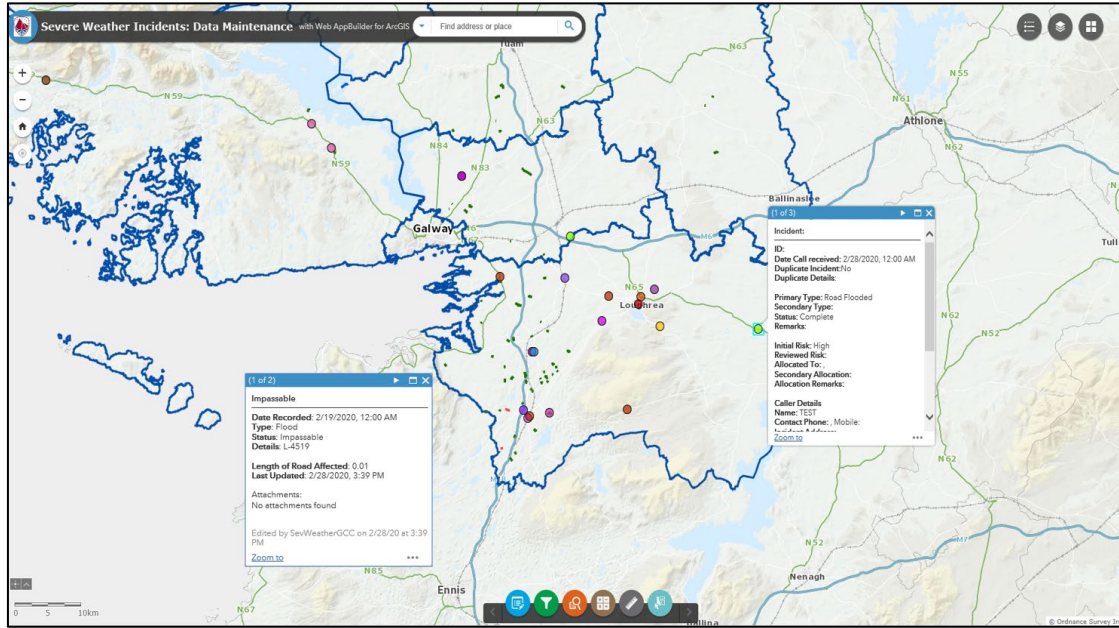


Figure 11: Severe Weather Event Management System



Figure 12: Fleximort Refrigerated Multiple Fatality Storage Unit



*Figure 13: Refrigerated Multiple Fatality Storage Container Unit*



*Figure 14: Galway Regional MEM On-Site Co-Ordination Centre (OSCC) Unit*

## **CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT**

Galway County Council as contracting authority for the local authority Fire Services in the CAMP West region continues to manage a contract by Inspire Ltd for the provision of CISM services to Fire Services in the West region from October 2017 to September 2020. The option to extend the contract for another year was availed of to September 2021.

**Strategic Goal**

**To facilitate the broadest possible participation by citizens in local decision making and the sustainable development of their communities and their county.**

**COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY AND PREVENTION**

Work was ongoing in the Fire Prevention & Fire Safety Section throughout 2020 despite COVID 19 restrictions.

Inspections

The Fire Prevention Section carried out 101 inspections of premises in 2020 as part of its Fire Prevention Function, under the Fire Services Act 1981, Building Control Act 1990 and 2014, Licensing Acts, Planning Acts, and the Dangerous Substances Act. This figure represents a decrease in inspections of 67% over the 2019 inspections. This reduction can be attributed to the closure of pubs, restaurants and other places of assembly because of COVID 19 restrictions. The restriction on movement and requirement to minimise personal contacts during the course of the pandemic meant that Fire Officers were not in a position to conduct as many inspections as would normally have been the case.

Public License Applications

The Fire Prevention Section received 166 applications and processed 83 public licence applications in 2020. Public license activity from 2008 to 2020 is shown in Figure 15.

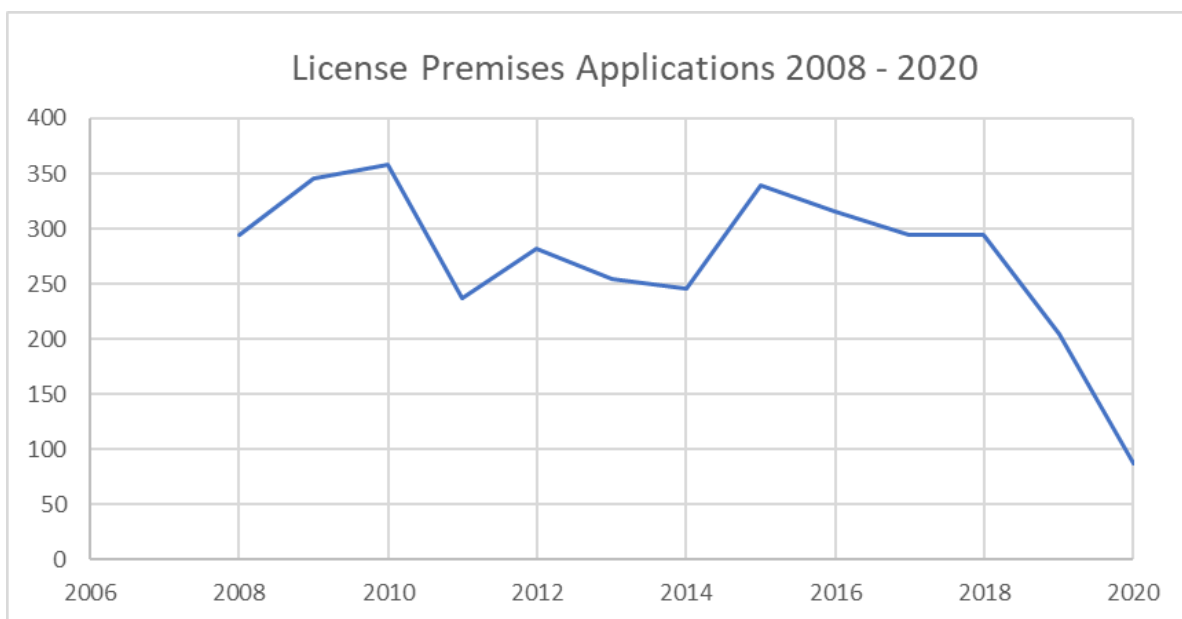


Figure 15: Public License Applications 2008- 2020

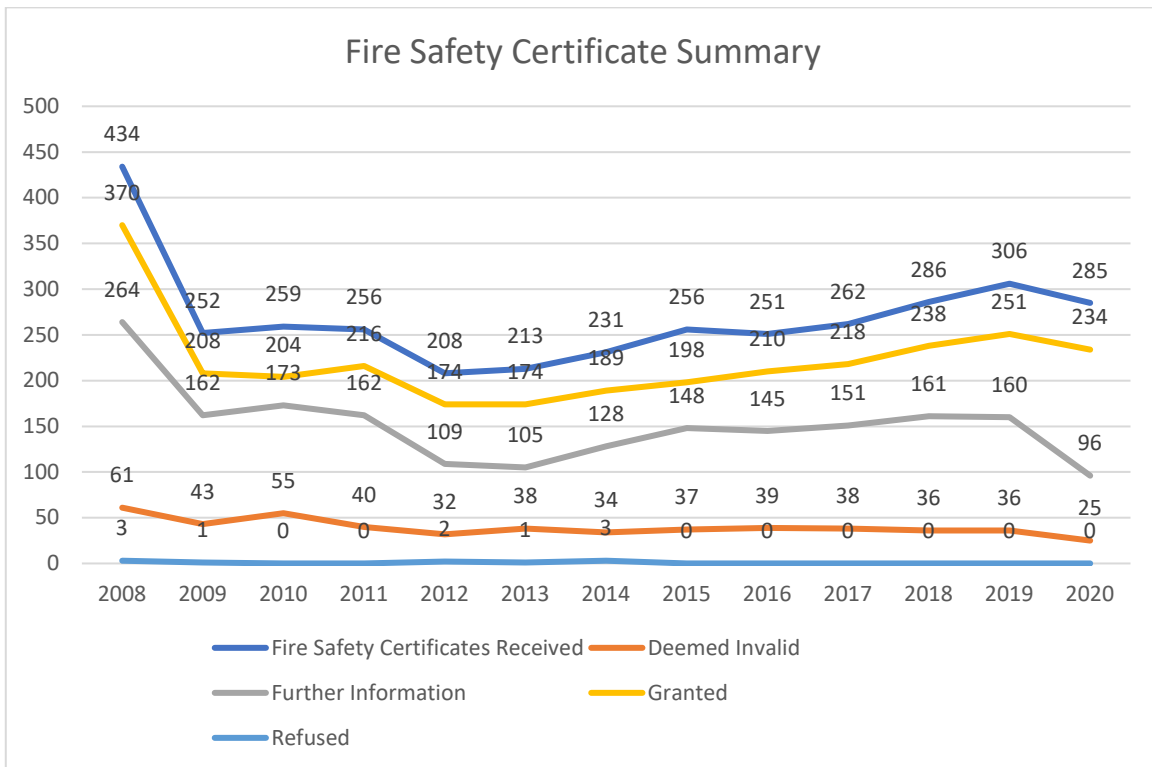


Figure 16: Fire Safety Certificate (FSC) Activity 2008- 2020

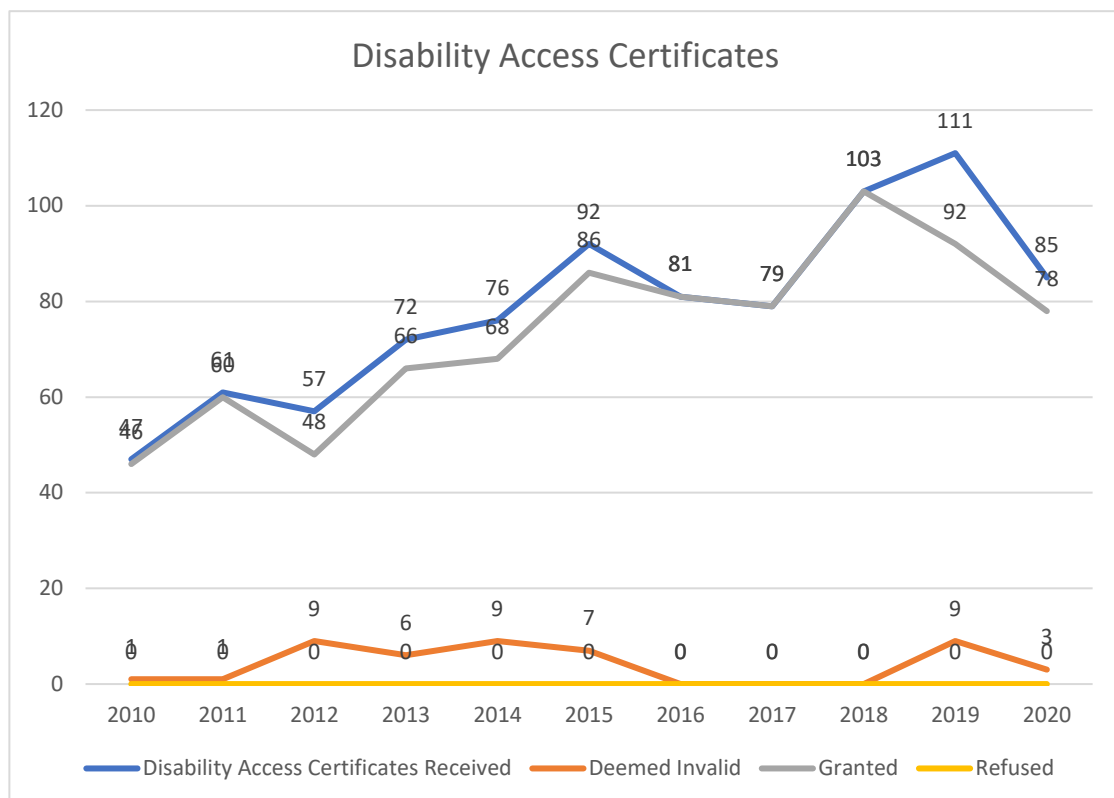


Figure 17: Disability Access Certificate Activity 2010-2020

### Fire Safety Certificate Applications

The Fire Prevention Section dealt with 285 Fire Safety Certificate Applications of all types under the Building Control Regulations, 146 in the County Council area and 139 in the City Council area. The overall number of Fire Safety Certificate applications represents a decrease of 6.8% from 2019. Fire Safety Certificate activity from 2008 to 2020 is shown in Figure 16.

These figures reflect a small decline in planned commercial construction activity in the Galway area in 2020. However, a higher number of applications were for complex developments which we have not seen in a number of years. Given the COVID 19 restrictions and the closure of sites for a prolonged period the fire service would have expected a greater decline in Fire Safety Certificate applications for 2020.

### Disability Access Certificates

The total number of Disability Access Certificates dealt with in 2020 was 85 and a decrease of 23% from 2019. Disability Access Certificate activity from 2010 to 2020 is shown in Figure 17.

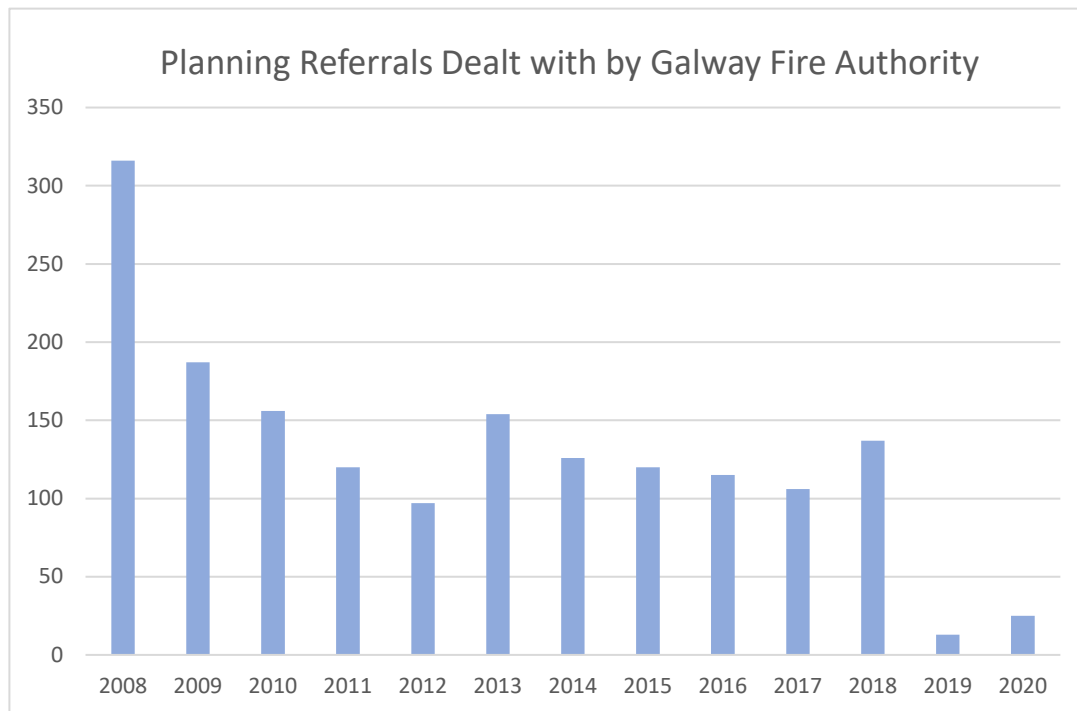


Figure 18: Planning Referrals 2008-2020

### Planning Referrals

There was an increase in planning referrals in 2020 with the total number of planning referrals in 2020 for the City and County was 25 and the planning referral activity from 2008 to 2020 are shown in Figure 18.

### Community Fire Safety

During 2020 Galway Fire & Rescue Service (GFRS) procured 650 No. self-contained smoke alarms with long life batteries. Along with existing stock, these smoke alarms were installed in households throughout Galway with West Galway and the inhabited offshore islands of Inis Meáin, Inis Oírr and



Inishbofin being the main area of focus. A Home Fire Safety Check was also carried out for each dwelling at the time of the smoke alarm installation and throughout 2020 GFRS completed 679 No. Home Fire Safety Checks.

The project was assisted by Forum Connemara who provided 150No. smoke alarms that were installed by GFRS in the Clifden area.

Table 1 below provides a detailed breakdown of the Home Fire Safety Checks completed throughout 2020.

<b>Home Fire Safety Checks 2020</b>		
<b>Area</b>	<b>Completed by</b>	<b>No. Completed</b>
Inis Meáin	GFRS An Cheathrú Rua	119
Inis Oírr	GFRS Inis Mór	203
Inis Mór	GFRS Inis Mór	26
An Cheathrú Rua	GFRS An Cheathrú Rua	33
Clifden	GFRS Clifden	193
Inishbofin	GFRS Clifden	76
Gort	GFRS Gort	1
Galway City	GFRS Galway City	2
Ballinasloe	GFRS Ballinasloe	26
	<b>Total</b>	<b>679</b>

*Table 1: 2020 Home Fire Safety Checks*

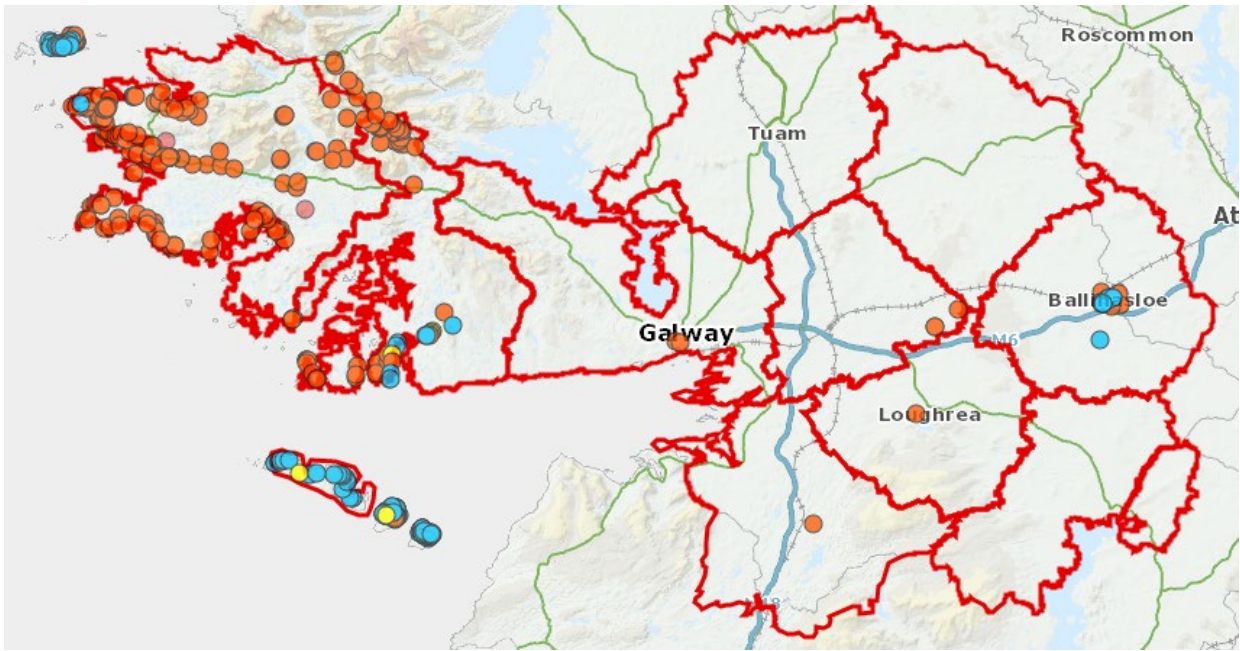


Figure 19: CRISP-P extract of Home Fire Safety Checks



Figure 20: GFRS Clifden receiving smoke alarms from Forum Connemara



**Galway Fire & Rescue Service**  
Seirbhís Dóiteáin & Tarrthála na Gaillimhe



An Garda Síochána

**Wildfire Information for Farmers & Landowners**

- It is **illegal** to burn on open ground for the control of growing vegetation between February 28<sup>th</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup>
- Farmers and landowners in breach risk prosecution and or penalties under the Dept. of Agriculture's support payments for farmers (Single Farm Payment, AEOS, REPS, Disadvantaged Area Scheme)
- Galway County Council will impose a charge on the owners or the beneficial occupiers of the land or property in relation to the attendance of the Fire Service




**Wildfire Information for the Public**

- Avoid lighting fires outdoors when there are high winds or high temperatures
- Do not discard cigarette ends – make sure they are extinguished completely
- Report anyone acting irresponsibly or carelessly with fire in the countryside

PLEASE REMEMBER!

Wildfires are a serious drain on Fire Service resources. Fire crews may be delayed in attending life threatening house fires or road traffic collisions when fighting wildfires.

Figure 21: Wildfire Prevention Campaign Poster



Figure 22: Appliance Community Fire Safety Message

Unfortunately, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, GFRS had to put on hold all non-emergency public contact such as fire safety talks, fire appliance visits to schools and the opening of fire stations to members of the public. The Primary Schools Programme to 3rd class pupils was also paused during 2020.

GFRS ran a wildfire advertisement campaign (see Figure 21) in local newspapers and on social media to try to reduce the number of wildfires particularly in Connemara and the South of the County. The posters were also displayed in prominent business in the areas. GFRS continued community safety message on fire appliances reflecting the National STOP Fire campaign.

### **Strategic Goal**

**To maximise organisational capacity through the continuous review of operational efficiency, financial and risk management and the development of our Staff and Elected Members**

## **CAPITAL**

In 2020, Galway Fire and Rescue Service applied for recoupment of capital funding of approximately €300,000 from the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management of the Department of Housing, Planning, and Community & Local Government. This related to the following;

- New Tuam Fire Station contract payments and professional fees
- Procurement of a new Class B Fire Appliance for Galway City
- Smoke alarms procurement
- Multiple mortality units
- Standby generator for County Buildings

We acknowledge the receipt of this vital support to the Council, in supporting the provision of fire and emergency services by the Council in the city and county area.

## **TRAINING**

By comparison to previous years the amount of training that was conducted by Galway FRS in 2020 diminished significantly as a result of the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. By in large block training was suspended with the exception of a small number of training courses as mentioned below.

Prior to Covid-19 training was delivered by the following means:

- Drill night training at retained stations in the City and County
- Daily watch training in Galway City full-time station
- Centralised training courses both initial and refresher

however, as mentioned, much of the training that was intended to be conducted during 2020 had to be suspended. A resumption of drill night / daily watch training took place in June 2020 which continued to the end of 2020.

#### Drill Night Training Programme

On-station training concentrates on core skills and is delivered by officers at each station. Due to Covid-19 this training was suspended until June 2020 following which a resumption to amended drill night training occurred.

#### Daily Watch Training Programme

On-station training concentrates on core skills and is delivered by officers at each station. Due to Covid-19 this training was suspended until June 2020 following which a resumption to amended daily watch training occurred.

This training concentrates on core skills and is delivered by officers at each station. Skills maintenance for specialist roles was also carried out based on special appliances located at the station including the:

- Hazmat unit
- Foam unit
- Emergency tender
- Aerial ladder platform (ALP)

#### Centralised Training Programme

Initial training courses and refresher courses were organised centrally, as in previous years, however due to Covid-19 the majority of these training courses did not proceed. Courses conducted included:

- Breathing Apparatus Initial Wearers
- Rope rescue
- Water Rescue
- Manual Handling Refresher

#### Centralised National Training

The centralised national training programme was severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, Galway FRS did send students on centralised training courses conducted by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) and LASNTG at various training centres around the country. These included:

- Breathing apparatus Initial Wearers
- Module 1 for Junior Officers
- Fire engineering and operational command seminars for senior officers (on-line)

### **Fire Station Re-Development**

A new 4 bay retained fire station became operational in Tuam in late October 2018 following a 10-month contract and was officially opened on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Additional capital appraisals were submitted to the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management for Athenry which received approval for funding in October 2019 and Loughrea Fire Station, and work was also progressed in relation to site procurement for Galway City.

### **New class B Fire appliance**

Tenders for the delivery of a new class B Fire Appliance were completed on a regional basis as part of the National Procurement Process from 2018-2020 and the new appliance was delivered to Galway City fire station in 2019.

### **Personnel**

Maintaining crew numbers is a constant issue in the retained service and difficulties in recruiting make it difficult to maintain required availability arrangements. Ongoing recruitment continues on an annual basis.

## **CIVIL DEFENCE**

Galway Civil Defence, through their 5 training centres, Galway City, Oranmore, Loughrea, Ballinasloe and Clonberne had a busy early part of 2020. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic meetings and training had to be suspended in line with public guidance. Only essential recertification has taken place. Central training at the Civil Defence College was also suspended.

Members provided ambulance and medical cover for the opening ceremonies for Galway 2020 in Clifden, An Spidéal, Tuam, Ballinasloe, Portumna and Athenry. The main event in Galway City was cancelled due to Storm Ciara.

Galway Civil Defence were tasked to the HSE to assist the National Ambulance Service and Community Healthcare West Depts. in the Covid-19 pandemic. Civil Defence members transported Covid-19 swab samples to the National Virus Reference Laboratory in Dublin and Enfer Laboratory in Nass for Community Healthcare West and for the National Ambulance Service. This task started in late March and continued until early June 2020.

Members assisted the Irish Blood Transfusion Service at their clinics held in the Galway city and county.

A new e-learning site was developed for volunteers. All modules and training materials can be accessed on this site.

A programme of training in Cardiac First Response, First Aid Responder, Emergency First Response is currently ongoing via our new e-learning site through 2020 and 2021.

All Cardiac First Responder, First Aid Responder and Emergency First Responder were recertified in 2020. This year however, due to Covid-19 restrictions, Instructors are now valid until 2022.

1 additional MEM Information Manager was trained in 2020. This course was hosted by the Civil Defence College.

2No. 4x4 off road training courses were hosted by Terrafirma in February 2020, for our drivers to prepare for severe weather response. This increases our available pool of drivers.

1 No. additional 4x4 Ford Ranger was allocated in June 2020 to Galway by the Dept. of Defence, Civil Defence Branch with funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund.

All units will again be responding to their community's requests for assistance at local community events, providing first aid cover and other assistance that may be requested where possible.

3 Floodwater Responder Instructors were recertified by Rescue-3 UK in February 2020. Galway was selected as the venue for recertification of the Instructors nationally.

The Civil Defence Officer participated in Galway County Council and Galway City Council Community Forum and civil defence members carried out tasks for vulnerable persons identified in the forum groups.

Covid -19 Induction training for all members was conducted in accordance with with County Council policy.

Civil Defence continued their use of the e-vetting system for new and current members in 2020. This system continues to prove more efficient and vetting status returns are received in a much shorter timeframe.



Figure 23: Civil Defence SUA Team conducting a missing person search near Galway Harbour.

### Strategic Goal

**To ensure that quality customer service is at the centre of everything we do.**

#### **Customer Service**

Galway Fire and Rescue Service processed and addressed fire prevention complaints as received on a prioritised basis. A new Customer Service section has been included in the Draft Section 26 Fire and Emergency Operations Plan.





**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**  
**Galway County Council**

**INFRASTRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS**

## ROADS & TRANSPORTATION UNIT

To provide a safe and efficient transport network for the movement of persons and goods within sustainable and integrated transportation policies.

The Roads & Transportation Unit is responsible for the design, maintenance, and improvement of the National, Regional and Local Road Network throughout the County and has responsibility for Road Safety, Marine and Arterial Drainage.

A number of significant achievements were recorded by the Roads & Transportation Unit during 2020 and include:

- The oral hearing for the N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR) was convened by An Bord Pleanála on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Unfortunately, due to Covid19 pandemic, the oral hearing was suspended on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020. At that time, Module 1 Ecology/Hydrogeology was complete. Four days of submission on Module 2 – Environmental Impact Assessment were also heard in this first sitting of the hearing. The hearing recommenced via MS Teams on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and continued virtually for 11 days over a four week period. A further six days were heard in respect of Module 2 and another five days on the CPO Module 3. The final closing statements on the N6 GCRR hearing were heard on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020.
- Construction works were ongoing on the N59 Maam Cross to Bunnakill Scheme throughout 2020 and progress is still on programme for Q2, 2021. The scheme is approximately 5.2km in length.
- Construction works were ongoing on the N67 Ballinderreen to Kinvara Scheme throughout 2020 and progress is still on programme for Q2 of 2021. The scheme is approximately 3.2km in length and will include a cycleway.
- Construction work concluded on the N59 West of Letterfrack Scheme in October 2020 and this is now open to traffic. The scheme is approximately 0.5km in length.

### Strategic Goal

**To ensure that our physical and social infrastructure is sufficiently developed to support economic development and to enhance our quality of life**

## 2020 ROADS PROGRAMME

The 2020 Roads Programme was prepared following allocations for National and Non-National road construction, repairs and maintenance grants totalling **€62,626,824** from Transport Infrastructure Ireland, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and an allocation from Galway County Council:

<b>National Roads -</b>	<b>€28,848,266</b>
<b>Non-National Roads -</b>	<b>€33,778,558</b>

The Roads Programme was prepared in consultation with the elected members, reviewed and adopted by each Municipal District.

### Strategic Goal

**To maximise the continued and sustainable economic and enterprise development of our county**

The grant allocated by Transport Infrastructure Ireland for the Motorway & National Roads for the year 2020 was **€28,848,266**.

The 2020 allocation divided as follows:

<b>Improvement Works</b>	<b>€ 27,140,985</b>
<b>Maintenance Works</b>	<b>€ 1,072,281</b>
<b>PPP Related costs</b>	<b>€ 235,000</b>
<b>Greenway</b>	<b>€ 400,000</b>

Funding continued to be provided in 2020 to facilitate the continued advancement and delivery of the Major Inter Urban Routes. The following major/minor projects were managed by the Galway National Roads Project Office and the costs associated with this programme recouped in full, from Transport Infrastructure Ireland:

<b>M6</b>	Galway City Bypass	€ 2,000,000
<b>N59</b>	Clifden to Oughterard	€ 1,000,000
<b>N59</b>	Maigh Cuilinn Bypass	€ 1,000,000
<b>N17</b>	Milltown to Gortnagunnad Realignment (Minor 2016)	€ 600,000
<b>N59</b>	Maam Cross to Bunnakill	€ 10,000,000
<b>N59</b>	West of Letterfrack Widening (Minor 2016)	€ 1,300,000

<b>N63</b>	Abbeyknockmoy to Annagh (Part of Gort / Tuam Residual Network)	€ 600,000
<b>N63</b>	Liss to Abbey Realignment (Minor 2016)	€ 250,000
<b>N65</b>	Kilmeen Cross	€ 50,000
<b>N67</b>	Ballinderreen to Kinvara Realignment Phase 2	€ 4,000,000
<b>N84</b>	Luimnagh Realignment Scheme	€ 50,000
<b>N84</b>	Galway to Curraghmore	€50,000

## LAND ACQUISITIONS

- Land acquisitions were ongoing for the N59 Maigh Cuilinn Bypass and consultants were appointed in 2018 and it is intended that the scheme will go to tender in 2021
- Purchase of land continued to facilitate the N63 Abbeyknockmoy to Annagh Hill road projects
- Purchase of land continues to facilitate the N67 Ballinderreen to Kinvara realignment Phase 2 road project
- Land acquisitions were ongoing for the N59 Maam Cross to Oughterard scheme between Maam Cross and Bunakill
- Land acquisitions were ongoing to facilitate the N63 Carrowmunniagh Safety Scheme (Twenty Minute Hill)

Other milestones achieved relating to the National Primary & Secondary Road Network during 2020 included:

- The N59 West of Letterfrack Scheme was completed and opened to traffic. This was a road widening project over a length of 500m.
- A pre-qualification tender process was concluded for the N59 Maigh Cuilinn Bypass Scheme. This has identified the five main contractors which will be invited to tender for the works in 2021.
- Works commenced and are ongoing on the N59 Maam Cross to Bunnakill Scheme. This is a realignment of 5.2km and comprises construction of new single carriageway 7 to 8 meters in width with 0.5 hard strips and verges.
- Works commenced and are ongoing on the N67 Ballinderreen to Kinvara Scheme. This is a single carriageway realignment of 4km with 2.5m segregated cycleway.
- Works continued throughout 2020 on the delivery of phase 0 to 4 of Transport Infrastructure Ireland's Project Management Guidelines (TII PMG) (up to and including the statutory planning process) for the N63 Liss to Abbey realignment scheme.
- Works continued throughout 2020 on the delivery of phases 0 to 4 of TII PMG for the N17 Milltown to Gortnagunnad scheme.
- Works continued throughout 2020 and the delivery of phases 0 to 4 of TII PMG for the N65 Kilmeen Junction Prioritisation Scheme.
- Galway County Council project engineers recommenced the N 59 Clifden to Maam Cross Scheme.
- Galway County Council project engineers are advancing the N84 Galway City Boundary to Clonboo Scheme.
- Phase two of the N63 Ballygar Street Enhancement Works was completed.

- N59 Pavement works at Gowlan West, Addergoole and Moyard were completed to augment the works done in 2019.
- N67 Kilcolgan towards Ballinderreen (1.2Km) pavement works were completed.
- R380 formerly the N66 Kilchreest pavement works were complete.

## REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

The expenditure incurred by Galway County Council for Regional and Local Roads, as funded by Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, in 2020 was €33,778,558 divided as follows:

<b>Improvement Works</b>	<b>€28,944,058</b>
<b>Maintenance Works</b>	<b>€ 4,834,500</b>

The expenditure can be classified under the following broad headings:

<b>Grant Category</b>	<b>2020</b>
Improvement Grant	€ 16,817,000
Restoration Maintenance Grant	€ 4,834,500
Discretionary Grant	€ 5,699,500
Specific Improvement Grants	€ 750,000
Low Cost Safety Improvement Grants	€ 409,000
Bridge Rehabilitation Programme	€ 530,000
Speed Limits in Housing Estates	€ 7,875
Strategic Regional and Local Roads	€ 1,200,000
Drainage Works	€ 1,397,683
Training	€ 128,000
Community Involvement Scheme	€ 953,000
Former National Roads	€ 1,000,000
PSCI – Survey Support	€ 52,000
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>€ 33,778,558</b>

### Local Roads Maintenance:

The sum provided from the Council's own resources in 2020 was €6,329,586. The Local Roads General Maintenance allocation of €2,779,586, which includes a provision of €1,206,950 for ongoing operational costs.

The sum of €1,572,636 was allocated amongst the Municipal District for Local Roads Maintenance as follows:

<b>Local Road General Maintenance – Council Funds</b>		
<b>Municipal District</b>	<b>Length of Road Local Roads KM</b>	<b>Total Allocation</b>
Athenry / Oranmore	555.40	€ 155,611
Ballinasloe	1350.98	€ 378,513
Conamara	1142.68	€ 320,153
Loughrea	1626.50	€ 455,709
Tuam	937.44	€ 262,650
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,613.00</b>	<b>€ 1,572,636</b>

This sum provides for all types of maintenance including Verge Trimming, Drainage, Renewal and Provision of Signage, Bridge, and General Maintenance.

An allocation of €265,000 was provided for Winter Maintenance in 2020, from the Discretionary Maintenance Grant allocated by the Department of Transport. This allocation funds the gritting of priority routes in the county in accordance with the Winter Service Plan 2020-2021.

## **REGIONAL & LOCAL ROAD BRIDGE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME 2020**

Funding of €530,000 was allocated by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport towards the rehabilitation of 9 specific bridges in County Galway being completed in 2020. Eight of which were completed with one bridge\* being carried forward into 2021.

<b>Road Number</b>	<b>Bridge Name &amp; Location</b>	<b>2020 Proposed Expenditure €</b>
<b>R328</b>	Richmond, Clonbern	€75,000.00
<b>L74011</b>	Lisgub East, Ballymacward	€50,000.00
<b>L7321</b>	Pollnabrone, Menlough	€50,000.00
<b>R336</b>	Culliaghmore, Leenaun	€50,000.00
<b>L5377</b>	Pollnaclogha, Maigh Cuilinn	€60,000.00
<b>L12053</b>	Derryadda East, Sraith Salach	€80,000.00
<b>L85144</b>	Derreen Footbridge, Gort	€60,000.00
<b>L82652</b>	Ballingarry, Kilchreest	€50,000.00
<b>L61603</b>	Derreen, Abbeyknockmoy*	€55,000.00
		<b>€ 530,000</b>



*Cloondahamper Bridge, Tuam completed in 2020*

Funding of **€395,000** was allocated from the Discretionary grant for the repair of Regional and Local Roads Bridges:

<b>Bridge Repairs Programme</b>				
<b>Municipal District</b>	<b>Road No.</b>	<b>Bridge</b>	<b>Allocation</b>	<b>Total Municipal District</b>
<b>Athenry / Oranmore</b>	L3120	Barrack Lane, Athenry	€ 40,000	<b>€ 60,000</b>
	L72521	Ballyboggan, Athenry	€20,000	
<b>Ballinasloe</b>	L7323	Cross Oughter, Menlough	€ 7,500	<b>€ 75,000</b>
	L7204	Clooncurreen, Monivea	€ 10,000	
	L2233	Cloonacat, Glenamaddy	€ 15,000	
	R339	Drehidaunable, Monivea	€ 7,500	
	R339	Moyure (Glentane), Menlough	€ 15,000	
	R364	Moylough 1	€20,000	
<b>Conamara</b>	L11063	Mannin, Ballyconneely	€ 15,000	<b>€ 90,000</b>
	L13204	An Spidéal Footbridge	€ 20,000	
	L5324	Cur, Maum	€ 30,000	
	L1204	Ros Muc	€ 15,000	
	R341	Ballinaboy, Clifden	€ 10,000	
<b>Loughrea</b>	L4209	Lisnagry (Limehill), Leitrim	€ 7,500	<b>€ 70,000</b>
	L3201	Kiltullagh	€ 10,000	
	L8770	Rahyconnor, Tynagh,	€ 20,000	
	L4218	Soldiers Bridge, Kilchreest	€ 12,500	

	R348	Raford, Kiltullagh	€ 10,000	
	R353	Kylemore Bridge, Abbey	€ 10,000	
<b>Tuam</b>	L62171	Keekill, Headford	€ 10,000	<b>€ 45,000</b>
	L2105	Weir Road, Tuam	€ 10,000	
	L2128	Abbey, Abbeyknockmoy	€ 10,000	
	R360	Polleagh, Dunmore	€15,000	
<b>All</b>		Design & Land Acquisition	€ 30,000	<b>€ 55,000</b>
<b>All</b>		Vegetation Removal & Inspection	€ 25,000	
			<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 395,000</b>

### Strategic Goal

**To ensure that our physical and social infrastructure is sufficiently developed to support economic development, and to enhance our quality of life.**

## MARINE MAINTENANCE

Galway County Council is reviewing the marine and maintenance programme prioritising works as the budget will allow. There are in excess of 180 coastal piers listed following the last review within the County. A priority list of 62 landing places had previously been identified in order to implement a programme of necessary works including repairs and replacements to ladders and railings, regular removal of algae growth on slipways, and safety improvements to piers. Marine Maintenance also includes maintenance of visitor yacht moorings and the navigation lights that are in the charge of Galway County Council.

In 2020 improvements were carried out at Bealacarra, Droim & Baile na habhainn. Lights were repaired on Inis Oírr, Barna, Kilkeran and Kilronan..

There are approximately 60 moorings spread over 8 separate locations.

As part of a 2-3 Year programme, approximately 26 were replaced in 2020.

## STRATEGIC HARBOURS

### Caladh Inis Oírr

Galway County Council appointed Punch Consulting to advance the design and construction phase of the harbour development. Surveys were completed to support the contract documents that have been prepared for the tender process. CPO documents have been prepared to satisfy the scheme needs. A business case for the project was prepared and submitted to the Department of Community and Rural Development in 2020. This is currently being assessed by the Department.



### **Caladh Mór Inis Meáin**

A review of the feasibility study of 2009 supported the Business Plan application which has been submitted to Roinn na Gaeltachta for consideration. Galway County Council has commissioned the National Maritime College in Cork to carry out modelling to inform the design of the pier. The commissioned digital model was completed by the National Maritime College in September 2020. Owing to restrictions relating to access to the Maritime college, use of the model has not been possible to date. Galway County Council are working with the National Maritime College to organise use of the model in 2021. This will be carried out in accordance with Covid-19 Travel Restrictions and guidelines for access to the Maritime College site. It is hoped that the relevant Marine Stakeholders will provide assessment and input on the development of the pier project through use of the digital model.

### **Strategic Goal**

**To maximise organisational capacity through the continuous review of operational efficiency, financial and risk management and the development of our Staff and Elected Members.**

## **WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP**

### **Connemara Greenway**

The funding sought under Outdoor Recreation & Infrastructure Scheme (2019) for works for the extension of the Connemara Greenway in townlands of Derryvickrune and Ballinahinch were fully completed in 2020.

Despite delays encountered due to Covid19 restrictions, works continued on the Sraith Salach to Clifden section of the Connemara Greenway during 2020, which is being funded by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. A 1km section east of Clifden was completed in 2020 at Gowlan and works underway on a further 2km section in Clifden with site clearance undertaken on 1km stretch west of Sraith Salach.



*Connemara Greenway at Derryvickrune & Gowlan*



*Connemara Greenway site clearance at Sraith Salach & works at Munga*

## FLOOD RELIEF SCHEMES

Galway County Council and the OPW work in partnership to deliver Flood Relief Schemes (substantial schemes) and Flood Mitigation works (local mitigation). The OPW funds all major flood relief schemes - schemes are carried out directly by the OPW under the Arterial Drainage Acts or can be carried out by Galway County Council under the Planning & Development Acts. The OPW also provides 90% funding towards local flood mitigation works. A steering group meets regularly to ensure timely delivery of proposals that will reduce the risk of future flooding.

The OPW also provides advice and assistance to Galway County Council when flood events occur.

### **Dunkellin River & Aggard Stream Flood Relief Scheme:**

All substantial works on the scheme, including works on five bridges, riverbed deepening, and creation of a kilometre long two-stage channel have now been completed. Works on the two remaining culverts (Aggard Stream) and the fish counter installation on the Dunkellin will be completed in 2021, along with outstanding minor accommodation works.



*Dunkellin River & Aggard Stream Flood Relief Scheme – Completed Works at Dunkellin bridge*

### **South Galway, Gort Lowlands Flood Relief Scheme:**

Following extensive research and analysis, a potentially feasible and environmentally acceptable scheme to reduce the effects of flooding on households, businesses and commuters in South Galway was identified in 2020. The Feasibility Report was published in February 2021 and a public consultation on the ‘Emerging Preferred Scheme’ commenced shortly thereafter.

Following receipt of submissions from the public, a ‘Preferred Scheme’ will be finalised and will be subject to environmental review (EIAR and NIS). If the scheme remains environmentally acceptable and cost beneficial, a Public Exhibition will be scheduled for Q4 of 2021 before being submitted for Ministerial Confirmation.

### **Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme:**

Public Consultation commenced in March 2020 with the aim of informing the general public of the Constraints Study and preliminary aspects of the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme and to obtain information about flooding or other relevant environmental information about the Study Area presented. Interested persons were able to scrutinise the consultation materials, have relevant questions answered and take away a brochure setting out the project for future reference. A total of eighty-two attendees signed the attendance book at the event in Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe. Thirty-Two of which were 5th Year geography students from Garbally College in Ballinasloe. All material used at the event, including the presentation given to the councillors, was made available on the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme website - <https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/ballinasloe/project-info/public-engagement/> .

The opening collaborative workshop for the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme was held on 30 July 2020. The goal of the workshop was to engage with stakeholders from key statutory bodies and identify and discuss any particular issues, constraints and opportunities that could inform the

development of the Scheme, and any potential features that could be considered to support localised community benefits in addition to Flood Risk Management.

### **Clifden Flood Relief Scheme:**

In 2019, the OPW has granted funding to Galway County Council for the implementation of a flood relief project in Clifden as part of the “**Flood Risk Management Plans – Small Project Funding Application**”.

In December 2020 Galway County Council finalised the project brief and scope of works for the procurement of a Consulting Engineering firm to carry out the Engineering and Environmental elements of the Clifden Flood Relief Scheme.



*Clifden Flood Relief Scheme – Flood Waters at Riverside, Clifden September 2020*

### **Kinvara Individual Property Protection:**

Galway County Council applied to the OPW in December 2019 for funding under “**OPW – Coastal Flooding Minor Works Application**”. The OPW granted funding to Galway County Council of €40,500 in September 2020 to proceed with the full implementation of the scheme by Q2 of 2021.

## **FLOOD MITIGATION WORKS**

The Council carried out works at 14 locations in 2020, under the OPW funded Minor Flood Mitigation Works & Coastal Protection Scheme with a total funding received of €385,067, which cover 90% of the total cost with the balance funded by Galway County Council. A further €150,893 has been provided for under the OPW Remedial Works Scheme.

Funding of €499,790 has also been approved by the OPW for works to be carried out at a further 9 locations for completion in 2021 and applications submitted for another 15 locations is currently under consideration by the OPW

Funding of €190,000 has also been approved for coastal protection works at Leenaun for which we are awaiting a foreshore licence. An application has also been submitted for €220,000 for additional flood defences in the village.

## DRAINAGE DISTRICTS

The Council discharges its statutory responsibility for the maintenance of certain drainage works in the County through the Roads and Transportation Unit and the Council's Municipal District Offices. The Council has charge of twelve Drainage Districts and continues to allocate funds towards two former Joint Drainage Districts that were dissolved in 2014. The Council spent €172,258 on Drainage District works in 2020.

In 2020 maintenance works were carried out in the following Drainage Districts: - Oranhill, Kellysgrove, Suck, Dunkellin, Kilchreest, Ahascragh, Mountbellew, Meelick.

## MACHINERY YARD

The supply and maintenance of Plant and Machinery for the Council's use is managed by the Machinery Yard. The Council is committed to the ongoing development of this service in order to provide an efficient and effective resource to facilitate the delivery of the Council's Work Programmes.

### *Strategic Goal*

**To facilitate the broadest possible participation by citizens in local decision making and the sustainable development of their communities and their county.**

## CLÁR

In December 2020 County Galway received an allocation of €212,500 from the Department of Rural and Community Development for 5 projects under the CLÁR Measure 1 projects – support for schools and community safety measures in rural areas. The projects approved includes funding for footpaths, public lighting, upgrade of road markings, zebra crossings and parking facilities in designated CLÁR areas. Given the late allocation of this funding, completion of works to be completed by end of June 2021.

## TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME

With financial support from the Department of Rural and Community Development Galway County Council continued to support the revitalisation of towns and villages to increase their potential for their communities, both their living environment and improved economic development. Due to the Covid19 pandemic, completion for projects approved in late 2019 was extended to June 2021.

From the 2020 applications under Town & Village, funding was awarded for four projects with completion of works to be done by June 2022.

## **JULY STIMULUS – CLIMATE CHANGE FUNDING & ACTIVE TRAVEL**

The July Jobs Stimulus Plan was announced by Government on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020. The package of measures announced was designed to stimulate a jobs-led recovery and build economic confidence while continuing to manage the impact of Covid-19.

Under RW09/2020 – the Infrastructure & Operations unit put forward a submission outlining 66 no. projects under the Climate Change Adaptation funding. On 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020, Galway County Council was awarded €1,005,000 for 23 projects.

As part of the Stimulus Plan, an allocation was also made available for Active Travel Measures. Under RW10/2020 – the Infrastructure & Operation unit made an ambitious submission under the measure and secured €2,688,095 for 41 projects under this grant funding.

Due to the late announcement of the allocations both under Climate Change and Active Travel measures, while majority of the project were undertaken in 2020, there was an allowance allowed to transfer some funding from unfinished projects into 2021.

## **ROAD SAFETY TOGETHER COMMITTEE**

The Road Safety Together Committee met once during 2020 – continuing its active role in the promotion of road safety in Co. Galway.

Specific road safety initiatives undertaken by the Council during 2020 included:

- Promotion of the Drive for Life Programme for Post Primary Schools
- Support for the operation of the Junior School Warden Scheme
- Funding of Cycle Training to National Schools

### **‘Arrive Alive’**

Galway Co. Council promoted the use of Aviva’s Virtual Reality Headsets in February, ’20, as part of their ‘Health & Wellbeing Seminar’. Council employees got to use the headsets which shows a seven-minute simulated crash, with the viewer a front seat passenger. It allowed staff to experience the awful effects of a car crash. The VR Headsets are sponsored by Aviva Driving School, and it is hoped this initiative will raise awareness of the perils of dangerous driving and save lives.



*L-R: Deirdre Caulfield, Road Safety Officer, members of staff of Galway Co. Council, Julianne Gavin, Health & Safety Officer and Vera Kilgallon, Assistant Safety Advisor*

### **Be Safe, Be Seen!**

Galway County Council, in conjunction with NUI Galway's Students Union, ran a road safety awareness campaign encouraging students who walk or cycle to college to arrive safely. High visibility vests were distributed to students attending the college during Road Safety Week 2020, courtesy of the Road Safety Authority.



Irish Road Safety Week took place in October 2020 and the Council raised road safety awareness amongst the general public by the distribution of leaflets such as speeding, drink and drug driving, driver tiredness, mobile phone use, correct use of roundabouts, etc., and free reflective materials were provided. Free Eye Tests were offered to the public, in conjunction with Specsavers, to ensure the correct vision for driving. Advance Pitstop offered free 5-point safety check to the general public to ensure their vehicle's tyres; brakes; shocks; lights/ levels and wipers are in proper working order. The Council teamed up with GMIT's Students Union and high visibility vests were distributed to students attending the college.

Galway Co. Council, in conjunction with Galway Fire & Rescue Service, An Cheathrú Rua; HSE Ambulance Service; Galway Civil Defence and An Garda Síochána, teamed up for a road safety awareness event aimed at teenagers at Scoil Chuimsitheach Chiaráin, An Cheathrú Rua, in October, '20. The secondary school students who are about to become young drivers had the opportunity to

experience what happens at the scene of road traffic collision – a car dismantling demonstration took place and a Fire Tender from An Cheathrú Fire Service, Ambulance and Civil Defence crew and An Garda Síochána were present on the day, to advise the students. The aim of this initiative was to raise awareness of what happens at the scene of an accident and will hopefully prevent the young drivers-to-be becoming involved in road traffic incidents that all too often result in serious injury or death.

Galway Co. Council funded a Bike Rack at Kiltiernan National School, Kilcolgan. It will encourage pupils to cycle to school. High visibility vests and school-bag covers, courtesy of the Road Safety Authority, was distributed to the cyclists to ensure their visibility and safety.



*L-R: Principal Edel Leech with pupils of Kiltiernan National School, with Deirdre Caulfield, Road Safety Officer, Galway Co. Council*

The Council teamed up with four supermarkets in Oughterard in November 2020 and a road safety awareness campaign took place which ensured pedestrians and cyclists visibility on our roads, whereby high visibility vests, courtesy of the Road Safety Authority, were distributed to the community.





## COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SCHEMES

The Council, in partnership with the Department of Social Protection and the local community, continue to promote and encourage the development of Community Employment.

In 2020, the Council continued to sponsor five schemes with 75 participants in the following locations: Maigh Cuilinn/Oughterard, Laurencetown/Abbey, Gort & Environs, Tuam & Environs and Cloch na Ron/Clifden.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN ROADWORKS SCHEME

The Council continued to actively promote the Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme as a means of harnessing community support for road works on suitable local roads. A total of €955,158 was expended on 45 no. projects during 2020, of which €943,158 was funded by allocation under the Department of Transport Regional & Local Road with the balance funding by local contributions and land dedications was provided by the communities in order to complete the works.

### Strategic Goal

**To ensure that quality customer service is at the centre of everything we do.**

### CUSTOMER SERVICE

- The Unit continued to operate an Online Payment Facility to allow for the payment of Fixed Charge Notices (Parking Fines).
- The Unit continued to avail of [www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie) throughout 2020 to provide a Traffic Information Service, providing information on traffic disruptions arising as a result of road works, temporary road closures, roadworks speed limits etc.
- The Unit communicated with the public through the use of various media, such as local radio, website, twitter, local newspapers, e-mails, texts, through the usage of the on-line customer comments system and the national on-line system Fix Your Street.ie.
- The Roads and Transportation Unit successfully and efficiently delivered an extensive programme of works in 2020, which included works in addition to those included in the Roads Programmes, funded by other Government Departments such as Department of Rural and Community Development, An Roinn Cultúir, Oidreachta agus Gaeltachta.

## GALWAY TO ATHLONE CYCLEWAY PROJECT

After a five-year pause, the 140km Galway to Athlone section of the Galway to Dublin Greenway is being developed with a fresh new start. The project is being jointly managed by Galway County Council, Westmeath County Council and Roscommon County Council, in conjunction with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) with Westmeath County Council as the lead authority.

Currently, in excess of 100km of the Galway to Dublin Greenway between, Athlone and Maynooth, is open to the public. The proposed Galway to Athlone section will extend from Athlone Castle to a location in Galway City, likely to be at Ballyloughane, on the east side of the City. Galway City Council and the National Transport Authority will together undertake the planning and development of the cycleway across the city to link with the proposed Conamara Greenway.

The new Cycleway will be an attractive amenity that will be enjoyed by local communities for walking and cycling all year round and will deliver a quality and memorable visitor experience with impactful scenery and points of interest along the way. It will support local businesses and stimulate new enterprises and jobs. The Galway to Athlone project will complete the 270km car-free corridor between Galway and Dublin, creating the opportunity for week-long cycling holidays.

Consulting Engineers, RPS, were appointed in early 2020 to develop a route for the Galway to Athlone Cycleway. They were given a blank canvas to define a project study area and thereafter to identify potential route corridors, and then a preferred corridor and route for the new Cycleway, informed at all stages by public consultation. RPS commenced by carrying out a Constraints Study and assessed and determined the lands within the defined study area that are already in state ownership, including those owned by Government Agencies, Government Departments and Local Authorities.

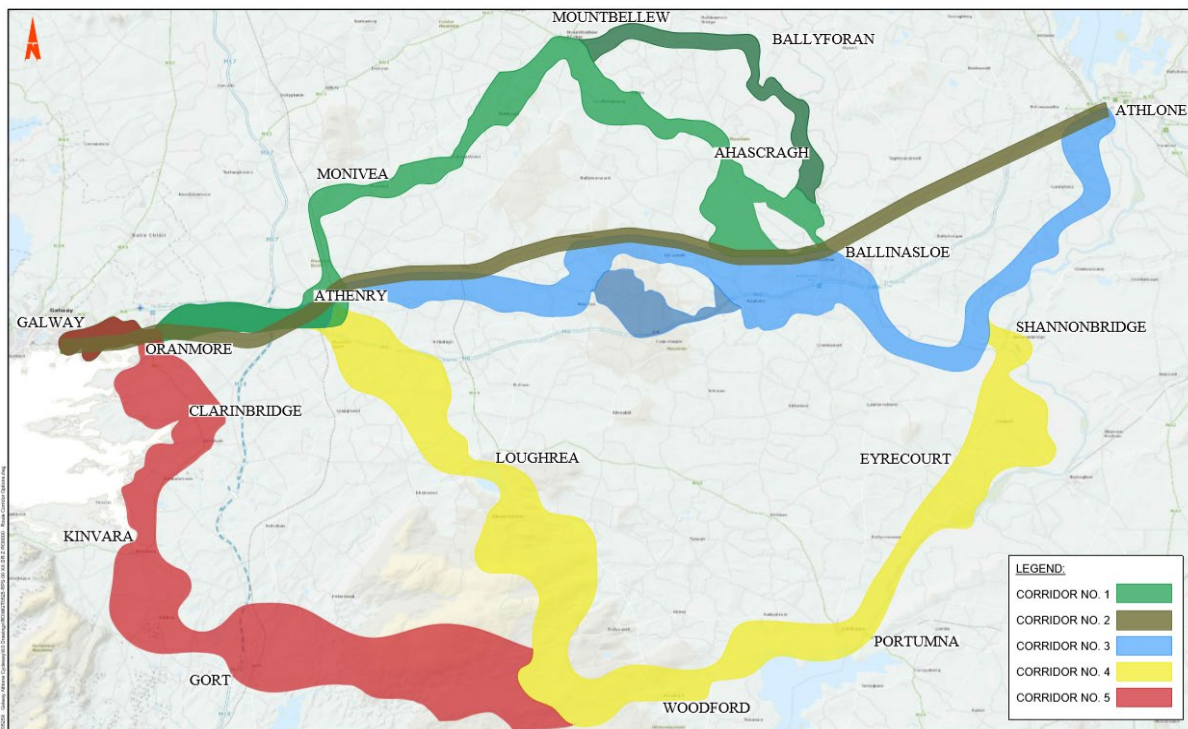
To launch the new Cycleway Project, the Project Team undertook an early stage public consultation to listen to feedback from the public on the need for the project and to identify local amenities, attractions and features within the study area.



*Public Consultations taking place in accordance with Covid-19 Guidelines in August 2020*

This was the first of four periods of public consultation which will be undertaken before a planning application is made in 2023. More than 500 people attended the series of five public consultation events held in Athlone, Ballinasloe, Athenry, Loughrea and Oranmore during the week of 10th – 14th August 2020. (These consultations were held prior to Covid restrictions on indoor gatherings.) Walk-in consultations in Galway took place in the Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry, the Loughrea Hotel, and the Maldron Hotel, Oranmore, between 11:00 am and 8:00 pm. The project team met with over 450 people over the four days and discussed the project with them. There was general support for the project and recognition that it would be very positive for Galway, however a number of landowners did express opposition to the greenway going through their lands.

Taking the feedback received during the first public consultation into consideration, the Project Team identified 5 potential Route Corridor Options for the new Galway to Athlone Cycleway. These Route Corridor Options link key attractions and amenities and use state owned land as far as possible. In order to connect the state-owned lands, ‘consultation areas’ have been identified on privately-owned lands, where the Project Team would like to talk to the landowners and explore possible routes. These routes would follow existing features and farm boundaries, thereby minimising severance. The consultation material can be viewed in the Virtual Consultation Room on the Project Website [www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com](http://www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com) from 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021.



Route Corridor Options Map

A Project Office has been established above the Library on Society Street, Ballinasloe, staffed by personnel from the three County Councils and RPS Consulting Engineers. It is intended to re-open the Project Office in line with Government health and safety guidance to enable direct contact with the public and landowners as soon as possible. There is a strong emphasis on consultation and 5 - 6 members of the project team, including RPS and Council staff, will be fully dedicated to landowner engagement. The Project Office phone number is (091) 509267 and the email address is [info@galwaytoathlonecycleway.com](mailto:info@galwaytoathlonecycleway.com). Information on the project is available on the dedicated project website [www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com](http://www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com)

## WATER SERVICES

Water Services projects have been progressed by Galway County Council, working under the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water, under the Infrastructure Programme and Capital Works Programme throughout 2020. Planning, design and construction of new and upgraded infrastructure continues in the county to deliver Irish Water's Investment Plan 2017-2021 targets and to ensure regulatory compliance, which in turn, provides enhanced protection for the environment, improved services for consumers and clean potable drinking water for all users.

### Strategic Goals

**To ensure that our physical and social infrastructure is sufficiently developed to support economic development, and to enhance our quality of life.**

**To maximise the continued and sustainable economic and enterprise development of our county.**

Progress has continued through 2020 with significant advancement in the design and planning of a number of projects to upgrade, and provide new, water services infrastructure in the county. Under Irish Water's Infrastructure Programme, design and planning has progressed on the Athenry Sewerage Scheme network and is expected to commence construction late 2022/early 2023. Along with the additional capacity provided by the upgrade to the Athenry wastewater treatment plant which was completed in July 2019, the works proposed for the collection network will greatly enhance development potential within Athenry town.

Significant progress was also achieved on the Tuam Regional Water Supply extension to Loughrea, which will convey water from Lough Corrib, treated at the Luimnagh Water Treatment Plant, to Loughrea, Craughwell and environs. The network was completed in 2020 and remaining works to pumping stations at Derrydonnell and Seefin and the reservoir at Seefin are expected to be completed early in 2021.

Upgrade works on the water distribution network and drainage network in Ballinasloe were completed early 2020.

A new wastewater treatment plant, with a capacity of 700 population equivalent, was completed and commissioned at Glenamaddy by Ward & Burke in April, 2020. The new plant provides tertiary treatment of the wastewater before discharging to the Glenamaddy Turlough.

The planning phase for new wastewater treatment plants at An Spidéal, An Cheathrú Rua, Ahascragh and Cloch na Rón (Roundstone) progressed throughout 2020. An Spidéal and Ahascragh were advertised for tender under a single contract in November, 2020. It is expected that these plants will commence construction in the latter half of 2021. The Compulsory Purchase Order process commenced for An Cheathrú Rua and Cloch na Rón (Roundstone), but due to the Covid-19 pandemic,

Oral Hearings have been delayed. It is expected that all statutory processes will be completed for An Cheathrú Rua and Cloch na Rón (Roundstone) in 2021.

## Water Conservation

2020 saw the continuation of works to reduce leakage in the water distribution network through a combination of planned and reactive intervention works in conjunction with the Water Network Programme (WNP).

These works were carried out by a combination of local authority direct labour crews and contractor supplied works crews across different activities in the WNP.

Looking forward to 2021, the reduction of unaccounted water across the county remains a priority, targeting public and private side leakage in the network. The key work streams which will again be running in tandem to bring about the reductions include:

- Capital Find & Fix utilising the resources of Galway County Council Operational and Find Fix crews and Contractors across several District Metering Areas (DMA's) throughout the County;
- Pressure Management utilising the resources of Galway County Council Operational and Find Fix crews and Contractors across all Water Service Divisions North, South & West;
- Mains Rehabilitation are continuing via the Contractor Mains Rehab Crews in the North Division;
- First Fix activities are ongoing countywide via the Contractor Mains Rehab Crews;
- Metering (Non-Domestic) via the Contractor Mains Rehab Crews at locations throughout the County.

As work progresses on these work streams as part of the Leakage Reduction Programme in the coming years, significant water savings will be achieved delivering tangible benefits to both customers and the wider community.

### Strategic Goal

**To facilitate the broadest possible participation by citizens in local decision making and the sustainable development of their communities and their county.**

In 2020 the Council proceeded with the implementation of the **Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019 – 2021** and worked with the constraints presented by the Covid pandemic to continue to deliver the programme.

## Group Water Schemes

The Programme provides support to group schemes through new group scheme grants, grants for scheme improvements, individual well grants and subsidy grants towards ongoing operation and

maintenance. The issue of water quality and compliance with Drinking Water Regulation standards is central to investment decisions.

All the various Rural Water programmes are fully funded by the Department of the Environment with the level of grant support varying from 75% to 100% depending on the category of works.

In 2020, Capital Grants in the region of €1m were paid out and Subsidies of in the region of €4.1m were also paid out.

The Department also provides grant assistance towards specific source protection works undertaken by Group Water Schemes. The aim of the grant is to assist schemes in the provision of a Source Protection Plan. The Council works very closely with the National Federation of Group Water Schemes in the implementation of the programme and the primary focus of the programme continues to be to improve the quality of water supplies to members of Group Water Schemes. The details of the funding measures under the programme are set out below.

**Measure 1: Source Protection (GWS Sector)** – Protection of raw water source of existing GWS (Was 2(e)). This is Phase 1 and Phase 2.

Phase 1 was the ZOC reports (€3,000 X 85% max grant).

Phase 2 is at 100% subject to max per house of 9,000 across all funding headings.

**Measure 2: Public Health Compliance** – Upgrading of Treatment Facilities

- a. Water Treatment Improvements (RAL) 100%
- b. Amalgamation/rationalisation 100%
- c. Capital replacement costs 85%

**Measure 3: Enhancement of Existing Schemes Including Water Conservation (GWS Sector)**

Water conservation and network upgrades including storage.

- a. Water Conservation (85%)
- b. Network Upgrades (85%)

**Measure 4: New Group Water Schemes**

- a. Standalone Schemes
- b. Extensions

85% subject to normal limits or 90% in exceptional cases.

**Measure 5: Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes to the Public (Irish Water) Water Sector** – Existing schemes that wish to be taken in charge.

**Measure 6: Community Connections (Water and Wastewater):** Extensions off the public network.

**Measure 7: Innovation and Research**

- a. Proposals for use of new technology in the group water sector
- b. Projects in the rural water sector to support Water Framework Directives objectives, including raising awareness

**Measure 8: Individual Wells (75%) and on-site wastewater treatment systems (means tested**

*All the funding measure have certain conditions and ceilings which will apply and be explained when applying.*



**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**  
**Galway County Council**

**HUMAN RESOURCES**



## HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Having the right culture in our organisation is critical to realising our vision and all our staff play their part in creating a desirable culture for the Council. It is built by people who demonstrate behaviours and attitudes that are aligned with our values of integrity, accountability, respect and excellence.

The Human Resources Department engages with line managers and staff in promoting their personal and career development thus enabling them to reach their potential and contribute fully to the achievement of the Councils strategic and business objectives.

The Human Resources Department through the implementation of Council policies and procedures support good governance and provide transparency and clarity to all employees about the principles, rules and guidelines that apply to their work and conditions of employment; promote a positive working environment for our dedicated and highly skilled workforce; work to attract and retain the workforce we need to deliver on our commitments; provide training and development opportunities for staff within financial constraints; make provision for flexible work arrangements and deliver statutory and non-statutory leave variations and staff welfare policies which create a positive work environment to improve work life balance and maintain stable industrial relations.

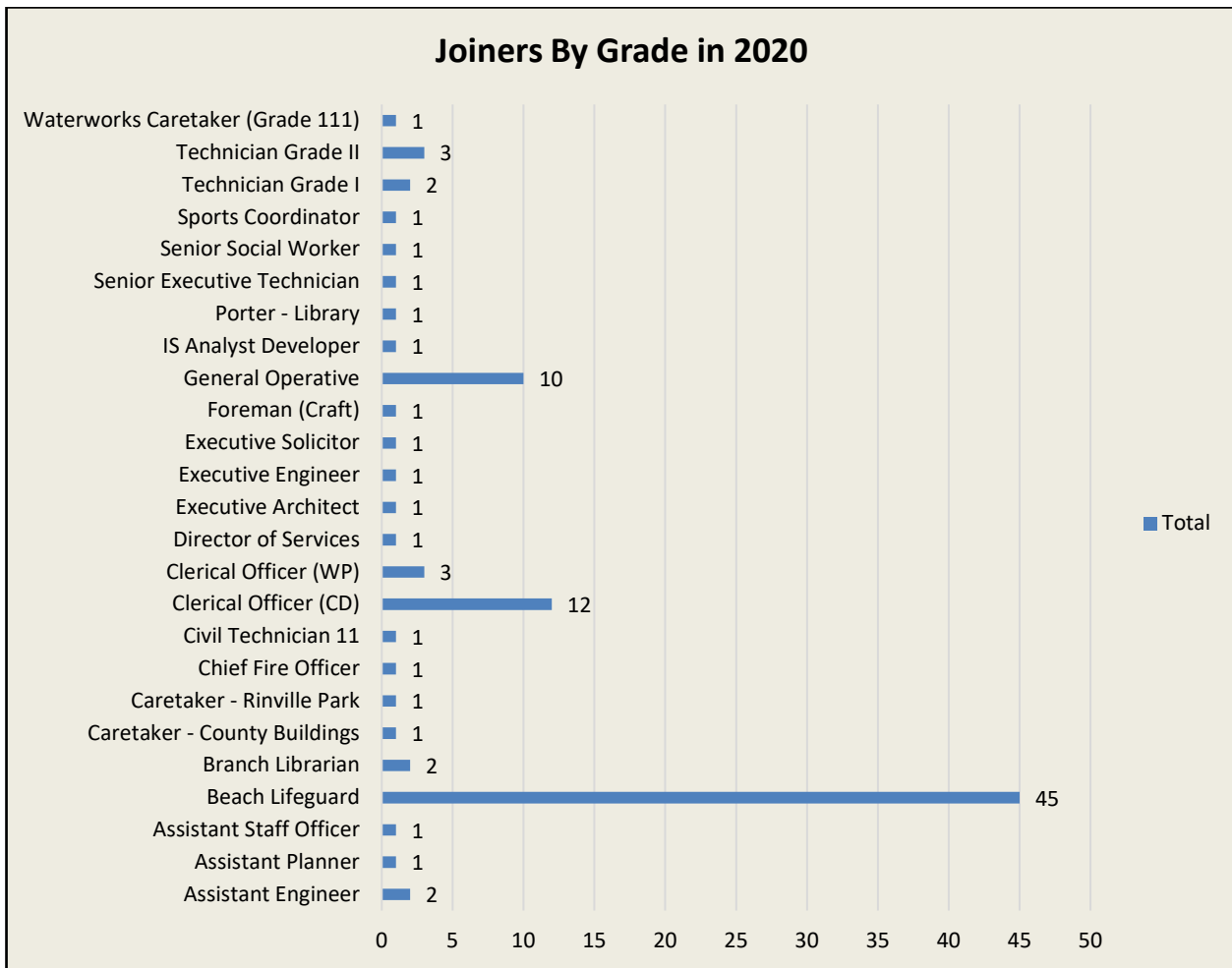
### Workforce Management / Recruitment

Workforce management is a critical function carried out by the Human Resources Department as it facilitates the assignment of staff throughout the organisation to achieve balance between service areas in accordance with organisational priorities and recent national agreements. This balance, while maintaining service delivery and planning for further local government reform, is a significant challenge for the Council. The objective of the Workforce Plan is to enable effective and efficient service delivery with the staff level available within financial resources.

*Galway County Council's Staff Headcount at the end of Quarter 4, 2020 is as follows:*

<i>Category</i>	<i>Headcount</i>
<i>Core Staff</i>	<i>825</i>
<i>Retained Fire Fighters</i>	<i>112</i>
<i>Non DoHP&amp;LG</i>	<i>74</i>

The Human Resources Department ran 37 recruitment competitions up to the end of Quarter 4, 2020.



Galway County Council continues to facilitate community employment scheme placements and work experience placements from third level institutions.

### Staff Training and Development

Comprehensive training for staff was carried out in 2020 with the main focus on Statutory and Health & Safety Training. National Training Grants in the areas of Water Services, Environmental and Non-National Roads supported the Council in the provision of this training. Other essential training was determined in conjunction with the utilisation of the Performance Management Development System. The Council continued to support further education, IPA Local Government Programmes and the attendance of staff at Seminars and Conferences in 2020.

The total number of Training Days in 2020 was 1420 as set out hereunder:



## Staff Welfare

Galway County Council in recognising that work is just one part of employees' lives, the Human Resources Department makes available a range of work/life balance schemes to assist staff in achieving a work-life balance.

In 2020 seven hundred and sixty one staff availed of family friendly schemes, which were managed by the Human Resources Department, and include the Shorter Working Year Scheme, Maternity Leave Scheme, Parental Leave Scheme, Paternity Leave, New Parent Leave, Work Sharing, Career Breaks, Carer's Leave, Exam leave and Travel Pass Schemes, together with Force Majeure leave, Bereavement leave and the Cycle to work Scheme. As part of the Government's Jobs Stimulus Plan, in August 2020, there was an increased allowable expenditure under the Cycle to Work Scheme where the tax exempt benefit-in-kind may be provided to an individual employee once in a 4 year period. Prior to 1st August, 2020 employees could avail of the scheme once in a 5 year period.

The Human Resources Department continues to implement the standardised provisions of the Public Service Management (Sick Leave) Regulations 2014 and facilitates the provision of an independent Employee Assistance Programme (EAP). This EAP Programme is a free, confidential and independent counselling service and provides support in relation to, e.g. family issues, work issues, addiction, bereavement and financial matters.

## Pensions

In 2020, twenty-two fulltime employees retired from the service of Galway County Council. One employee of the Retained Fire Service also retired from their post with Galway County Council.

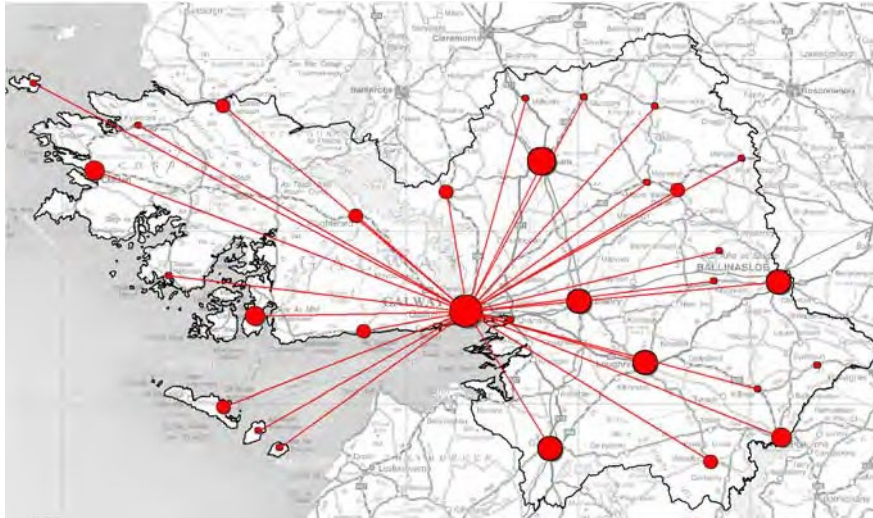
The Management and staff of the Council would like to take this opportunity to record its thanks to all of the retirees for their years of dedicated service and commitment to Galway County Council.



**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**  
**Galway County Council**

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS



*Galway County Council's IT network*

2020 proved to be a very challenging year for Information Systems, which not only provided the standard of level of service expected but also adapted to the pandemic by approving remote working facilities for over 80% of Council Staff whilst delivering innovate and strategic initiatives. This was done against a back drop of limited staffing and financial resources which have reduced over the past number of years.

### **Geographic Information Systems (GIS) - Highlight Projects and Initiatives**

- Launch of a 'Maps and Data' Portal on the Council's website, providing centralised access to a range of public facing apps, maps and data sets including the Council's Open Data Portal.
- Roll-out of the Council's free public local alert service (MapAlerter.com) including severe weather, road and planning related alerts.
- Upgrade of the Council's Enterprise Geographical Information System Platform, catering for the needs of both office and mobile based staff.
- Upgrade of the Public Planning Viewer on the Council website, supporting mobile device access.
- Support for the Council's COVID-19 response through development of apps for the collection and presentation of information on available local supports through the Council website.
- Development and implementation of a Severe Weather Event Management System (SWEMS) to assist in the management of, and response to, severe weather events.
- Implementation of mobile data collection and management solutions in regard to graveyards, holy wells and site inspections.
- Development of a 'Getting Online' interactive map to support Digital Strategy showing location of public WiFi availability.

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## Software Development and Business Intelligence

- **Housing Demand Report**  
Provision of a public summary report regarding applications on the housing list.  
See... <http://www.galway.ie/en/services/housing/demand/>
- **Housing Maintenance Requests**  
Provision of an online form and process automation in relation to logging and expedition of housing maintenance request.  
See... <https://gccapps.galwaycoco.ie/RepairRequest/>
- **Parking Fines**  
Work commenced on a replacement parking fines system to replace a legacy application.
- **Restart Grants**  
Provision & support of forms and processes regarding the Restart Grant and Restart Grant Plus schemes.
- **COVID-19 Community Call**  
Provision & support of a system for logging and managing Covid-19 Community Call requests.
- **Technology Upgrades to SQL Server**  
Provision of a new SQL server and migration of Electoral Register (live) and Planning (test) databases.
- **Cookie Compliance**  
Implementation of a new cookie compliance solution on our public web and application servers.
- **Process Automation**  
Various internal processes were automated throughout the year e.g. application forms, insurance renewals, approval processes etc.

## Technical Support

- Increase of 400% in relation to remote working capability of staff with support for additional security and remote access technologies to provide ongoing support
- Provision of additional supports for remote working to all staff, including computer monitors, keyboards, headsets and webcams.
- Provision of over 300 additional devices for home working, comprising of repurposed desktops, refurbishment of existing desktops and procurement of new ones.
- Managed Print Services extended to Fire Service HQ and to the Galway to Athlone Cycleway Office Base in Ballinasloe

## Technical Development

- Provision of remote access and use of Council Phone Answering Systems from March to answer queries from the public and maintain communications
- Microsoft Teams provided to 720 staff and councillors to facilitate Video Conferencing, screen presentation and calling
- Provision of a second VPN gateway for additional capacity and resilience
- Additional Security Software to facilitate remote working and data protection

- Improvement and enhancements in PC and laptop imaging technology, to facilitate faster deployment to staff, with lower staff overhead and work accuracy.
- The Ballinasloe Library Building was connected to the Government Cloud Network (GCN) to facilitate the new Cycleway Office Base, Improvement of Library Services and a future co-working location.
- Worked jointly with the LGMA, OGCIO and HEANET on a Ministerial Direction to implement a pilot of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Level Education worldwide secure WiFi service EDUROAM in 5 public libraries.



**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**  
**Galway County Council**

**PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**



**PERFORMANCE INDICATORS – TO BE UPDATED JULY 2021**

Section 126(c) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 provided for the establishment of a National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC). A function of the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) is to scrutinise the performance of any local government body against or in comparison with relevant indicators that the Commission considers it appropriate to refer to, and which includes relevant indicators relating to customer service.

Local Authorities are asked to validate and submit information and data on 39 Performance Indicators. This data is collated by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) and is made available to the NOAC for further analysis and publication as part of a National report on Local Authority Performance Indicators. In addition to information supplied from the Council, data is provided by external bodies (Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport's (D/TTaS) Vehicle Registration Unit (VRU), the EPA, Road Management Office (RMO) which is based on other national reporting systems to which the Council must submit data. This information is saved and validated by the Council as part of the national returns using an on-line e-returns system.

The indicators attempt to deliver a common approach to measurement and benchmarking and the availability of the information is intended to support all local authorities to improve the services they provide to local communities. NOAC believes that, by learning from one another, there is scope to develop and enhance best practice in the performance by local government bodies of their functions. Work on refining the indicators is an on-going process and NOAC recognises that a number of the indicators require modification or replacement with a more relevant data set.

For 2020, there were 39 local authority performance indicators, as outlined below.

Each Indicator is provided with a reference as follows:

- Housing (H1 to H6)
- Roads (R1 to R3)
- Water (W1 and W2)
- Waste/Environment (E1 to E5)
- Planning (P1 to P5)
- Fire Service (F1 to F3)
- Library/Recreation (L1 and L2)
- Youth/Community (Y1 and Y2)
- Corporate (C1 to C5)
- Finance (M1 and M2)
- Economic Development (J1 to J4)

**Performance Indicators**

01/01/2020 - 31/12/2020 (Annual)

Galway County Council

Status: Not Complete – Not due until July 2021



**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**  
**Galway County Council**

**ANNUAL SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN UPDATE**

<b>STRATEGIC GOAL: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION &amp; SOCIAL INCLUSION</b>		
<i>"To maximise the continued and sustainable economic and enterprise development of our county"</i>		
<b>SUPPORTING STRATEGY</b>	<b>BUSINESS PLAN ACTION</b>	<b>TARGET</b>
To maximise the use of Council facilities, such as Municipal District offices and Libraries for the dissemination of information on services.	Review offices across the County to determine unused space and capacity	End Q4
	To encourage library usage by children and young adults. To encourage staff to build on previous successful ideas that keep children visiting and engaging with our services.  To ensure continued involvement in National Children's events e.g. Cruinniú na nÓg	Number of organised events for Children's Book Festival Number of attendees at Children's Book Festival events Number of other events organised for children and young adults
	To ensure access to information through all online mediums and to continue to promote our Online Services To continue to provide a comprehensive service to the visually impaired. To ensure Library services are available beyond the walls of the library, both online and via mobile library service.	Develop the Postal Audio Service to the visually impaired.
	To deliver an effective library service. To ensure that all local communities are aware of their local library service and what each library has to offer. To ensure where possible that all branch libraries of the Library system organise/host a range of activities including exhibitions, readings, book-clubs, lectures and music for their community.	Number of visits to each library Number of books issued Number of active memberships Number of events held Number of members on mobile library Number of items issued on mobile library

	To continue to explore avenues to extend our Library services and facilities to meet community needs. Introduction of sensory equipment and facilities. To identify the needs of local communities and ensure that they are aware of their local library service and what each library has to offer.	Ongoing
Target to have Ballinasloe Library operational In My Open Library Mode.		End of 2020 subject (to Covid restrictions)
Target to have Oranmore Library operational in My Open Library mode.		End of 2020 subject (to Covid restrictions)
Continued management of Community Employment and Labour Activation Schemes.	<i>Facilitate and support community involvement and participation</i>	
	Sponsorship of 5 Community Employment Schemes	Maintain 100% capacity of CES employees throughout the year
Work with the Strategic Policy Committees (SPC's), the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) to develop, co-ordinate and implement a coherent integrated approach to local and community development.	<i>Facilitate the Elected Member and Community Representative within our democratic structures in carrying out their representational role in response to the needs of the Community</i>	
	To facilitate the Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committees in policy formation	4 meeting p.a.
Enhance urban environments by the implementation of streetscape improvement projects and the elimination of dereliction.	Collaboration with Economic & Rural Development unit and deliver on Local Authority led Rural Regeneration Projects	
	Complete Ballinalsoe Town Enhancement Scheme	Q3, 2020
Implement the Digital Strategy and identify opportunities for hubs / co-working spaces at community level.	Maximise the continued and sustainable economic and enterprise development of our County	
	Devise Digital Strategy	Draft strategy for consultation by Q1, 2020

Maximise the potential of Broadband connectivity throughout the county in co-operation with Government initiatives.	Facilitate roll-out of National Broadband Scheme - implement Broadband connection points (19)	By Q3, 2020
Work with the Strategic Policy Committees (SPC's), the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) to develop, co-ordinate and implement a coherent integrated approach to local and community development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Support the Community &amp; Culture SPC &amp; Economic Development &amp; Enterprise SPC on the development of plans, strategies and policies</li> <li>* Support the LCDC and its subcommittees to achieve a joined-up approach to service delivery and achieving the community actions in the LECP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 SPC Meetings</li> <li>6 LCDC Meetings</li> <li>2 Meetings per Sub-Committee</li> </ul>
Work in partnership with the key stakeholders including local community groups in the promotion of heritage, fire prevention, water safety, climate change and environmental enhancement/awareness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Promote fire safety and energy efficiency works in community facilities through all appropriate funding schemes, and in homes through the Smoke Alarm Scheme.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of grants awarded for community facilities upgrades &amp; tidy towns initiatives</li> <li>No. in Smoke Alarm Scheme</li> </ul>
Promote participation in sport and recreation in association with other agencies and the community, maximising the opportunities available through the Galway Sports Partnership and other appropriate schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Support the GSP to drive strategic direction of access to sports.</li> <li>* Promote and develop sports participation programmes for individuals and communities and maximise the number of programme and participants within available budgets.</li> <li>* Leverage other funding schemes to maximise participation of disadvantaged groups and communities in sporting programmes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 GSP Meetings.</li> <li>No. of programmes.</li> <li>No. of participants.</li> <li>Level of leveraging and participation of marginalised groups.</li> </ul>
Coordinate the implementation of relevant Community Development Programmes and funding schemes, including the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), in association with the LCDC and other relevant stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Monitor SICAP to ensure effective and efficient delivery and conduct site visits to increase LCDC knowledge.</li> <li>* Implement and monitor projects funded under the Healthy Ireland Round 3 and promote community engagement in the Programme.</li> <li>* Attend all LEADER Evaluation Meetings and comply with Section 48 requests .</li> <li>Allocate Community Enhancement Programme funding to enhance community facilities.</li> <li>*Develop and manage COVID-19 Community Response Helpline</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compliance with annual monitoring schedule and attainment of SICAP KPI's</li> <li>Compliance with HIF deadlines &amp; purposes.</li> <li>Effectiveness of CEP prioritisation &amp; alignment with HP Deprivation Index.</li> <li>Number of cases assessed</li> </ul>

Maintain and develop an arts service in line with the Galway County Arts Plan to ensure that the arts contribute to the enrichment of people's lives while supporting the celebration of County Galway's unique traditions and culture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Ensure the Arts Act Grants support a range and variety of arts initiatives in accordance with the Act.</li> <li>* Develop an Arts Programme to support and develop the arts for all sectors of the community.</li> <li>* Develop and Implement the Arts Plan, identifying actions for an Annual Plan.</li> <li>* Implement the Creative Ireland Programme and Plan through collaboration with the Culture Team and communities.</li> <li>* Develop a policy for Arts funding.</li> </ul>	No. of initiatives and programmes supported. Annual Plan developed to implement Arts Plan. No. of initiatives supported under Creative Ireland and compliance with deadlines
Provide advice and financial resources to support communities and the sustainable development of the county.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Support the PPN as a one-stop shop for funding information and support through funding workshops, Grants Information Booklet, and capacity building training.</li> <li>* Support communities to enter national competitions such as Pride of Place.</li> </ul>	Clear information provided for PPN Members. No. of national competition entrants and performance
Review and implement the community elements within the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) to promote and support community development and social inclusion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Complete a review of the community elements of the LECP in line with Guidelines from the DRCD.</li> </ul>	Progress on actions updated Carry out review according to Departmental Guidelines.
Supporting the Age Friendly initiative ensuring that the fact of an ageing population informs our policies and actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Support the Age Friendly Alliance and OPC to deliver activities and improvements in consultation with older people.</li> <li>* Implement Annual Workplan</li> </ul>	Working structure in place and consultation completed to prepare Strategy by end year. No. of initiatives supported
Support the development of the Public Participation Network (PPN) structures for community engagement and wellbeing, ensuring that these structures inform and are aligned with local government policy and activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Support PPN Secretariat to manage PPN Membership, budget and to develop and implement an Annual Work Plan aimed at capacity building, information sharing and supporting effective representation on Committees.</li> </ul>	No. of PPN Member Groups and % of these in SI college & no. of SI reps on LCDC (KPI Y2) No. of LA consultations with PPN. No. of Committees with PPN representation. No. of training days for LA staff and elected members on PPN.
Continued management of Community Employment and Labour Activation Schemes.		

To promote social inclusion and reduction of social inequalities by engaging with communities and other agencies to improve the quality of life for marginalised groups, including youth, migrants, travellers, socially and financially disadvantaged.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Manage Comhairle na nOg and support the delivery of key annual topics.</li> <li>* Collaborate with Galway Rural Development and Interagency Group to develop a Migrant Integration Strategy.</li> <li>* Support the Traveller Interagency Group to develop a programme of supports for the Traveller community in the County.</li> <li>* Develop a programme of social inclusion events to celebrate diversity and inclusion.</li> </ul>	<p>% of schools participating in CNN (KPI - Y1).</p> <p>Progress on key CNN topics.</p> <p>Complete consultation processes for Migrant Integration Strategy by year end.</p> <p>No of meetings of TIG.</p> <p>No. of SI Events</p>
To maximise the use of Council facilities, such as Municipal District offices and Libraries for the dissemination of information on services.	* Collaborate with Libraries on Healthy Ireland Programme and Age Friendly Programme to share and disseminate information and utilise their facilities for cultural and community events.	No. of collaborations
Maximise the potential of the European Capital of Culture 2020 designation and its legacy to the local community and local economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Prioritise the themes of ECOC 2020 through all relevant funding schemes throughout 2020 to lever the scope and impact of funded activities.</li> <li>* Work through a cross-departmental team to provide technical support and advice for programmed events and identify legacy projects going forward.</li> </ul>	Level of collaborative events and support, and legacy projects identified

### STRATEGIC GOAL: INFRASTRUCTURAL CAPACITY

*"To ensure that our physical and social infrastructure is sufficiently developed to support economic development, and to enhance our quality of life"*

SUPPORTING STRATEGY	BUSINESS PLAN ACTION	TARGET DATE
Develop and promote a Library Service to enable lifelong learning, information provision, literacy development, community engagement, health and wellbeing, cultural identity and creativity.	To plan and provide for the provision of new infrastructure to enable the improved access for patrons across all platforms such as online services, desktop PC's and continuing to connect our branch libraries to the National Library Management system.	<p>Online target services usage</p> <p>Number of internet sessions (PC and WIFI)</p> <p>Usage of new ICT equipment e.g. Tovertafel, interactive screens, laptop dispensers, tablet dispensers.</p>



		Number of branches newly connected to National LMS My Open Library Implementation
	To support those seeking employment or engaging in new business ventures	To provide dedicated work matters spaces in each municipal district To provide relevant book stock in each municipal district To provide access to PC's and printing to all To liaise with LEO, INTREO, ETB and Citizen Information Centre
Develop a strategy for the delivery and improvement of Recreational and Amenity facilities including inland Blue Economy and Sport across the county.		Ongoing programme
		40 hours
	Number of Public Hours per week available at Dunlo Recreational Park, Ballinasloe	48 hours
	Rinville Park, Oranmore - Deliver Maintenance Programme for the Park. Recoup 50% of cost from Galway City Council.	Ongoing Maintenance Programme
	Concession Permits - Manage Concession Permits for the provision of ice-cream and soft drinks at Rinville Park and at designated beaches	During the Summer Season
	Manage Water Safety/Beach Lifeguard Service in County & City (Shared Service)	During the Summer Season
	Manage safe, accessible Corporate Facilities	Sustain ISO 45001 Accreditation Health & Safety Management System

	Implement Frameworks for the various Maintenance and Repair Service Contracts	Ongoing Programme of works
Secure the sustainable development of the county through the review and implementation of the County Development Plan.	Review all Planning Applications with a significant environmental risk.	Ongoing
Protection and Improvement of Water Quality and Catchment Management.	Complete national inspection plan for septic tanks(101 tanks).	31/12/2020
	Complete farm inspection programme (25 Farms)	31/12/2020
	Carry out monitoring of rivers, lakes, discharge licences, bathing waters and drinking water private supplies on a priority basis in accordance with legal requirements.	31/12/2020
	Review of Discharge licences prioritising high risk sites - 24 sites (Baseline - 27)	31/12/2020
	Protect Bathing Water Quality by achieving either Blue Flag or Green Coast status for our county's beaches.	12 by 31/12/2020
	Continue to monitor bathing water quality at our beaches	25 by 31/12/2020
	Implement the Irish Water SLA by completing the monitoring programme and incident response	31/12/2020
Monitoring and enforcement of illegal dumping and litter.	Investigate all environmental complaints in line with national priorities - 75% (Baseline - 69%).	Q4
Implementation of the Connacht Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan.	Carry out inspections of high risk waste facility permits and certs, household and commercial premises, permitted and bogus waste collectors, illegal dumping and C&D sites - 100% of identified high risk sites/collectors.	Q4
	Provide recycling facilities for members of the public	91 by Q4

	Enhance Civic Amenity Sites through retendering operation contract	Q4
	Investigate and report on all complaints received regarding derelict sites and enter on Derelict Sites register where appropriate	Ongoing
	Promote Environmental Awareness in our primary and secondary schools and Community -	
	% of Primary Schools participating in Environmental Campaigns	96% by 31/12/2020
	No of Schools participating	192 by 31/12/2020
	% of Secondary Schools participating in Environmental Campaigns	95% by 31/12/2020
	No of Schools participating	34 by 31/12/2020
	No of other educational establishments participating	17 by 31/12/2020
Implementation of County Litter Management Plan.	Deliver an efficient and co-ordinated approach to the enforcement of litter pollution through completion of the NLPMS surveys.	Q4
	Work in partnership with Community/Volunatary/Education Sector in educating and raising awareness of the effects of litter on our Environment.	Ongoing
	Provide burial grounds in association with the Community.	
	Acquire new sites for the provision of burial ground facilities - complete Part 8	3 by 31/12/2020
	Complete works on new extensions	3 by 31/12/2020
Implement the action plan in Galway County Council's adopted Climate Adaptation Strategy to deliver improved resilience to the impacts of climate change at a local level.	Continued progression of the agreed actions under the Action Plan element of the Climate Adaptation Strategy.	

Implement statutory and contractual obligations in local abattoirs and small meat manufacturing plants in fulfilment of service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.	Comply with Annual Service Plan in line with SLA with the FSAI. Prioritise inspections of high risk premises. Carry out risk assessments on all approved premises with audits completed as per national auditing schedule. Carry out agreed sampling program in accordance with Service Plan. Welfare audit program and to be carried out in abattoirs	31/12/2020
	Participate in FSAI and LAVS working groups. Attend and participate in Western Regional Zoonosis Working Group Meetings as well as outbreak control training with other regulatory authorities.	
	Supervise and organise training for TVI's on implementation of SOP's.	
	Accurate returns completed and returned to FSAI within criteria set.	
	Provide training and advisory services to Start Ups and existing Food Business Operators	
Implement regulatory framework in respect of animal welfare including dog and horse control.	Increase level of dog licencing and microchipping in the county and continue to promote responsible dog ownership	
	Ongoing training for dog wardens/community wardens and review of current SOPs. Protocol in interaction with Housing Section and An Garda Siochana to be reviewed	
	Implement the DBE Act through inspections and risk analysis of registered DBE premises. All complaints of DBE's to be followed up.	
	Provide advice and assistance to GCC Housing Section regarding the implementation of Control of Horses Act	
	Re-organisation of the management of the Dog Control Service.	31/12/2020
	Provide advice and assistance in regards to Animal Welfare/Horse Control/Marine Mammals. Liaise with other agencies where appropriate. All complaints received are logged and actioned.	

	<b><i>Advance Major Schemes on the National Primary &amp; National Secondary routes</i></b>	
To provide a safe and efficient road network for all road users including the development of N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR), N59 including the Maigh Cuilinn Bypass, the Conamara Greenway and the Dublin-Galway Greenway.	GCRR - Galway City Ring Roads - Decision from A.B.P.	Q4, 2020
	N59 Clifden to Oughterard - Review feasibility	Q2, 2020
	Maigh Cuilinn Bypass - Advance to Tender stage	Q4, 2020
To provide a safe and efficient road network for all road users including the development of N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR), N59 including the Maigh Cuilinn Bypass, the Conamara Greenway and the Dublin-Galway Greenway.	<b><i>Advance minor scheme on the National Primary &amp; National Secondary routes</i></b>	
	N17 Milltown to Gortagunnad Realignment - submit to A.B.P	Q4, 2020
	N59 Maam Cross to Bunnakill - commence construction	Q1, 2020
	N59 West of Letterfrack Widening - commence construction	Q1, 2020
	N63 Liss to Abbey Realignment - select EPR	Q2, 2020
	N65 Kilmeen Cross - complete pavement works	Q3, 2020
	N67 Ballinderreen to Kinvara Realignment Phase 2 - commence construction	Q1, 2020
To provide a safe and efficient road network for all road users including the development of N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR), N59 including the Maigh Cuilinn Bypass, the Conamara Greenway and the Dublin-Galway Greenway.	<b><i>Maintain &amp; Improve the roads Networks of 6941KM throughout the County</i></b>	
	Prepare a road maintenance programme for non-national roads and Annual Roads Programme to be adopted by Elected Members	Q1, 2020
	Undertake and complete a maintenance and resurfacing programme for regional and local routes, incorporating ordinary maintenance (verge trimming, drainage and signage provision/renewal), bridge maintenance, winter maintenance and route lighting maintenance within the limits of available funding and as agreed with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland/Department of Transport Tourism & Sport	Completion of Annual Roads Programme by Q4, 2020  Road Grant funding fully recouped by deadline set by TII/DTTAS
	Number of Local Tertiary Roads repaired	45
	Number of kilometres of Regional Road improved, as funded by Restoration Improvement Grant	26km

	Number of kilometres of Local Roads improved, as funded by Restoration Improvement Grant	147km
	Number of bridges improved - Rehabilitation Works	9
	Number of kilometres of Regional Road surface dressed, as funded by Restoration Maintenance Grant	36KM
	Number of kilometres of Local Road surface dressed, as funded by Restoration Maintenance Grant	142km
	Pothole Repairs – response time – number of working days, dependent on resources available:	
	National Roads	2
	Regional Roads	5
	Local Primary & Secondary Roads	10
	Local Tertiary Roads	20
	Winter Service Programme – monitor weather conditions, and implement gritting programme on identified priority routes as required	Ongoing Winter Service
To provide a safe and efficient road network for all road users including the development of N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR), N59 including the Maigh Cuilinn Bypass, the Conamara Greenway and the Dublin-Galway Greenway.	<b><i>Promote scheme for the improvement of private roads within the County</i></b>	
	Promote the Local Improvement Scheme to facilitate improvements on private roads	# of scheme completed subject to allocated funding from DRCD  Fully recoup funding by Deadline set by DRCD
To provide a safe and efficient road network for all road users including the development of N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR), N59 including the Maigh Cuilinn Bypass, the Conamara Greenway and the Dublin-Galway Greenway.	<b><i>Improvement of Safety of Road Network</i></b>	
	Number of Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes in place by year end. – locations to be advised by Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.	9
	Develop programme for identification, recording and monitoring of invasive species	Ongoing
	Treatment of invasive species at priority locations	Ongoing
	Facilitate applications for road improvement works under the Community Involvement Scheme and complete relevant works with Community support - complete works at various location subject to approved funding	# of scheme completed subject to allocated funding from DTTAS  Fully recoup funding by Deadline set by DTTAS

To provide a safe and efficient road network for all road users including the development of N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR), N59 including the Maigh Cuilinn Bypass, the Conamara Greenway and the Dublin-Galway Greenway.	<b><i>Continue to Develop Road Safety Initiative</i></b>	
	Number of schools for which support will be provided for Cycling Training Programme	28
	Number of schools for which support will be provided for Drive for Life Programme	12
	Successful operation of Junior School Warden scheme in County Galway	JSW scheme operations in 4 schools
	3 school wardens in operation in Loughrea and Ballinasloe	3 school wardens in situ
<i>Promote and support the development of walking and cycling routes throughout the county.</i>	<b><i>Support the Development of a National Cycle Networks/Greenways throughout the County</i></b>	
	Conamara Greenway i) Completion of Cloonbeg Bridge installation under ORIS2019 ii) Progress Land Acquisition iii) Clifden to Sraith Salach - progress for full completion in 2021	Q1, 2020 Q4, 2020 Q4, 2020
	Galway to Athlone Cycleway - appoint consultant	Q1, 2020
	<b><i>Support the Development of Walking routes throughout the County</i></b>	
	RRDF18 - Kinvara Boardwalk - completion of design stage to progress to planning	Q2, 2020
<i>Prepare Traffic Management Plans for towns to enhance the quality of life in our communities.</i>	<b><i>Traffic Management</i></b>	
	# of parking permits issued annually	210
	# of parking tickets issued annually	1600
	Parking Byelaws for Gurrane Car Park	Draft Byelaws by Q1, 2020
	Review of pay parking system	Q4, 2020
<i>To revitalise town, villages and islands of County Galway and to improve the connectivity of communities, the built environment and public spaces.</i>	<b><i>Collaboration with other Directorates/Government Departments/Community groups to maximise funding opportunities to deliver necessary infrastructure</i></b>	
	<b><i>Town &amp; Village renewal Scheme (DRCD) - L.A. led projects</i></b>	
	TV19GY01 - Oranmore provision of foot & cycle path & refurbish green space in village centre	Deadline set by DRCD
	TV19GY02 - Craughwell provision of footpath from community centre to sport & recreation facilities	Deadline set by DRCD
	TV19GY07 - Corofin provision of pedestrian crossing, footpath, paving & public realm works	Deadline set by DRCD

	TV19GY08 - Upgrade and extend footpaths in four areas of the village	Deadline set by DRCD
	<b>CLÁR Measure 1 - L.A. led projects</b>	
	C119G02 - Cleggan/Claddadhuff - footpaths & public lighting	Deadline set by DRCD
	C119G04 - St. Colman's Park - Footpaths & public lighting	Deadline set by DRCD
	C119G05 - Carna - Footpaths	Deadline set by DRCD
<i>Continue collaboration with OPW on Flood Risk Management and maintenance.</i>	<b>Drainage Maintenance</b>	
	Number of kilometres of drainage maintenance completed by year end	3km by Q4 2020
	<b>Minor Works Scheme</b>	
	Continue to identify and submit projects for funding for minor flood relief works	20 submissions by Q4 2020
	Complete minor flood relief works	20 schemes by Q4, 2020
	Identify and submit projects for funding to OPW	3 schemes to be submitted by Q4, 2020
	<b>Work with OPW in relation to flood risk management</b>	
	Dunkellin FRS - complete scheme	Q1, 2020
	South Galway FRS - Public Feasibility Report	Q1, 2020
	Ballinasloe FRS - public feasibility report	Q1, 2020
	Clifden FRS - complete design	Q2, 2020
	To deliver a programme of minor flood mitigation works to minimise and in so far as it is possible prevent flooding within the limits of available resources	Ongoing
<i>To Continue to develop our Piers and Harbours</i>	<b>Advance the Maritime Infrastructure Development &amp; Coastal Protection Programme</b>	
	Inis Oirr Pier - complete tender documents	Q3, 2020
	Prepare and deliver routine maintenance & minor improvements programme for Piers, Harbours and yacht moorings - subject to available funding	# of piers maintained # of Harbours maintained # of Yacht moorings maintained



<p>To deliver early inter-agency supports and provide stable and supported housing options to homeless individuals and families to reduce the reliance on emergency accommodation.</p>	<p>Delivery and management of homeless services in accordance with the Regional Action Plan</p> <p>Develop internal and inter-agency protocols to guide the delivery of homeless services, addressing presentation, assessment, placement, referrals, transition and support housing to achieve a reduction in the level of long term homelessness</p> <p>To ensure that priority is afforded in the operation of the Housing Allocation Scheme to homeless households who have qualified for social housing support.</p>	<p>No. of Adults in Emergency Accommodation that are Long-Term Homeless as % of the Total No. of Homeless Adults in Emergency Accommodation at the End of Q 1 2020 (KPI H6A) ( Annual Indicator)</p> <p>Number of Families in Emergency Accommodation for greater than 6 months during 2020 - Target (0)</p> <p>Number &amp; % of Adults in Emergency Accommodation during 2020 with a Personal Support/Transition Plan.</p> <p>Number &amp; % of Adults in Emergency Accommodation that transfer to (a) Social Housing (b) Social Housing Supports including HAP &amp; (c) Homeless HAP Number of transition houses and emergency support housing available/provided during 2020.</p> <p>Number of allocations to homeless households who have qualified for social housing support in 2020 GCC Social Housing (b) AHB's (c) Transition Housing Support (d) Leasing properties</p>
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To accelerate the delivery of well managed and maintained social housing in sustainable communities for people to live while maximising the contribution to a climate friendly built environment.	<b>Housing Supply</b> -Advance the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness 2017-2021, delivering units under the construction, acquisition, turnkey, Part V, CAS, CALF, Buy & Renew, Repair & Leasing and Voids	Work in close partnership with Approved Housing bodies (AHBs) to assist in progressing their Capital & SHCEP projects.  Establishment of the LA & AHB Housing Delivery Forum
To help individuals and families meet their housing needs in communities of persons of varied ages, family composition, ethnic backgrounds and socio-economic status.	Delivery of Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) & Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	No. of Units Provided Under the RAS in 2020 (KPI 1C) No. of Units Provided Under HAP in 2020 (KPI 1D)

<p>To help individuals and families meet their housing needs in communities of persons of varied ages, family composition, ethnic backgrounds and socio-economic status.</p>	<p>Delivery of new Repair &amp; Lease/ Leasing/Enhanced leasing and/or Buy &amp; Renew Schemes.</p>	<p>No. of Units Provided Under Leasing/Repair &amp; Leasing/Enhanced Leasing in 2020</p> <p>No. of Units Provided Under Buy &amp; Renew in 2020</p>
<p>To accelerate the delivery of well managed and maintained social housing in sustainable communities for people to live while maximising the contribution to a climate friendly built environment.</p>	<p>Tenancy Sustainment Strategy- Implementation of the Tenancy Sustainment &amp; Estate Management Strategy.</p>	<p>No of Tenancy Sustainment Home Visits carried out by 31/12/2020.</p> <p>Complete Tenancy Sustainment Visits for all dwellings by the 31.12.2020.</p> <p>Roll out of LGMA revised tenant and Council responsibilities document as directed.</p> <p>Review and revise tenancy agreement</p> <p>No of support plans in place for LA tenancies</p>
<p>To help individuals and families meet their housing needs in communities of persons of varied ages, family composition, ethnic backgrounds and socio-economic status.</p>	<p>Adopt and implement the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024.</p>	<p>Total No. of Traveller families accommodated as a % of overall targets set in the Programme.</p> <p>Reach substantial completion by end 2020 on Craughwell.</p> <p>Commence tendering of works at Canal Road and commence works by end 2020.</p> <p>Apply for funding for capital schemes to deliver improved housing for traveller communities. Works to be completed within the same year.</p> <p>Apply for Funding for</p>

		the acquisition of standard housing for Traveller Families
To help individuals and families meet their housing needs in communities of persons of varied ages, family composition, ethnic backgrounds and socio-economic status.	Implement the Housing Strategy for People with a Disability for County Galway.	<p>Targets as detailed in the Housing Strategy for People with a Disability.</p> <p>Disability Steering Group to agree details of allocations procedures &amp; nominations to Voluntary bodies as well as information sharing re care plans and risk assessments.</p> <p>To ensure that priority is afforded in the maintenance and upgrade of Council stock for disabled persons</p>
To accelerate the delivery of well managed and maintained social housing in sustainable communities for people to live while maximising the contribution to a climate friendly built environment.	Increase Housing Supply	<p>Progress the Housing Capital Programme in accordance with the targets and funding as per the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing &amp; Homelessness.</p> <p>Work in close partnership with Approved Housing bodies (AHBs) to assist in progressing their Capital &amp; SHCEP</p>

		<p>projects.</p> <p>Acquire a land bank for housing construction that will provide housing supply in the medium term, beyond Rebuilding Ireland.</p> <p>Provide schemes of Affordable Housing for the county via the Serviced Site Fund or other funding available.</p>
To ensure that existing housing stock is used to the maximum degree possible to improve the quality of housing stock and to contribute to the renewal of the built environment.	Preventative Maintenance Programme for Housing Stock	Complete stock survey in Q1. Finalise the programme of prioritised works for the housing stock in Q1. Commence tendering and procurement of contractors to complete scheme of prioritised works for the housing stock across the county.
To ensure that existing housing stock is used to the maximum degree possible to improve the quality of housing stock and to contribute to the renewal of the built environment.	Complete Housing Repairs	Number of repairs completed as a % of valid repair requests received by end Q4.
To ensure that existing housing stock is used to the maximum degree possible to improve the quality of housing stock and to contribute to the renewal of the built environment.	Progress a scheme of works to improve energy efficiency in the Council's stock and to contribute to efforts against climate change.	Submit a proposal to the DoHPLG in Q1 (if the scheme opens) for works across the county under the ERDF energy efficiency funding.
To ensure that existing housing stock is used to the maximum degree possible to improve the quality of housing stock and to contribute to the renewal of the built environment.	Effectively Manage Housing Vacancies	To achieve a reduction in the % of housing vacancies @ end Q4 versus 2019. % of housing vacancies @ end Q4 2020 (KPI H2A)

To help individuals and families meet their housing needs in communities of persons of varied ages, family composition, ethnic backgrounds and socio-economic status.	Effectively Manage Housing Vacancies	To ensure that priority is afforded in the operation of the Housing Allocation Scheme to homeless households who have qualified for social housing support.
To help individuals and families meet their housing needs in communities of persons of varied ages, family composition, ethnic backgrounds and socio-economic status.	Effectively Manage Housing Vacancies	Establish Disability Steering Group and develop a Housing Strategy for People with a Disability for County Galway
To help individuals and families meet their housing needs in communities of persons of varied ages, family composition, ethnic backgrounds and socio-economic status.	Effectively Manage Housing Vacancies	Review procedures for processing housing applications and engaging with housing applicants.
To help individuals and families meet their housing needs in communities of persons of varied ages, family composition, ethnic backgrounds and socio-economic status.	Effectively Manage Housing Vacancies	Review procedures for processing housing applications and engaging with housing applicants.

**STRATEGIC GOAL: ECONOMIC & ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT**

*"To maximise the continued and sustainable economic and enterprise development of our county"*

<b>SUPPORTING STRATEGY</b>	<b>BUSINESS PLAN ACTION</b>	<b>TARGET</b>
Promote and support festivals, fairs and events throughout the County.	Process Casual Trading Licences/Special Event Licences.	Within 15 working days.
	Respond to applications for permission for Filming/Use of Council Property.	Within 1 week.
	Respond to applications for permission for Filming/Use of Council Property	Within 1 week
Guide the sustainable development and growth of the County in accordance with EU, National and Regional policy, including through the implementation of the County Development Plan	Development Management is carried out within the statutory and regulatory framework including the County Development Plan and European Directives. Promote and guide high standards of development quality in urban and rural areas throughout the County in a manner that supports the sustainable development for all of the people within the County in a fair impartial and equitable manner	Within Statutory timeframe
Guide the sustainable development and growth of the County in accordance with EU, National and Regional policy, including through the implementation of the County Development Plan	Monitor, control and enforce unauthorised development within the County Development Plan area under the Planning Acts, thus giving credibility to the planning system through effective enforcement.	Within Statutory timeframe
Facilitate the provision of commercial and enterprise space in a structured manner across the county.	Continue to liaise with the statutory agencies with the opening of the Bia Innovator Campus in Athenry.	31/12/2020
Guide the sustainable development and growth of the County in accordance with EU,	Provide advice and guidance on EC regulations and challenges posed by Brexit	

National and Regional policy, including through the implementation of the County Development Plan.		
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### STRATEGIC GOAL: ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY

*"To maximise organisational capacity through the continuous review of operational efficiency, financial and risk management and the development of our Staff and Elected Members"*

SUPPORTING STRATEGY	BUSINESS PLAN ACTION	TARGET
Work with the Elected Members to ensure that the Municipal Districts operate to their maximum potential	Co-Ordinate Municipal District Schedules of Work	Feb-20
Ensure the property and assets of the Council are managed in a manner which maximises their present and future potential	Monitor and oversee the Operation, Management and Maintenance of Tuam & Ballinasloe Leisure Centres under Licence Agreement with private Operator.	Arrange and attend Meetings of Leisure Centre Liaison Committee on a Quarterly basis
Continued implementation and review of corporate governance structures and systems including risk management, procurement, audit and statutory obligations under FOI, GDPR, Protected Disclosures and Official Languages Act.	Ensure compliance with the Council's ScorpTeanga in line with Ministerial Requirements and Official Languages Act (2003)	100% compliance with Scéim
	To monitor compliance on Bi-Lingual Web-site. Publish of Irish/English simultaneously on <a href="http://www.gaillimh.ie">www.gaillimh.ie</a> / <a href="http://www.galway.ie">www.galway.ie</a>	100% compliance with An Scéim Teanga
	Facilitate compliance with Local Government Ethical Frameworks Standards and associated Regulations in relation to Annual Declarations, Lobbying, Donations and Protected Disclosures.	100% compliance with Regulations and Legislation
	Co-ordinate public right of access to records in line with the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and Access to Information on the Environment Regulations.	100% compliance with FOI Act 2014 and the Access to Information on the Environment Regulations



	Publish Disclosure Log of Freedom of Information Requests Received	Bi-Annually
	Management of Council Meetings, Corporate Policy Group and SPC Scheme, to facilitate input of Members into Policy and to undertake their Reserved Functions in line with Statutory Requirements.	Consistent compliance with Statutory Regulations for Plenary Council Meetings and associated Committees.
	Facilitate the County Joint Policing Committee, support public awareness of the JPC and co-ordinate monitoring of its Annual Workplan.	Consistent compliance with Statutory Regulations for the JPC
	Administer Authorisation of Members attendance at Training and Conferences in line with Local Government Act 2014 and associated Regulations.	Consistent compliance with legislation and regulations
	Maintain and publish the Electoral Register (2020/2021) and the Draft Electoral Register (2021/2022) in accordance with Statutory Requirements. Prepare Supplementary Electoral Register for any Elections or Referenda called during 2020.	Consistent compliance with legislation
	Present Draft Annual Report 2019 to the Council	Apr-20
	Update and monitor the Council's Corporate Risk Register	100% compliance
Ensure the property and assets of the Council are managed in a manner which maximises their present and future potential.	Continue programme of upgrading of Council fleet subject to availability of financial resources	Ongoing

<b>STRATEGIC GOAL: PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT &amp; HERITAGE</b>		
<i>"To improve, protect and promote our environment, culture, heritage and language in the interests of present and future generations"</i>		
<b>SUPPORTING STRATEGY</b>	<b>BUSINESS PLAN PRIORITY</b>	<b>TARGET</b>
Secure the sustainable development of the county through the review and implementation of the County Development Plan	Adopt and Implement the development plan consistent with national and regional policies, including supporting Strategies, within the statutory timeframes. Further including applications for funding and submissions to National Frameworks	Commence April 2020
Protect and maintain the natural environment of the county and implement the actions of our Biodiversity Plan, supported by the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 and subsequent plans.	Implement the Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 and support the measures detailed in the plan	Events and training seminars/workshops throughout 2020
Protect and enhance the natural and built environment by implementation of our Heritage Plan.	Promote protect and advise on the Built Heritage in the County of Galway	Review projects for funding and recoupment of the same within the allocated timeframes
Ensure provision of safe and sustainable buildings within the county through effective implementation and monitoring of Building Control Regulations.	To ensure safe and sustainable buildings in the urban and rural areas in the county of Galway	To meet the minimum target for inspections within statutory timeframes. 15% inspection rate
Minimise impact on the environment from Galway County Council activities including energy efficiency measures and reduced carbon emissions	Incorporate energy efficiency measures into future maintenance of facilities. Eg. Heating, lighting, insulation, fuel efficiencies, refurbishment of building fabrics	In line with Maintenance Programmes
Continue to pursue reductions in energy use through initiatives such as street lighting replacement, flood management and electric charging point provision.	<b><i>Energy Efficiency</i></b>	
	Public Lighting Replacement programme - tender for P.L. retrofit	Q4, 2020

To promote and support use of the Irish language and recognise its unique contribution to the cultural diversity of our county.	To ensure that Galway Library Service preserves and develops its rich Irish language collection	To acquire, catalogue and collate Irish Language material to ensure its accessibility for all citizens
	To ensure the Library Service is a focal point for the provision of information on our local history and culture by acquiring, preserving and managing local records and archives.	To acquire catalogue and collate local history material to ensure its accessibility for all citizens.

### STRATEGIC GOAL: QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE

*"To ensure that quality customer service is at the centre of everything we do"*

SUPPORTING STRATEGY	BUSINESS PLAN ACTION	TARGET
Review and implement our Customer Services Action Plan	Implement Customer Services Strategy/Action Plan based on best service delivery including: Website Development, Social Media, Fix Your Street Facility	Q1
	Sustain a consistent incoming call answer rate on our Main Phone Number (091) 509000 throughout the working day	Minimum 90% call answer of less than 25 seconds
	Acknowledge all correspondence (letter and email)	Within 5 working days
	Endeavour to reply to all correspondence (letter and email)	Within 15 working days
	Number of complaints upheld by the Office of the Ombudsman	Less than 5
	Number of followers on Twitter@GalwayCoCo	14850
	Number of Likes on Facebook (Galway County)	12250
	Number of Website Page Views	1500000
Optimise service delivery and customer care through the review and implementation of our Customer Charter and Code of Conduct	Implement Customer Charter and Code of Conduct	Q1
	<b>Response to Customer Complaints</b>	

Review and implement our Customer Services Action Plan.	Responding to Fix Your Street Complaints, subject to relevant information being available	2 days
	<b>Economic Development</b>	
	Number of responses issued annually to Roads and Services queries	600
	Number of responses issued to Roads and Services queries within 15 days	480
	Number of Abnormal Loads Permits issued annually	150
	Number of Abnormal Loads Permits issued within 5 days	150
	Number of Road Opening Licences issued annually	260
	Number of Scaffolding Licences issued annually	30
	Number of Scaffolding Licences issued within 5 days	30
	<b>Emergency Response</b>	
	Provide necessary response to serious flooding incidents	As required
	Provide necessary response to severe weather events	As required



**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**  
**Galway County Council**

**STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE REPORTS  
& MUNICIPAL DISTRICT REPORTS**

## STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES REPORTS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE'S  
ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION 2020

## Membership

Name	Chair	Economic Development & Enterprise
<b>Cllr. Karey McHugh</b>	4	4
<b>Cllr. Tom Welby</b>		4
<b>Cllr. David Collins</b>		3
<b>Cllr. Declan Geraghty</b>		4
<b>Cllr. Gerry Finnerty</b>		1
<b>Cllr. Mary Hoade</b>		4
<b>Community/Voluntary</b>		
<b>Mr. Dan Dowling (Ballinasloe Area Community Development Ltd)</b>		4
<b>Trade Union</b>		
<b>Ms. Marian Spellman</b>		2
<b>Development and Construction Sector</b>		
<b>Mr. Paul Carey</b>		4
<b>Business/Commercial Sector</b>		
<b>Mr David Hickey</b>		4
<b>Galway County Council LEO office</b>		
<b>Ms. Breda Fox</b>		2

4 Meetings of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC took place in 2020.

Some of the key items for discussion were as follows:

- Economic Development
- Enterprise Supports
- Economic elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)
- Revitalisation of Towns through the Local Authority Regeneration programme and the rural and economic schemes the Local Authority deliver
- Tourism Strategy
- Hubs strategy and roll out of remote working initiatives
- Departmental schemes T&V 2019, ORIS 2019, CLÁR 2019 (review of the process and future strategy)
- Key presentations on the up to date work from the Head of Enterprise Local Enterprise Office, Tourism Officer, Head of Regeneration
- Key updates and a presentation on the Bia Food Innovation Hub in Athenry
- Presentation from Fáilte Ireland Head of Hidden Heartlands designation
- Contributions from members were recorded and noted in the context of the presentations and updates received. Much of the work undertaken in 2020 will contribute to the ongoing economic and enterprise development of Galway and will continue to be priority actions over the coming years and in relation to the new LECP

<b>HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020</b>
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### Membership

Name	Chair	Housing Culture & Recreation
<b>Cllr. Joe Byrne</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Tim Broderick</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Eileen Mannion</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Jimmy McClearn</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Colm Keaveney</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. James Charity</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Seamus Walsh</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Community/Voluntary Sector</b>		
<b>Ms. Marcella Conneely</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Development and Construction Sector</b>		
<b>Ms. Tara Flynn</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Social Inclusion Sector</b>		
<b>Ms. Cathy McGrath (Disability Federation of Ireland)</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Business</b>		
<b>Mr. Enda McGuane</b>		<b>1</b>

The Housing, Culture & Recreation SPC met on five occasions in 2020, on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020, 01<sup>st</sup> July 2020, 02<sup>nd</sup> September and the 05<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

The following are the main policy issues relating to Housing discussed and considered by the Housing Strategic Policy Committee in 2020:

1. Housing Allocations Scheme
2. Tenancy Sustainment Strategy
3. Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy
4. Control of Horses Bye-Laws
5. Housing Waiting List

**TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION 2020**

### Membership

Name	Chair	Roads, Transportation & Marine
<b>Cllr. Peter Roche</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Geraldine Donohue</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Pat Hynes</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Jim Cuddy</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Gerry King</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Albert Dolan</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Agriculture/Farming</b>		
<b>Mr. Martin Gibbons</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Business/Commercial Sector</b>		
<b>Mr. Kenny Deery Chamber of Commerce</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Community/Voluntary</b>		
<b>Mr. Tom Madden, Ballinasloe Training for Employment Ltd., Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Development and Construction Sector</b>		
<b>Mr. Diarmaid Kelly, Cuan (Beo) (PPN)</b>		<b>1</b>

The Roads Strategic Policy Committee convened only three times in 2020, due to the Covid19 pandemic. The following topics were discussed and progressed at these meetings:

1. Roadworks Programme
2. Galway City Ring Road
3. National Broadband Plan
4. Draft Policy on Roadside Memorials.
5. Athlone-Galway Greenway
6. Digital Strategy and National Broadband Ireland (NBI)

An overview of the Noise Action Plan was presented to the members of the SPC. There will be a new Noise Action Plan in 2022.



A virtual meeting was held 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020 with Eamon Ryan T.D., Minister for Transport, and Hildegard Naughton TD, Minister of State. The Elected Members found the virtual meeting very informative and that the Minister's level of knowledge and interest in projects in Galway was both encouraging and enlightening. The Rail Review and Smart/Active Travel (Greenways/Cycleways) formed a large part of the discussion

Noel Madden, Broadband Officer, Galway County Council gave a presentation on County Galway's Digital Strategy Policy and an update on National Broadband Ireland (NBI). He gave an overview of why the strategy is being rolled out both from a European and National perspective.

A Policy on Roadside Memorials was agreed and adopted in December 2020.

An update on the Athlone-Galway Greenway was presented to the SPC.

**PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE & EMERGENCY SERVICES  
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION 2020**

### Membership

<b>Name</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Planning &amp; Community</b>
<b>Cllr. Michael Connolly</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. PJ Murphy</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Donagh Killilea</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Michael Maher</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Dáithí Ó Cualáin</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Dermot Connolly</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Shane Curley</b>		<b>1</b>
		<b>1</b>
<b>PPN</b>		
<b>Mark Green An Taisce (PNN)</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Aodán Mac Donnacha Comhlacht Forbartha An Spidéil Teoranta (PNN)</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Irish Farmers Association</b>		
<b>Anne Mitchell</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Construction Industry Federation</b>		
<b>Colm Ryan</b>		<b>1</b>

3 Meetings of the Planning and Community SPC took place in 2020

The main policy issues discussed during the year included: -

- Review of County Development Plan
- River basin management Plan
- Waste presentation byelaws

**COMMUNITY & CULTURE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION 2020**

### Membership

Sector	Chair	Members
<b>Elected Members:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Cllr. Ivan Canning</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Cllr. Liam Carroll</b>		
<b>Cllr. Shelly Herterich – Quinn</b>		
<b>Cllr. Padraig Mac An Iomaire</b>		
<b>Cllr. Peter Keaveney</b>		
<b>Cllr. Andrew Reddington</b>		
<b>Community/Voluntary Sector</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Ms. Megan Flynn</b>		
<b>Business Sector</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Ms. Helena McElmeel (RIAI)</b>		
<b>Social Inclusion Sector</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Mr. Máirtin Davy</b>		

The Community & Culture SPC met on four occasions in 2020, on the 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 & 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020.

The following are the main policy issues relating to Community & Culture discussed and considered by the Community & Culture SPC in 2020:

1. Galway County Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018-2022
2. Arts Plan 2020-2024
3. Public Art Policy 2020-2024
4. Public Library Strategy 2018-2022
5. An Scéim Teanga 2019-2022
6. Age Friendly Strategy submission to the County Development Plan
7. Creative Ireland Programme 2020

**CLIMATE CHANGE & BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSOPM 2020**

### Membership

Name	Chair	Climate Change & Biodiversity
<b>Cllr. Alastair McKinstry</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Gabrielle Cronnelly</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Noel Thomas</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Joe Sheridan</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Evelyn Parsons</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Martina Kinane</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Community/Voluntary</b>		
<b>Mairsil Claffey Plastic Free Kinvara</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Pat O’Hora Tuam Men’s Shed</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Business/Commercial Sector</b>		
<b>John Hynes</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Agriculture / Farming</b>		
<b>Henry Walsh</b>		<b>1</b>

4 No Meetings of the Climate Change & Biodiversity SPC took place in 2020.

The following topics were discussed and progressed at these meetings:

- Climate action plan
- Hedgerows and verges
- All Ireland Pollinator Plan
- Foras na Paistí
- Signing Covenant of Mayors
- Presentations on Microplastics in our Oceans, Working Near Waters, ESB E cars rollout in Galway
- Energy Master Plan for Galway County Council
- Invasive Species
- Active Travel Plan
- Galways Living Bog
- Light Pollution

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS REPORTS

### MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE – 2020

The Municipal District of Ballinasloe held twelve meetings in 2020 with no meetings in August or April. A virtual briefing for Members was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020. The Municipal District continued to carry out its statutory functions throughout the year despite the various challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

At their meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020, the Members approved the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2020 (to include (a) the Roads Programme and (b) Environment, Housing, Recreation and Amenity Schedule of Repairs and Maintenance) for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020 where Cllr. Peter Keaveney was elected Cathaoirleach and Cllr. Dermot Connolly was elected Leas Cathaoirleach for 2020/21.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020 at the Draft Budgetary Plan Meeting, a proposal to adopt the plan was defeated.

In accordance with the Roads Act 1993, the Municipal District of Ballinasloe declared 3 roads to be public roads in 2020 and abandoned one section of road.

During 2020 briefings were given in relation to

- Essential Service Provision during Covid-19
- Galway Athlone Greenway
- Review of the County Development Plan and Ballinasloe Local Area Plan
- Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme

There were no deputations received during 2020.

The Municipal District Meetings continue to be a positive and effective forum where issues of concern can be raised by Members which allows the Council in turn to prioritise its works and funding in an effective and efficient manner.

## **MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM - 2020**

The members of the Municipal District of Tuam held seven meetings during 2020, including a budget meeting and the Annual General Meeting. Due to Covid19 and public health measures introduced because of the pandemic, the majority of the meetings were held in the Council Chamber in County Hall during 2020, which covered the provision of services for the district, community issues and concerns, and matters appertaining to their representational role.

The Schedule of Works for the Municipal District was approved by the Members on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020 which amounted to €523,163 in accordance with Section 103A of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended). The Members also considered and approved the Annual Roadworks Programme for the Municipal District of Tuam for 2020 including a specific allocation for Non-National roads in the Municipal District of Tuam totalling €7,732,847.

The elected members of the Tuam Municipal District were actively involved with the development of the Tuam Masterplan which will inform the future sustainable redevelopment and growth of the town of Tuam. Its production was facilitated by a funding award from the Rural Regeneration Development Fund and included active engagement from the people of Tuam in its development.

At the Annual General Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020, Cllr. Joe Sheridan was elected as Cathaoirleach and Cllr. Kary McHugh Farag was elected Leas Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Tuam for a period of 12 months.

Members received presentations on the following:

- County Development Plan 2021 - 2027
- National Broadband updates by Noel Madden, Broadband Officer
- Creative Places Ireland Tuam 2019-2022 – update by Sharon O’Grady
- Part 8 Planning for the R332 Kilbannon Road Improvement Scheme LA01/20
- Tuam Masterplan - Rural Regeneration Development Fund initiative
- Part 8 Planning for the development of a burial ground at Ballyglooneen, LA04/20

A number of roads in the Municipal District were declared to be public roads, in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

The members approved the draft General Municipal Allocation of €5,692,966 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020 in advance of the 2021 Annual Budget meeting in accordance with Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

Due to Covid19 pandemic, no deputations were held during 2020.

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## **MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LOUGHREA - 2020**

The Municipal District of Loughrea includes the towns of Loughrea, Portumna, Gort and environs. The Municipal District held 10 monthly meetings, 1 Annual Meeting, 1 Special Meeting and 1 Budget Meeting during 2020.

The Members considered a wide range of topics which included

- Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach
- The adoption of the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District
- Schedule of Works for 2020,
- Roads Programme 2020
- Flooding
- Declaration of roads to be public roads
- Road Traffic Special Speed Limits Bye-Laws 2020
- Taking in Charge
- Illegal dumping / bring banks / CCTV
- Part 8 Planning Reports for Burial Ground Extensions and Housing Construction Units

Members met one deputation during 2020 to hear and take actions on their concerns.

Cllr. Michael Maher was elected Cathaoirleach at the Annual Meeting held in June 2020, while Cllr. Geraldine Donoghue was elected Leas Cathaoirleach.

**DRAFT REPORT**  
**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CONAMARA - 2020**

The members of the Municipal District of Conamara held 9 meetings during 2020 to discuss the provision of services for their district, policy matters, the draft budgetary plan, community issues and concerns and matters appertaining to their representational role. They considered and approved the Schedule of Works for the Municipal District on the 21-2-2020 in accordance with Section 103A of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended by the Local Government (Reform) Act 2014 which also incorporated the Roads Program for 2020.

The meetings were severely impacted by the Covid-19 restrictions in regard to the reception of deputations from the various communities and the holding of presentations from relevant personnel/bodies. The following matters were considered at the meetings in 2020.

- Briefing on the Review of the County Development Plan 2021-2027.
- Consideration of a Report on the Provision of Burial Grounds in Conamara.
- Consideration of the Schedule of Works for Piers and Harbours.
- Problem of Illegal Dumping and the need for effective measures to deal with it.
- Operation of the Private Waste Collection and why certain areas are not covered in Conamara.
- Flooding in Moycullen and the Moycullen Road and the need for a Hydrology Report.
- OCSC Consultant Engineers Report on the Causeways/Bridges at Ceantar na nOileáin.
- Consideration of the draft General Municipal Allocation (Budgetary Plan) for the MD of Conamara on the 23-10-2020.
- Measures to alleviate flooding at Clifden and Kylemore Bridge.
- Update on Caladh Mór Harbour, Inis Meáin and Inis Mór Pier.
- Annual Report 2019.
- Re-activation of the planning process for the R-336 Bearna-Ros a Mhíl.
- Notification to Councillors of funding applications/calls.
- Update on the provision of Bus Stops by the NTA for Conamara.
- Problem associated with Ash Dieback.
- Upgrade work done on Bóthar Doire Fhearta.
- Pedestrianisation and the creation of open spaces in the towns and villages to assist businesses during the Covid-19 restrictions.

The Annual Meeting was held on the 12-6-2020 and Comh. Tomás O'Curraoin was replaced as Cathaoirleach by Cllr. Gerry King.



## **MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ATHENRY - 2020**

The Municipal District of Athenry consists of the Local Electoral Area of Athenry-Oranmore. The Municipal District Members are elected to the Council at the Local Elections for a term of five years. The Members of the Athenry Municipal District met on nine occasions in 2020 to discuss the provision of services for the Municipal District, policy matters, community issues and concerns and matters relating to their representational role. All of the Meetings convened in Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway.

The District extends from the Galway City Boundary on the North, East and South and includes the main towns and villages of Athenry, Oranmore, Baile Chláir, Clarenbridge and Cór an Dola, as well as dispersed rural areas that have experienced consistent population growth. Issues relating to road maintenance, active travel, Oranmore railway, protected structures, speed limits, road safety and traffic calming measures, were discussed at the Meetings and updates were given to the Members by the Engineers for the area.

The following are the members of the Athenry Municipal District.

Cllr. Liam Carroll, Fine Gael,  
Cllr. James Charity, Non Party,  
Cllr. David Collins, Fine Gael,  
Cllr. Gabe Cronnelly, Non Party,  
Cllr. Jim Cuddy, Non Party,  
Cllr. Albert Dolan, Fianna Fáil,  
Cllr. Shelly Herterich Quinn, Fianna Fáil.

During 2020, Members approved the Declaration of a number of roads to be made Public Roads under Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

At the March Meeting, the Municipal District Schedule of Works, which included the Roads Programme 2020, was presented to the Members and, following consideration and discussion, the Members approved the Schedule of Works and Roads Programme.

The Annual General Meeting was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2020 and Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly was elected Cathaoirleach, for 2020-2021. Cllr. Collins was elected as Leas Chathaoirleach.

The Municipal District Budget Meeting was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2020 to consider (with or without amendment) a Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District. Following consideration and discussion, the Members voted to approve the Draft Municipal District Budget for Athenry Oranmore.

The Municipal District Meetings were facilitated by the Meetings Administrator and attended by the Director of Services for the Municipal District. Engineering and Administrative Staff from the Roads Section and the Municipal District Office and other Council Departments also attended the Meetings to deal with queries and issues raised by the Members.



**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**  
**Galway County Council**

**COUNCIL NOMINEES TO COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES**

**CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY THE ELECTED MEMBERS**

**TRAINING EVENTS ATTENDED BY THE ELECTED MEMBERS**

**ELECTED MEMBERS EXPENSES**

**ELECTED MEMBERS NOMINATED TO COMMITTEES & OTHER BODIES**

<b>Lough Corrib Navigation Trustees Committee</b>	<b>Membership Date</b>
Cllr. Thomas Welby	07.06.2019
Mr. David Luskin	07.06.2019

<b>Northern &amp; Western Regional Assembly Committee</b>	<b>Membership Date</b>
Cllr. Tim Broderick	07.06.2019
Cllr. David Collins	07.06.2019
Cllr. Joseph Sheridan	07.06.2019

<b>Athenry Heritage and Tourism Co. Ltd. Committee</b>	<b>Membership Date</b>
Cllr. David Collins	07.06.2019
Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly	07.06.2019

<b>Association of Irish Local Government Committee</b>	<b>Membership Date</b>
Cllr. Mary Hoade	07.06.2019
Cllr. Jimmy McClearn	07.06.2019
Cllr. Thomas Welby	07.06.2019

<b>Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd. Committee</b>	<b>Membership Date</b>
Cllr. Liam Carroll	07.06.2019

<b>Loughrea Heritage Committee</b>	<b>Membership Date</b>
Cllr. Michael "Moegie" Maher	07.06.2019
Cllr. PJ Murphy	07.06.2019

<b>Local Authority Members Association (LAMA) Committee</b>	<b>Membership Date</b>
Cllr. Thomas Welby	07.06.2019

<b>Western Inter-County Rail Committee</b>	<b>Membership Date</b>
Cllr. Michael Connolly	07.06.2019
Cllr. Eileen Mannion	07.06.2019
Cllr. Alastair McKinstry	07.06.2019
Cllr. PJ Murphy	07.06.2019
Cllr. Joseph Sheridan	07.06.2019

<b>Galway &amp; Roscommon Education &amp; Training Board (Formerly VEC) Committee</b>	<b>Membership Date</b>
Cllr. Shane Curley	07.06.2019
Cllr. Aisling Dolan	07.06.2019 until 29.06.2020
Cllr. Geraldine Donohue	27.07.2020
Cllr. Colm Keaveney	07.06.2019
Cllr. Michael “Moegie” Maher	07.06.2019
Cllr. Peter Roche	07.06.2019
Cllr. Thomas Welby	07.06.2019

<b>Regional Health Forum Representation, West Committee</b>	<b>Membership Date</b>
Cllr. Liam Carroll	07.06.2019
Cllr. Aisling Dolan	07.06.2019 Until 29.06.2020
Cllr. Dr. Evelyn Francis Parsons	27.07.2020
Cllr. Donagh Killilea	07.06.2019
Comh. Dáithí Ó Cualáin	07.06.2019
Cllr. Peter Roche	07.06.2019

<b>Joint Policing Committee</b>	<b>Membership Date</b>
Cllr. Jim Cuddy	07.06.2019
Cllr. Joe Byrne	07.06.2019
Cllr. Liam Carroll	07.06.2019
Cllr. James Charity	07.06.2019
Cllr. Shelly Herterich Quinn	07.06.2019
Cllr. Mary Hoade	07.06.2019
Cllr. Colm Keaveney	07.06.2019
Cllr. Gerry King	07.06.2019
Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire	07.06.2019
Cllr. Michael “Moegie” Maher	07.06.2019
Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag	07.06.2019
Cllr. PJ Murphy	07.06.2019
Comh. Dáithí Ó Cualáin	07.06.2019
Cllr. Andrew Reddington	07.06.2019
Cllr. Peter Roche	07.06.2019

<b>Galway Rural Development Company Committee</b>	<b>Membership Date</b>
Cllr. Martina Kinane	26.06.2017
Cllr. Peter Roche	26.06.2017

<b>Forum Conamara Ltd. Committee</b>	<b>Membership Date</b>
Cllr. Seamus Walsh	21.10.2019
Cllr. Eileen Mannion	29.06.2020
Cllr. Thomas Welby	07.06.2019

<b>Comhar na nOileán Teoranta Committee</b>	<b>Membership Date</b>
Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire	21.10.2019

<b>Governing Authority of National University of Ireland, Galway Committee</b>	<b>Membership Date</b>
Cllr. Michael Connolly	01.02.2016

<b>Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee</b>	<b>Membership Date</b>
Cllr. Shelly Herterich Quinn	07.06.2019
Cllr. Gerry Finnerty	07.06.2019
Cllr. Shane Curley	07.06.2019
Cllr. Michael "Moegie" Maher	07.06.2019
Cllr. Peter Roche	07.06.2019
Cllr. Liam Carroll	07.06.2019
Cllr. Tim Broderick	07.06.2019
Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly	07.06.2019

<b>County (Local) Rural Water Monitoring Committee</b>	<b>Membership Date</b>
Cllr. Gerry King	07.06.2019
Cllr. Joe Byrne	07.06.2019
Cllr. Tim Broderick	07.06.2019

<b>County Galway Local Sports Partnership</b>	<b>Membership Date</b>
Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly	07.06.2019

<b>Local Community Development Committee</b>	<b>Membership Date</b>
Cllr. Noel Thomas	07.06.2019
Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire	07.06.2019
Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag	07.06.2019

<b>Audit Committee</b>	<b>Membership Date</b>
Cllr. Liam Carroll	07.06.2019
Cllr. James Charity	07.06.2019

<b>Road Safety Together Committee</b>	<b>Membership Date</b>
Cllr. Shelly Herterich Quinn	25.11.2019

**CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY THE ELECTED MEMBERS**

	<b>Conference</b>	<b>Organised By</b>	<b>Venue &amp; Date</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
<b>1</b>	The Finance Act 2019	Celtic Conferences	Carlingford, 10 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	1
<b>2</b>	Cross Border Tourism Conference 2020	Dundalk Chamber of Commerce	Online, 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2020	1

**TRAINING EVENTS ATTENDED BY THE ELECTED MEMBERS**

	<b>Training Event</b>	<b>Organised By</b>	<b>Venue &amp; Date</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
<b>1</b>	The Development Plan Making Process – A briefing for Elected Members	AILG	Cavan on 13th February 2020	6
<b>2</b>	The Development Plan Making Process – A briefing for Elected Members	AILG	Waterford on 15th February 2020	5
<b>3</b>	SPC Training for Elected Members	IPA	Galway on 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	16
<b>4</b>	AILG Annual Conference	AILG	Longford on 4th & 5th March 2020	10
<b>5</b>	SPC Chair Training for Elected Members	IPA	Galway on 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	7



<b>6</b>	Planning and the Local Elected Members	AILG	Webinar on 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	7
<b>7</b>	Moorhead Report - A briefing for Elected Members	AILG	Wexford on 25th July 2020	1
<b>8</b>	Moorhead Report - A briefing for Elected Members	AILG	Dundalk on 30th July 2020	5
<b>9</b>	Moorhead Report - A briefing for Elected Members	AILG	Thurles on 6th August 2020	1
<b>10</b>	Moorhead Report - A briefing for Elected Members	AILG	Sligo on 8 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	1
<b>11</b>	Moorhead Report - A briefing for Elected Members	AILG	Athlone on 11 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	2

<b>12</b>	Guidance for Councillors on the initial stages of preparing Development Plans and their Core Strategies	AILG	Webinar on 18 <sup>th</sup> September 2020	5
<b>13</b>	Consideration and Finalisation of the Draft Development Plan	AILG	Webinar on 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2020	4
<b>14</b>	Implementation of the Development Plan and the Development Management Process	AILG	Webinar on 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	3
<b>15</b>	Elected Members online Induction Training	AILG	Webinar on 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	1

## ELECTED MEMBERS' EXPENSES 2020

Name of Elected Member	Annual Allowance	Salary	Cathaoirleach Allowance	Leas-Cathaoirleach Allowance	SPC Chair Allowance	Municipal District Chair Allowance	Expenses re attendance at training	Expenses re attendance at Conferences	Mobile Phone Allowance	Municipal District Members Allowance	Attending Meetings of External Bodies - Expenses
Broderick Tim	8512.14	17381.56				2538.47				996.58	1795.85
Byrne Joe	6713.72	17381.56			5538.48					996.58	
Canning Ivan	9167.60	17381.56			3000.01					996.58	
Carroll Liam	5151.64	17381.56								996.58	
Charity James	2922.40 4967.51 V	17381.56	12384.68						219.43	996.58	
Collins David	5794.88	17381.56					96.74			996.58	610.52
Connolly Dermot	9082.58	17381.56								996.58	
Connolly Michael	8512.14	17381.56			3000.01				285.35	996.58	511.29
Cronnelly Gabriel	6805.50	17381.56		2769.36		3000.01				996.58	
Cualáin Dáithí Ó	6437.86	17381.56					25.98			996.58	208.19
Cuddy Jim	4924.14	17381.56				2538.47	252.70			996.58	

\* Elected to Seanad Éireann 29/06/2020

\*\* Co-opted to Council 27/07/2020

\*\*\* Payment relates to Cathaoirleach term 2018-2019

V = Vouched Expenses | Page

Name of Elected Member	Annual Allowance	Salary	Cathaoirleach Allowance	Leas-Cathaoirleach Allowance	SPC Chair Allowance	Municipal District Chair Allowance	Expenses re attendance at training	Expenses re attendance at Conferences	Mobile Phone Allowance	Municipal District Members Allowance	Attending Meetings of External Bodies - Expenses
Curley Shane	7540.52	17381.56					216.60			996.58	57.34
Curraoin Tomás Ó	5003.18	17381.56				2538.47	1092.15			996.58	
Dolan Aisling *	4406.87	8649.55					226.63			498.29	
Dolan Albert	6162.26	17381.56			2538.47		1500.00		162.01	996.58	
Donohue Geraldine	8742.24	17381.56					440.82			996.58	
Finnerty Gerry	1399.58	17381.56								996.58	
Geraghty Declan	9061.26	17381.56								996.58	
Herterich Quinn Shelly	6070.48	17381.56					243.75			996.58	
Hoade Mary	6823.96	17381.56				2538.47	1413.04			996.58	8873.81
Hynes Pat	7264.92	17381.56				2538.47	561.93			996.58	
Keaveney Colm	7540.52	17381.56					405.98			996.58	2303.89

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Name of Elected Member	Annual Allowance	Salary	Cathaoirleach Allowance	Leas-Cathaoirleach Allowance	SPC Chair Allowance	Municipal District Chair Allowance	Expenses re attendance at training	Expenses re attendance at Conferences	Mobile Phone Allowance	Municipal District Members Allowance	Attending Meetings of External Bodies - Expenses
Keaveney Peter	9025.90	17381.56				3000.01				996.58	
Killilea Donagh Mark	7081.10	17381.56								996.58	
Kinane Martina	5702.84	17381.56			2538.47		380.62			996.58	
King Gerry	9990.50	17381.56				3000.01	746.19			996.58	
Mac An Iomaire Padráig	7411.82	17381.56					30.46			996.58	
Maher "Moegie" Michael	7118.02	17381.56				3000.01	602.87	552.89		996.58	14845.54
Mannion Eileen	9482.72	17381.56								996.58	
McClearn Jimmy	8682.18	17381.56	14575.34				821.97			996.58	4181.86
McHugh Farag Karey	6346.08	17381.56			5538.48		1500.00			996.58	
McKinstry Alastair	5243.42	17381.56			5538.48		159.45			996.58	
Murphy PJ	7632.56 346.42 V	17381.56							192.41	996.58	

\* Elected to Seanad Éireann 29/06/2020

\*\* Co-opted to Council 27/07/2020

\*\*\* Payment relates to Cathaoirleach term 2018-2019

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Name of Elected Member	Annual Allowance	Salary	Cathaoirleach Allowance	Leas-Cathaoirleach Allowance	SPC Chair Allowance	Municipal District Chair Allowance	Expenses re attendance at training	Expenses re attendance at Conferences	Mobile Phone Allowance	Municipal District Members Allowance	Attending Meetings of External Bodies - Expenses
Parsons, Evelyn Dr. **	3728.67	7401.31								421.63	
Reddington Andrew	7687.68	17381.56								996.58	
Roche Peter	7411.82	17381.56		3230.78	7384.62					996.58	
Sheridan Joseph	8458.84 1710.17 V	17381.56				3000.01	127.20		179.84	996.58	1135.61
Thomas Noel	5427.24	17381.56								996.58	
Tuairisg Seán Ó ***			5354.11								
Walsh Séamus	4557.80	17381.56					220.37			996.58	
Welby, Thomas	6382.74	17381.56					1255.51			996.58	2906.80
	<b>278,436.42</b>	<b>676,550.14</b>	<b>32,314.13</b>	<b>6,000.14</b>	<b>35,077.02</b>	<b>27,692.40</b>	<b>12,320.96</b>	<b>552.89</b>	<b>1,039.04</b>	<b>38,789.96</b>	<b>37,430.70</b>

\* Elected to Seanad Éireann 29/06/2020

\*\* Co-opted to Council 27/07/2020

\*\*\* Payment relates to Cathaoirleach term 2018-2019

V = Vouched Expenses | Page



**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**  
**Galway County Council**

**PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**OFFICES OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL**

## PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE:** Mr. Kevin Kelly (Interim)

### HOUSING

Director of Services:	Mr. Liam Hanrahan
Senior Executive Officers:	Ms. Jean Brann
	Mr. Gerard Scully
Administrative Officer:	Ms. Nuala Heffernan
Senior Social Worker:	Vacant
Senior Engineer:	Ms. Rachel Lowe (Acting)
Senior Executive Engineers:	Mr. Kevin Murphy
	Mr. Daithi Flood (Acting)

### ECONOMIC, RURAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CORPORATE SERVICES

Director of Services:	Mr. Alan Farrell (Acting)
Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services:	Mr. Michael Owens
Senior Executive Officer, Community & Enterprise:	Mr. Kieran Coyne (Acting)
Administrative Officers, Community & Enterprise:	Ms. Mary McGann
	Ms. Eimear Dolan
Administrative Officer, Corporate Services:	Ms. Celine Delaney
County Librarian:	Ms. Bernie Kelly (Acting)
Senior Executive Librarians:	Ms. Emer Donoghue
	Ms. Siobhan Arkins (Acting)
Senior Executive Engineer, Community & Enterprise:	Mr. Ciaran Wynne
Buildings & Facilities Manager:	Mr. Kevin Finn
Rapid Co-ordinator:	Vacant
Arts Officer:	Ms. Sharon O'Grady
Sports Co-ordinator:	Vacant
Law Agent:	Mr. Robert Fergus Meehan
Senior Executive Solicitors:	Ms. Angela Casey
	Ms. Anne McCormack
Executive Solicitors:	Mr. Michael O'Doherty
	Ms. Leona McMahon
Internal Auditor:	Ms. Bernie Welby

### INFRASTRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS

Director of Services:	Mr. Jim Cullen
Administrative Officers:	Ms. Eibhlin Curran
	Ms. Edel Hourigan (Acting)



Senior Engineers:	Mr. Damien Mitchell Mr. Derek Pender Ms. Fiona Holland (Acting)
Senior Executive Engineers:	Mr. Aengus Breathnach Mr. Sean Breathnach Mr. Fintan O'Meara Mr. Anthony Collins Mr. Alan Raleigh Mr. Paraic Breathnach Ms. Paula Higgins Mr. Gerard Haugh Mr. Sean Devaney Mr. Enda Mulryan (Acting) Mr. Enda Gallagher (Acting) Mr. Steven Lally (Acting) Mr. John Coyle (Acting) Mr. John Maloney
Chief Technician:	
Administrative Officer, Water Services:	Mr. Enda Moloney
Administrative Officer, Environment:	Ms. Angela Quinn (Acting)
Senior Engineer, Water Services:	Mr. Michael Timmins
Senior Executive Engineers, Water Services:	Ms. Martina Connaughton Mr. Diarmuid Croghan Mr. Anthony Kelly Mr. Michael Shiel Mr. Fergal O'Sullivan (Acting) Mr. Mike Melody (Acting)
Safety Advisor/Health & Safety Officer:	Ms. Julianne Gavin

## AREA ENGINEERS

Municipal District Ballinasloe:	Mr. Eamonn Lydon (Acting)
Municipal District Loughrea/Portumna:	Mr. Brendan Sheehy
Municipal District Loughrea (Gort):	Mr. Feidhlim McGillicuddy
Municipal District Athenry/Oranmore:	Ms. Peter Gavin (Acting)
Municipal District Tuam	Mr. Tom Regan Mr. Paul Connolly (Acting)
Municipal District Conamara (South):	Mr. Naoise O Conaola
Municipal District Conamara (North):	Mr. T.J. Redmond

## PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Director of Services:	Ms. Eileen Ruane
Senior Planner:	Ms. Valerie Loughnane Moran
Senior Executive Officer, Human Resources:	Ms. Bríd Dooley
Administrative Officer, Human Resources:	Ms. Anne Gardiner
Administrative Officer, Planning:	Ms. Eileen Keaveney
Senior Executive Planners:	Ms. Saoirse Kennedy

Heritage Officer: Mr. Alan O'Connell  
Conservation Officer: Ms. Marie Mannion  
Chief Technician: Ms. Máirín Doddy  
Mr. Enda Thompson

County Veterinary Inspector: Ms. Rita Gately  
Chief Fire Officer: Mr. Gerry O'Malley  
Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officers: Mr. Joseph Kelly  
Mr. Michael Clifford  
Mr. Paul G. Duffy  
Mr. Anthony Travers  
Civil Defence Officer: Mr. Brendan Qualter

### **FINANCE UNIT**

Head of Finance: Mr. Gerard Mullarkey  
Financial Accountant: Ms. Áine Fenton  
Management Accountant: Mr. Michael McGovern  
Administrative Officers: Mr. Sean Groarke  
Ms. Margaret Jordan  
Head of Information Systems: Mr. Michael Martyn

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## OFFICES OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

## Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe Galway County Council

[www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie)/[www.gaillimh.ie](http://www.gaillimh.ie) \* [www.twitter.com/galwaycoco](https://twitter.com/galwaycoco) \* [www.facebook.com/galwaycounty](https://www.facebook.com/galwaycounty)  
email: [customerservices@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:customerservices@galwaycoco.ie)

### OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm

### OFFICE LOCATION

#### Headquarters

Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway

091 509000

The following offices are located  
in Áras an Chontae

Housing Applications .....	091 509200
Housing Loans & Grants .....	091 509301
Human Resources .....	091 509303
Motor Taxation .....	091 509099
Planning .....	091 509303
Roads, Transportation & Marine .....	091 509309
Rates .....	091 509171
Register of Electors .....	091 509310
Freedom of Information & Access to Information on the Environment .....	091 509319
Casual Trading .....	091 509327
Local Enterprise Office .....	091 509090

The following offices are located at  
Centrepoint, Liosbaun, Tuam Road  
Galway

Environment .....	091 509510
Water Services .....	091 509505
Community & Enterprise .....	091 509521
Business Response Unit .....	091 509521
Arts Office .....	091 509521
Social Inclusion .....	091 509521

The following office is located at  
Corporate House, Ballybrit, Galway

National Roads Project Office .....	091 509594
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### AREA OFFICES

Athenry/Oranmore .....	091 509088
Ballinasloe .....	091 509074
Conamara South .....	091 509060
Conamara North .....	091 509095
Tuam .....	091 509011

Gort .....	091 509065
Portumna .....	090 9741019
Loughrea .....	091 509166

### FIRE BRIGADES

Athenry, Ballinasloe, Clifden Galway City, Gort, Inis Mór Loughrea, Mountbellew Portumna and Tuam Civil Defence Officer .....	999 or 112 091 570940
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### LIBRARIES

Headquarters, Galway .....	091 509388
Galway City Branch .....	091 509594
Ballybane .....	091 509244
Westside .....	091 509091
An Cheathrú Rua .....	091 595733
Athenry .....	091 845592
Ballinasloe .....	0909 643464
Ballygar .....	090 66249199
Clifden .....	095 21092

Dunmore .....	093 38923
Eyrecourt .....	090 9675056
Glenamaddy .....	094 9659734
Gort .....	091 631224
Headford .....	093 36406
Inis Meáin .....	099 73126
Inis Oírr .....	099 75154
Inishbofin .....	095 45891
Killimor .....	090 9676062
Kilronan .....	099 20937
Leenane .....	095 42920
Letterfrack .....	091 742666
Loughrea .....	091 847220
Moylough .....	090 9679072
Oranmore .....	091 792117
Oughterard .....	091 557002
Portumna .....	090 9741261
Roundstone .....	095 35518
An Spidéal .....	091 504028
Tuam .....	093 24287
Woodford .....	090 9749887

Tá míle fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras agus ghnó i nGaeilge  
[gaeilge@cocogaillimh.ie](mailto:gaeilge@cocogaillimh.ie)



**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**  
**Galway County Council**

**UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT  
CONTRIBUTION SCHEME**

**ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2020**

## **UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME**

Galway County Council adopted a Development Contribution Scheme under Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 in March 2016.

In order to meet the Council's core objectives, as outlined in the Corporate Plan, there is a requirement for significant investment in creating the necessary infrastructure to meet the needs of an expanding population. The Development Contribution Scheme is designed to help bridge the funding gap between the actual costs of creating that infrastructure and the exchequer and other funding that will be available. Since the inception of the scheme, whilst significant funding has been raised, the demands being placed on the Council are proving to far exceed the funding available.

During 2020, the collection of Development Contributions remained a priority for the Council. The monies collected will be used to assist in the provision of necessary public infrastructure and community facilities for the County. A sum of €3.38 Million was collected under the Council's Section 48 Development Contribution scheme in 2020.

## ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2020

EXPENDITURE	2020 €M
Housing	15.423
	55.625
Roads	
Sanitary Services	14.023
Planning & Development	29.696
Environmental Protection	18.567
Recreation & Amenity	8.491
Agriculture & Education	2.298
Miscellaneous Services	22.566
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>166.689</b>
INCOME	
State Grants	127.361
Other Sources	44.145
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>171.506</b>
Surplus / (Deficit) for year before transfers	4.817
Transfers from / (to) Reserves	(4.807)
Overall Surplus / (Deficit) for year	.010
General Revenue Reserve at 1st January	0.05
General Revenue Reserve at 31st December	.015

<b>BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2020</b>		
Net Assets	<b>2020 €M</b>	<b>2020 €M</b>
Fixed Assets		3,639,207
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses		172,973
Long Term Debtors		39,296
Current Assets	78,403	
Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)	(55004)	
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		23,399
Creditors (Amounts falling due after one year)		(48,966)
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,825,910</b>
Represented By		
Capitalisation Account		3,639,207
Receipts - Work in Progress		172,415
Other Reserves		211
General Revenue Reserve		15
Other Balances		14,061
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,825,910</b>

Further details of the AFS are available on request:

**PROMPT PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS ACT 1997**  
 GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL OBSERVES THE REQUIREMENT OF THE  
 PROMPT PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS ACT 1997.