

CHIEF EXECUTIVE MONTHLY REPORT FEABHRA/ FEBRUARY 2023



TUARASCÁIL AN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNAIGH
CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT
FEABHRA / FEBRUARY 2022

Do Gach Ball do Chomhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe,

Re: Agenda Item 4(a)(ii) Chief Executive’s Report

A Chara,

I set out hereunder the Chief Executive’s monthly management report, as provided for under Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended. The Report outlines the current position on strategic and other issues, on the Council’s financial position and on matters arising from the previous meeting of Galway City Council.

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1. Transport

1.1 N6 Galway City Ring Road

The High Court has quashed the decision made by An Bord Pleanála that granted approval for the scheme and has remitted the scheme back to An Bord Pleanála for reconsideration.

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 came into effect shortly before An Bord Pleanála approved the N6 GCRR scheme on the 6th December 2021. A new Climate Action Plan 2023 (CAP23) has since been published, with the Annex of Actions due for publication in the coming weeks. Galway County Council, Galway City Council and TII are reviewing the CAP23, and will review the associated actions once published, to ensure the proposed N6 GCRR aligns with the objectives of the CAP23.

Galway County Council and Galway City Council anticipate further information requests from An Bord Pleanála and will respond as thoroughly and quickly as possible. Galway County Council, Galway City Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland remain committed to the delivery of the N6 Galway City Ring Road.

1.2 Active Travel Investment Grant

Galway City Council has been granted just over €12 million by the National Transport Authority towards Sustainable Transport Projects. The funding will allow the continued progression of many projects including the Cross City Link, Dublin Road Transport Corridor, Martin Junction, Cycling schemes and initiatives, Parkmore, Safe Routes to Schools and project office and staff support costs.

1.3 URDF Ceannt Station

The redevelopment of Ceannt Station was awarded €11,850,000 under the URDF fund matched by an equivalent level of funding from the NTA. The overall objective of the project is to:

1. Enhance the quality of Galway's public transport service, providing better access to rail and bus services, improved connectivity, and reduced barriers to travel for all.
2. Expand existing transport facilities, increasing capacity, resilience and efficiency of the network and facilitating enhancement of services in the future.
3. Improve the gateway access to Galway, facilitating new local development and contribute to economic and social vitality of the city and region.

4. Help reduce the environmental impacts of transport use, enhancing the public realm and protecting the valuable heritage in the city centre and supporting sustainable access to the city and region.

The project will improve and modernise the customer facing areas of Ceannt Station by introducing a new concourse and new toilet facilities, improve integration between bus and rail services at the station, facilitate future growth in passenger services by increasing platform capacity from the current two platforms to five platforms and integrate the station with a proposed 3rd party development to the south.

Following our meeting earlier in the month regarding Ceannt Station Redevelopment, I'm happy to let you know the NTA Board approved DG2 for this project under the PSC last Friday.

In December 2022, the Preliminary Business Case (PBC), previously approved by the Board of the NTA, was approved by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government who are responsible for managing the URDF programme.

This approval was received following a review Preliminary Business Case, Procurement Strategy and Project Brief. The PBC had also been subject to a review by the NTA's Capital Programmes Office prior to it going to our board. This review identified no substantive issues with the document and noted a robust cost estimate was in place for this stage of the project lifecycle.

Irish Rail have tendered the main work contract for the project. Once a preferred bidder is identified, Irish Rail plan to submit a Final Business Case to the NTA May (19th) board meeting for approval. The tendering process will crystallise the expected cost increase associated with this project. When this approval is secured, the Final Business Case will be submitted to the URDF team for review and approval.

These approvals are required to enable the project advance to the implementation phase.

1.4 Safe Routes to School

In May 2022, An Taisce's Safe Routes to School Programme Team furnished draft delivery plans to Galway City Council and school representatives, for proposed interventions at each of the Round 1 schools within the city. These schools include Scoil Iognáid (Raleigh Row), Scoil Chaitríona Junior / Senior (Renmore Avenue) and St. Joseph's Special School / Galway Educate Together National School (Moyola Avenue).

Following receipt of the draft report, Galway City Council commenced a Non-Statutory Public Consultation for each school location in May 2022, detailing the proposals for the front of school. Details of the consultations held are available on the council website under the following link:
<https://www.galwaycity.ie/srts>

In addition to the schools listed above, Galway City Council also commenced Non-Statutory Public Consultations for each of the schools selected by Galway City Council prior to the announcement of the national Safe Routes to School programme. These schools include Radharc Na Mara (Mervue) and Scoil Bhríde (Shantalla Road). These consultations were also undertaken in May 2022 and are available under the link above.

Following the commencement of the new 2022/2023 academic year, Galway City Council have now finalised the feedback from the Non-statutory Public Consultation, in conjunction with An Taisce's Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Officer and School Representatives. Details of the feedback received, and the proposed next steps are detailed in reports published to the council website for each school location. These reports are available under the link above.

1.5 Eglinton Canal Active Travel Scheme

Galway City Council are proceeding to tender for the works on Eglinton Canal as previously advised. Detailed design and preparation of the tender documentation has been completed and tenders for the main works are due to be published to eTenders in early February 2023. It is anticipated that a contractor will be appointed in May and works completed in the current year.

1.6 BusConnects Galway: Dublin Road

Program:

Currently in month 7 of a 25 programme at NTA Phase 2 - Concept Development and Option Selection. The second Non-Statutory Consultation for the Project was launched on 13th January and will run until 10th February. A Councillors Information Session on the Consultation was held in the council chamber on Wed. 11th Jan.

A registered letter to potentially affected landowners was sent out on Wed. 11th January with a copy of the scheme brochure. The brochure outlining the scheme was also distributed to 400 properties along Dublin Road. An advert was also placed in the Galway Advertiser newspaper, published on Thursday the 12th January. The Virtual Room went live on Friday 13th January. The room contains the brochure (English and Irish), a flythrough of the Scheme, Scheme Objectives, Scheme drawings, Next Steps, a feedback facility, contact details and an option to Book a Meeting facility.

An open public consultation event was held in the Renmore Community Centre on Monday 23rd January. The event was well attended by the public with a high level of

engagement between the project team and the public. Individual meetings with effect landowners along the route are in train.

Upcoming Works:

- 1 Public Consultation
- 2 Close out of Option Selection Report
- 3 Close out Feasibility Working Cost Estimate
- 4 Stage F Road Safety and Road User Audits
- 5 Close out Phase 2 Project Appraisal
- 6 Progress geometry design, drainage design, utility design, geotechnical assessment.

1.7 Coirib go Cósta Galway City Flood Relief Scheme

The Project Steering Group (OPW, GCC and Arups [appointed scheme engineering and environmental consultants]) meet on a monthly basis and met on the 18th of January 2023.

Stage 1 (identification and development of the preferred scheme) is currently under way and approximately 55% complete. The scheme specific website is live and can be found at www.coiribgocosta.ie. This site contains all current project information.

Hydrological analysis of the scheme area is now complete with the scheme Hydrology report final draft issued. The hydraulic analysis and modelling for the scheme is at final draft stage.

A wintering bird survey which commenced in winter 2021 continued over the last winter period also, this will be a key constraint that will inform the environmental assessment for the scheme.

The next scheme steering group meeting will be held on the 8th of February 2023.

1.8 Martin Junction

Communication updates on the Martin Junction Upgrade continue to be posted online at <https://www.galwaycity.ie/martinjunction> and on social media feeds. In January an update was published from Fox Building and Engineering Ltd on the junction pavement programme which is currently underway.

Phases 1 – 4 of the road surfacing programme are now complete with Phase 5 of the road resurfacing is now underway. The surfacing of the segregated cycle lanes will

be undertaken in the coming weeks followed by landscaping works. Installation of the new junction signals and the associated commissioning is ongoing. The junction is programmed to be operational by April subject to ESB connection.

1.9 Pedestrian Crossings

The construction phase for the delivery of two pedestrian crossings at Blackrock, Salthill and on the Tuam Road south of the Joyce Road Junction are complete. We are awaiting energisation by the ESB to turn on the signals.

1.10 Christmas Park and Ride

The Galway City Council annual Park & Ride Christmas Service resumed in 2022 after a Covid enforced break in 2020 and a reluctant uptake in 2021. The service operated from Saturday 10th of December to the 24th of December inclusive. The service ran every 15 minutes between the Galway Racecourse and Galway Coach Station between 9:30am and 9:30pm Monday to Saturday and 11:00am to 7:00pm on Sundays with an additional half hourly service between 7.00pm and 9.00pm.

As expected, numbers using the service are beginning to recover post the 2020 peak pandemic period. This year there were a total of 13,298 passenger journeys which was approximately 5,000 more passengers than 2021. We will expect the numbers using the service to rise further in the coming years if the numbers continue to grow along the current trajectory.

Despite fuel price increases and inflation, the Net Cost of the service this year was reduced from €10 per passenger in 2021 to €8 per passenger journey in 2022. This was due to the increased numbers using the service and the competitive tendering process used to procure the coach services in 2019.

We can again say that this years' Christmas Park and Ride proved successful and provided a worthwhile service for the public.

1.11 Operations & Maintenance

1.11.1 Road Surfacing Repair Works

Road surfacing repairs have been completed at the following locations:

- Headford Road
- Ragoon Road
- Taylors Hill Road
- Dr. Mannix Road

Pothole repairs are also being carried out across the city in addition to the above.

1.11.2 Mobility Improvement Works

Mobility improvement works and footpath repairs were carried out at the following locations:

- McDermott Avenue
- Ballymoneen Road
- Threadneedle Road
- Shangort Road
- McDonagh Avenue

1.11.3 Footpaths

Footpath reconstruction works commenced on Forster Street on 30th January 2023.

1.11.4 Proactive Drainage Maintenance

Proactive drainage maintenance is being carried across the city throughout the year to combat any potential risk of flooding.

1.11.5 Flood Protection & Storm Preparedness

Operations and Maintenance are prepared for any storm forecast over the remainder of the winter/ storm season with barriers already in place and sandbags at the ready. We are continually monitoring any potential flooding risks across the city.

1.11.6 Winter Maintenance

Salting and Gritting continues across the city's priority national, regional & local routes. This is continuously monitored during the winter season with salt stocks monitored and crews prepared in the event of predicted low temperatures.

2. Housing

2.1 European Union (Planning and Development Act 2000) (Habitats and Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2022

The European Union (Planning and Development Act 2000) (Habitats and Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2022 (S.I. No 708 of 2022) were signed on 20 December 2022 by Mr Darragh O'Brien, T.D., Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and came into immediate effect.

The Regulations, which are made under Section 3 of the European Communities Act 1972, amend the Planning and Development Act 2000 (PDA) to:

- give further effect to Article 1(3) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive;
- give further effect to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive; and
- align the Planning and Development Act with the Environmental Protection Agency Act.

Article 1(3) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive:

Sections 181(2A) of the PDA is amended to facilitate a Minister of the Government granting an exemption to a development (the subject of a Section 181(2) Order) from the requirement to apply for approval or to submit an environmental impact assessment report to An Bord Pleanála. The development must have the response to a civil emergency as its sole purpose and the Minister must be satisfied that the application of sections 181(2A) to (2AA) would have an adverse effect on the response to the civil emergency.

Notice of any exemption provided must be published in Iris Oifigiúil and one daily newspaper.

Section 181B of the PDA is amended to facilitate a Minister of the Government granting an exemption to a development (the subject of Regulations under Section 181(1)) from the requirement to apply for approval or to submit an environmental impact assessment report to An Bord Pleanála. The development must have the response to a civil emergency as its sole purpose and the Minister must be satisfied that the application of sections 181A to 181C would have an adverse effect of the response to the civil emergency. Notice of any exemption provided must be published in Iris Oifigiúil and one daily newspaper.

Sections 181B(2)(d) and 181B(4)(d) of the PDA are deleted. This removes the exemption previously provided to the Minister for Defence, from the requirement to screen for Appropriate Assessment for projects whose sole purpose is national defence. The Habitats Directive does not provide for such an exemption.

Article 6(3) of Habitats Directive:

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive provides that *'Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the*

assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.'

Sections 181(2T), 181(2W), 181A and 181C are amended to ensure that the transposition provisions in relation to the test for screening for Appropriate Assessment is consistent with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive i.e. the screening test applies to 'likely significant effects' rather than 'adverse effects'.

Environmental Protection Agency Act:

Section 173A is amended, following recent amendments to the Environmental Protection Agency Act and the amendments above, to align the Planning and Development Act with the Environmental Protection Agency Act and to continue the facilitation of interaction between An Bord Pleanála, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and applicants where an Environmental Impact Assessment is required for a development and an EPA licence is also required for the relevant activity.

Where a Section 181(2)(a) Order has been made (and an EPA licence is also required for the activity) the EPA is required to consult with An Bord Pleanála regarding the EIA carried out in respect of a proposed development. The purpose of amendments under Section 173A is to give authority to all parties to correspond in respect of the EIA and obliges An Bord Pleanála to respond to a request for further information.

The above summary of the new legislative provisions, is for ease of reference only and does not purport to be a legal interpretation of the legislation.

The Regulations are also available to view or download on the electronic Irish Statute Book (<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie>).

2.2 Cold Weather Response 2022/23

A blended approach to the Cold Weather Response was put in place for winter 2022/2023 operated by COPE Galway on behalf of Galway City Council. It became operational on 1st November and provided additional emergency beds for single homeless people who otherwise would sleep rough. The blended approach was necessary for this winter in light of it not being possible to identify and secure a suitable unit for the response. This change in approach saw a number of three and four bedroom houses (20 bedrooms in total) in various locations across Galway City being brought use at the beginning of November 2022 as shared accommodation for single person households. The Department of Housing provides funding each winter to Galway City Council, specifically for the Winter Initiative. A small team of staff were deployed by COPE Galway to work with and support the men and women to be accommodated in these shared houses. Most of these men and women were to that point being accommodated in the Fairgreen Hostel and Osterley Lodge and their move from the two hostels represented the next step on their exit out of homelessness and was designed to free up beds in both hostels to be used on a night to night basis over the winter period for people who would otherwise sleep rough. A total of 13 beds have been designated for night to night Cold Weather

Response use across the two hostels; 10 for men and three for women of which three are designated to accommodate referrals from Galway County Council. In the November and December 2022 there was a notable number of migrants sleeping rough in Galway City who were engaged with by the COPE Galway Street Outreach Service with only a small number of these seeking beds and it being possible to accommodate. This is due to a direction received by the Department that those presenting for a bed regardless of status should be accommodated. It is noted that the numbers presenting from outside of Galway City including from the county area has been consistently greater than the available bed capacity. Galway Simon Community's Abbey House project has been able to provide a respite bed on most nights to assist with the demand. A total of 98 individuals have been accommodated through the Cold Weather Response beds in the two hostels during the period between November 1st 2022 and January 19th 2023. During the between December 6th and 16th 2022 when there were sub-zero temperatures on successive night, the Severe Weather Contingency for homeless was activated with Galway City Councils Westside Community Centre coming into use for night time accommodation purposes. COPE Galway operated this provision for this 10 day period with camp beds being set up each night to accommodate people who would otherwise sleep rough. The operating hours of the COPE Galway Day Centre were extended to as late as 9pm during this period also so as to try to ensure that people were in out of the cold weather to the greatest extent possible. A total of 54 people availed of this provision with 27 on one night alone. During the most recent cold weather period on the week commencing January 16th 2023 communal and meeting room spaces in the two COPE Galway hostels were used for night time sleeping purposes as this was sufficient to meet the level of presenting need in combination with the placement of a small number of others in private emergency accommodation for the duration of the period when there were sub-zero temperatures. Over the Christmas and New Year Period COPE Galway's Day Centre team with the support of both Galway City Council and Galway County Council facilitated and supported the placement of a number of people in private emergency accommodation. It is noted since the New Year, that there has been a drop of in numbers of non-HRC present in the City. The CWR response remains in place until the end of March 2023.

2.3 Energy Efficiency Programme

Following a request from the HDCO for early confirmation of the 2023 targets, the DHLGH have authorised LA's to commence tendering and expenditure of an initial tranche of dwellings equivalent to 65% of the 2022 target immediately, with final confirmation of the 2023 programme due in February. The delivery of this programme by Galway City Council will be subject to availability of technical staff within the Housing Maintenance Unit.

2.4 Keeraun Housing Development

Galway City Council sought approval under section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act 2000 from An Bord Pleanála on the 3rd day of September, 2021 for a social housing development consisting of 71 number units - 4 number one bedroom units, 34 number two bedroom units, 22 number three bedroom units, 3 number four bedroom units and 8 number TAA (Traveller Appropriate Accommodation) units, associated carparking and bicycle parking, green spaces and landscaping, connection to existing services and all ancillary/enabling site development works at Keeraun, Ballymoneen Road, Galway.

Decision

An Bord Pleanála issued a decision in January 2023 to REFUSE the above proposed development based on the reasons and considerations set out below.

1. Notwithstanding the residential zoning objective for the area, it is considered that the proposed development would continue and extend the piecemeal development of the area without the provision of adequate social and physical infrastructure. It is considered that due to the lack of appropriate and safe pedestrian linkages, the distance to public transport and the lack of social and community facilities in the vicinity, the proposed development would be excessively car dependent and with a lack of alternative travel options would, therefore, be contrary to national, regional and local policy objectives on sustainable mobility. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

2. The proposed development is located along a section of local road which is substandard in width and alignment, with no pedestrian and cycle facilities. It is considered that when taken in conjunction with existing and permitted development, the proposed development, which would be excessively car dependent, would further erode the level of service and increase congestion in the area. The proposed development would lead to conflict between road users including traffic, pedestrians and cyclists and seriously endanger public safety

by reason of traffic hazard. It is considered that the proposed development is premature pending the completion of the N6 Galway City Ring Road Scheme and associated improvements to Ballymoneen Road. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

2.5 1.5 Allocations

At the end of 2022 Galway City Council allocated 253 properties, these incorporated Local Authority, Approved Housing Bodies and Long Term Leasing units. The units were allocated throughout the year. Of these 185 were to Approved Housing Bodies. Thirty two tenancy transfers were facilitated over the course of the year and over all 48 homeless households were accommodated at the following estates Fanan, Cuirt Bhoirne, Creig Ard, Cariel Mor and Cluain Briota. The Cluid managed scheme at Gleann na Mona commenced their tenancies early January 2023 whilst the Respond managed schemes in Fana Lair, Claonadh and Leana Mor are due for occupancy by end of February.

3. Recreation & Amenity

3.1 Sports Capital

3.1.1 Corrib Park Grass Pitch

The contractor is due to commence works with site clearance works to begin imminently followed by full mobilisation in February. Grass seeding and demobilisation are targeted to be completed by June 2023.

3.1.2 Refurbishment of Glen Oaks/Drom Chaoin MUGA

The contractor is due to commence works in mid-February, beginning with site clearance and demolition of existing MUGAs. It is envisaged that construction of the new MUGA will be completed by mid-April.

3.1.3 Corrib Park MUGA

Consultancy services have been awarded and the preliminary design phase of the project is currently being undertaken. It is envisaged that detailed design will be completed and the tender documents for the works contract drafted by the end of February.

3.1.4 Woodquay Park Development

An assessment of tenders for multi-disciplinary consultancy services was completed in January with the contract awarded to the preferred bidder. Following contract-signing, it is envisaged that preliminary design shall commence immediately in early February.

3.2 Salthill Tidal Pool Feasibility Study

A request for tender of multi-disciplinary consultancy services has been advertised on eTenders with a deadline for tender submissions set for late-February. The contract will involve scheme design and feasibility assessment for the refurbishment of the dis-used tidal pool at Ladies Beach and, additionally the alternative option of developing a new tidal pool facility. It is envisaged that this contract shall be awarded in early March following tender assessment.

3.3 Kingston and South Park Update

Work on the drafting and compilation of tender documentation for the advertisement for a Multi-party Framework for the delivery of the Kingston & South Park projects is at an advanced stage. The Framework will also be used to deliver further Parks Capital Projects at a later date.

The process of appointment of design consultants is a two-stage process. Work is practically complete on the 1st Stage Process which is to advertise for suitably qualified design consultancy teams and then to assess and shortlist those most suitable to create a framework panel.

The advertisement of the 1st Stage process I.e., advertisement for *Expressions of Interest from suitably qualified multi-disciplinary design consultancies*, is scheduled to be live on etenders by mid-February 2023.

3.4 Cemeteries

Works are progressing on the new storage shed in Bohermore Cemetery and installation of the shed frame is scheduled to begin next week.

Removal of existing storage containers will follow once the new structure is complete and fitted out. A tender competition is underway to upgrade staff welfare facilities in Bohermore Cemetery.

49 new head blocks for existing Urn plots have been ordered and once fitted, will result in 80 complete spaces available for the public to inter ashes in the designated areas.

Maintenance works continue at the Old Ragoon Cemetery site in conjunction with the Community Service Initiative team.

Consultation is underway with the design team on the possible development of a Cemetery site on the Dublin Rd.

The Cemetery Code of Practice has been approved by Senior Management and work is underway to implement same.

3.5 Operations

3.5.1 General Parks Works

Christmas lights were removed in Children's Millenium Park and in Eyre Square by R&A. See below photos of the lights.



The Galway Christmas Market in 2022 was another successful year. There were more than 50 wooden chalets located in Eyre Square along with the Big Wheel, Carousel, Santa's Grotto, the German Bier Keller for the four week fair.



3.5.2 Playgrounds and Skateparks

All children love the sensation of spinning at speed. Spinning, while great fun, also helps children to improve their balance, muscle strength and coordination skills. Galway City Council seek innovative products. Spinners and carousels attract children of all ages and abilities. An inclusive wheelchair carousel offers spinning for everyone. One has recently been installed in Mervue playground. See below photos of the installation works.



It allows children of all abilities to play alongside each other and being installed flush with the ground allows wheelchair access, enabling children with special needs to enjoy the same experiences.

Wet pour safety surfacing work was completed in McGraths Field Playground and at Na Blátha Creige playground. See below photo of the completed works.



Wet pour is an impact absorbing safety surface in playgrounds. Available in a wide range of standard colours, wetpour offers a continuous, high quality, even play surface that can be laid with different design, shapes and added play value. Wetpour is made from a fine rubber crumb that is mixed with a polyurethane binder on-site and laid in various thicknesses depending on any relevant fall heights.

3.5.3 South Park Playground

Works on refurbishment of South Park Playground has commenced. See below photos.



3.6 Community Centres and Outdoor Playing Facilities

3.6.1 Westside Community Centre

Adjustable basketball boards have been installed in Westside Community Centre following a similar installation last year in Renmore Community Centre. These adjustable basketball boards allow for juvenile to adult grades to use the cross-court facilities. They also provide a safer working procedure for our facility staff as there are no cables or wenchers needed for their operation.



3.7 Operations Projects

Christmas Tree Recycling was provided on in January 2023. The service was available at two City Council Depots shown in the maps below.



3.8 Celia Griffin Park

See below before photo of a broken plaque in Famine Memorial Grattan Park and after photo of a new plaque in its place. Also below is a before photo with graffiti plaque & weeds in the paving and a after photo with weed free paving. These works were funded under a councillor grant.



3.9 Rosshill Woods Car Park

Rosshill woods car park was surfaced and drainage was provided to the entrance. Before and after photos below:



3.10 Salthill Prom Shower

See below photos of a new shower and handrail recently installed along Salthill Prom. These works were funded under the local improvement scheme.



3.11 Father Burke Park

See below photos of completed painting and hedge trimming works at Father Burke Park for works funded under the local improvement scheme in consultation with local residents.



3.12 Parks, Biodiversity & Pollinator Plan Updates

3.12.1 Green Spaces Strategy

The Recreation & Amenity Department are progressing Stage 1 of the Green Spaces Strategy with Arup to establish a base line of the Green Network and developing the format for the consultation stages, all of which will be brought forward to Stage 2. There are 3 stages to the project.

3.12.2 Ability West garden at Terryland Forest Park

The Parks Department worked with officers from Ability West and the Recreation & Amenity Operations Department to install an accessible picnic area for their service users in Terryland Forest Park (Sandyvale). Ability West found the park to be a welcoming space during the pandemic and they continue to use the space post pandemic. We wanted to work with them to see how we could greater improve their experience by upgrading the paths into the park and leading up to the new picnic

area, which has been installed with x2 new wheelchair accessible picnic tables and a bench. Native species soft landscaping appropriate to the park will be planted in the spring. With funding from GCC Community Development Committee we were able to provide an engraved limestone plaque which honours the impact of the pandemic on the lives of people who use the services of Ability West. These improvement works also make the park more accessible to the public and local residents at Sandyvale.



New picnic area with wheelchair accessible benches. Native species planting due in springtime.



GCC Community Development Committee funded limestone plaque.



Improved surfaces to entrances of the park, now fully accessible



Improved pathway linking to new picnic area.

3.12.3 Sliabh Rua, Ballybane - Greening of the Laneways

As part of the Greening of the Laneways project the Parks Department and the Operations Department worked with the GCC Community Liaison Officer and the local community at Sliabh Rua to identify how we could help them improve their laneway/open space. The Environmental Awareness Officer commissioned a mural during the summer of 2022 and the residents wanted to go further by replacing x11 damaged/ dead trees adjacent to the mural and open space. The tree protection guards will go in shortly. LIS funding was used to fund mechanical bulb planting in the open space which will flower from spring until autumn giving the places a

colourful lift.



Before photo



After photo

3.12.4 Local Biodiversity Action Fund Progress

Funding was received from the Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund 2022. An update on the projects is provided below:

Barna Woods - Conservation Project 2022

GCC with woodland management and ecological experts are working on the completion of the Neighborwood/Native Woodland Scheme Conservation Form and the Natura Impact Statement to accompany the application. *Leave no Trace Ireland* were the successful tenderers procured to manage the stakeholder engagement in 2023.

Ballyloughane Beach Wetland Restoration Feasibility Study

The botanical survey and wetland feasibility studies of potential for wetland restoration/creation options at Ballyloughane, for the purpose of providing a nature-based solution for stormwater treatment and enhancement of biodiversity, have been completed. Through collaboration with water services we have identified a feasible project to restore the wetland to the south of the railway line for biodiversity and stormwater storage from the local catchment. Further investigation and engineering design will be required to deliver this project in 2023. Stakeholder engagement to commence prior to the consultation process to inform the scope of the tender.

Invasive Alien Species Management and Education Project 2022

GCC's Recreation & Amenity Department is working with Envirico who provide Invasive Alien Species (IAS) control and consultancy services, are currently treating 23 identified instances of IAS within the City boundary. GCC has also procured the services of invasive species expert Dr. Frances Giaquinto to develop a management plan, policy and public awareness campaign for the control of invasive species in Galway City. Options for herbicide free treatment are also part of the brief. Dr. Giaquinto delivered the first webinar on IAS to GCC staff in December. Subject to funding, GCC aim to role out this webinar to stakeholders and members of the public.

Ecological Corridor Mapping

The Vincent Wildlife Trust are currently finalising the connectivity mapping for Galway City, using landscape resistance modelling, factoring in development, artificial lighting and road networks. This mapping will inform the preparation of a GIS map of ecological corridors and stepping stones, for the purpose of informing the Green Spaces Strategy and protecting these features into the future.

3.13 Local Biodiversity Action Fund 2023 Announcement

Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan launched the 2023 Local Biodiversity Action Fund on Tuesday 24th January 2023, with €3 million in funding available to local authorities. The fund administrated by the National Parks

and Wildlife Service aims to provide funding to assist biodiversity officers, and heritage officers in local authorities without a biodiversity officer, with the implementation of projects that promote actions contained in the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021.

GCC will look to further delivery of the projects commenced in 2022 in addition to other priority projects.

4. Economic & Culture & Community & Sports Partnership

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

4.1 Northern And Western Region Launches €217m Investment Programme with European Development Funding

The Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) have launched a new six-year investment programme totalling €217m in European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) for Ireland's Northern and Western region. As members may be aware the scheme will include:

- Delivery of a regional smart hub network for research, training, innovation, commercialisation;
- Underpinning the region's existing enterprise ecosystem with training and innovation supports;
- Working with SEAI to ensure households get deep energy retrofits;
- Addressing the high rate of derelict and vacant properties in the region

Speaking at the launch, hosted in the Portershed, Galway, Director of the Northern & Western Regional Assembly (NWRA), David Minton, said "The €217 million investment in the Northern and Western Region from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is a welcome one. Partnerships with our EU colleagues have helped improve almost every aspect of life in our region over the past half-century. We have seen the ways in which we work, travel, and conduct business become more efficient. We have also benefited from regulations that have ensured the sustained quality of our environment and reaped the rewards of a wider array of opportunities for learning and development".

Galway City Council welcomes this funding for the 2021 to 2027 programme, which will build on previous funding that has improved almost every aspect of life in the City and region. This new video explains more about how this investment will be used.

[ERDF Co Funded Northern and Western Regional Programme](#)

4.2 RevitaLESE Social Enterprise Programme - Free Training Applications open until 23 February

The European Investment Bank Institute (EIB) has just launched the call for application for the 12th Edition of the Social Innovation Tournament. Applications can

cover any of the 17 #SDGs and this year's Special Category Prize will focus on sustainable cities and communities and are open until 23 February 2023. The winning projects in the General Category and the Special Category will be awarded a first or second prize of €100,000 and €40,000 respectively. In 2023, the Special Category prizes will go to projects focusing on sustainable cities and communities. The grand finale will be held in Stockholm on 27-28 September 2023.

Full details here: <https://institute.eib.org/social-innovation-tournament-2/>

4.3 Regional Start-up Summit, Saturday 25th February 2023

Scale Ireland is delighted to host its second annual Regional Start-up Summit in Galway on Saturday the 25th of February to promote start-ups and scaling companies around the country. The event will be launched by the Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar. The event is supported by Microsoft, Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF), Atlantic Bridge, PorterShed and Science Foundation Ireland. It will feature some of the country's leading start-ups including AMCS, CitySwift, Aerogen, Siren, XOcean, HoloToyz, ProVerum Medical and Tympany Medical.

The event will comprise three high level panel discussions:

- The Importance of supporting regional start-ups and entrepreneurship (11-11.50am)
- Promoting impactful and sustainable start-ups nationwide (11.50-12.35)
- Supporting student entrepreneurship at third level (12.35- 1.20)

Please note the in-person event is open to all Scale Ireland Members on a first come, first served basis so register now! The Summit will also be streamlined live, and it will be available to view online by members and non-members. Please register now to book your place! <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/scale-ireland-s-regional-start-up-summit-2023-tickets-511577531167>



4.4 Inclusive Pathways to Employment

Inclusive Pathways to Employment is a Galway City Partnership project working in collaboration with the Galway Chamber of Commerce which offers specialised support to jobseekers who may be unemployed due to disability or mental health conditions. The aims of the project are to improve participants chances of gaining employment, education, training, or volunteering opportunities by:

- Advocating with employers on their behalf.
- Providing assistance with job-search techniques, applications; CVs; interviews.
- Engaging with local employers to provide a supported work environment.
- assisting employers access grants and organise disability awareness training.
- Providing continuing support to both the employer and employee after placement.

For further information contact Lisa@gcp.ie 083-0873213. Register to attend the open meeting to find out more on 11th February 2023 at 6.30pm in the Westside Resource Centre. [REGISTER HERE](#)

4.5 GradStart supports local businesses to attract and recruit graduates

The aim is to assist companies to scale and grow their businesses through the introduction of good graduate talent to deliver clearly defined projects. GradStart will support LEO companies with ambitious growth plans to employ one graduate on a rolling basis for a 2-year contract duration. Graduates will have a minimum Level 6 qualification on the National Vocational Qualifications Framework or equivalent. The offer will be available to Local Enterprise Office client companies who meet the programme criteria. Find out more at <https://loom.ly/WswC6ao>



4.6 Start Your Own Business course

"The start-up business course is a brilliant foundation and has provided me with the tools, resources and next steps to move forward with my business more confidently." Our popular Start Your Own Business course will give you all the skills you need to

make sure your start-up is a success! Our next course begins on February 7th - book now at <https://loom.ly/p-A0coM>



4.7 Lean Launch now open for applications - STARTS 20th February 2023

Want to test your new business model with expert guidance in a unique, hands-on training programme? Find out more about Lean Launch here:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/.../Trainin.../Lean%20Launch/>



4.8 Enterprise Ireland's 42nd Student Entrepreneur Awards competition

- Awards are open to undergraduate and postgraduate students from across Ireland's third-level institutions
- Closing date for entries is Thursday 16th March 2023

Enterprise Ireland is inviting students from third-level institutions across the country who have an innovative business idea with real commercial potential to apply to this year's Student Entrepreneur Awards competition. This year celebrates the 42nd year of the Student Entrepreneur Awards, which aim to encourage students with

entrepreneurial ambitions from all academic disciplines to explore starting their own business as a career option. The Student Entrepreneur Awards are co-sponsored by Cruickshank, Grant Thornton and the Local Enterprise Offices, and ten finalists will be selected to compete for several awards, such as the Cruickshank High Achieving Merit Award, the Grant Thornton High Achieving Merit Award and the Local Enterprise Office High Achieving Merit award. The overall winner of the Student Entrepreneur Awards competition will receive a prize of €10,000 and mentoring from Enterprise Ireland to support them to develop the commercial viability of their concept. Other award winners will also receive expert advice and mentoring support from Enterprise Ireland, as well as sponsorship to help them turn their entrepreneurial ideas into reality. The closing date for Student Entrepreneur Award entries is Thursday, 16th March 2023. The award winners will be announced at a ceremony on Friday, 9th June 2023. Entries to the Student Entrepreneur Awards 2023 can be made via www.studententrepreneurawards.com

TOURISM

4.9 St Patricks Day 2023

Galway City Council is calling for applications for the St. Patrick's Day Parade 2023. This is a carnival Parade therefore entries involving costumes, performance, audience interaction, and those having musical accompaniment, are strongly encouraged. 1450 people took part in the parade in 2022 and all previous applicants have been sent application forms. So far, we have had a strong response with applications advertised to close on the 20th of February.

The festivities will include 3 days of live music in Eyre Square, the Green Mile (with new sprint races included), an extended family fun day in Salthill Park and along the promenade with more events to be added shortly.

4.10 Waterworks – Watersports Hub

Galway City Council have appointed an Architect Led Design Team for the development of the Corrib Sports & Adventure Facility Centre for Water Sports Activities at the Galway Corporation Waterworks on the Dyke Road. Initial works have begun on the site including the removal of Japanese Knotweed

4.11 Tourism Ireland Marketing Launch

Tourism Ireland launched details of its marketing strategy and plans to promote the island of Ireland overseas in 2023, at an event attended by around 500 tourism industry members including representatives from the tourism industry in Galway City.

Tourism Ireland aims to rebuild revenue from overseas holidaymakers to pre-pandemic levels – by attracting ‘value-adding tourists’ (visitors who stay longer, spend more in the regions, arrive during the shoulder season and consider their impact on the environment) and by focusing on markets that deliver the greatest revenue. This will be achieved through a wide range of promotional activities, including major marketing campaigns, publicity and programming, social media and digital marketing, as well as working with the tourism industry at home and the travel trade overseas to facilitate sales.

This year, Tourism Ireland will roll out an extensive and targeted programme of activity with a marketing budget of €78 million.

Sustainability will be at the heart of Tourism Ireland’s work over the coming years. As well as focusing on the economic sustainability of the tourism industry (the contribution overseas tourism makes to economic prosperity and, in particular, to jobs and livelihoods), Tourism Ireland’s strategy also has social sustainability (the benefit that communities across the island experience from overseas tourism) and environmental sustainability at its core.

Tourism Ireland’s new global campaign – ‘Fill your heart with Ireland’ – was unveiled at today’s launch. The new ads feature actresses Sharon Horgan, from *Bad Sisters*, and Saoirse-Monica Jackson and Jamie-Lee O'Donnell, from *Derry Girls*. The campaign is all about dialling up what differentiates the island of Ireland from other destinations – communicated through various celebrities, who share what fills their hearts with Ireland.

The new campaign will go live from St Patrick’s Day in our top four tourism markets – Great Britain, the United States, Germany and France – and will then be rolled out in nine other important tourism markets around the world.

In 2022, Tourism Ireland’s focus was to RESTART overseas tourism to the island of Ireland. As the year unfolded, international travel rebounded more quickly than anticipated, with 2022 finishing at around 75% of 2019 business. Factors like pent-up demand for travel, deferred bookings and accumulated savings led to a surge in travel to Ireland. Air and sea capacity also returned at a faster rate than expected.

The priority for this year will be to REBUILD tourism to the island of Ireland.

Some highlights of Tourism Ireland's programme for the year ahead include:

- Other promotional campaigns: As well as its new Fill your heart with Ireland campaign, Tourism Ireland will roll out a number of supporting campaigns – including campaigns around St Patrick's Day, Halloween, the Ryder Cup and The Open, luxury travel, as well as outdoor activities.
- 2023 opportunities: Tourism Ireland will capitalise on a number of special opportunities which are set to take place this year – including the Notre Dame v Navy college football game in August, various other sports tourism opportunities, the 50th anniversary of Kerrygold in Germany and a collaboration with Riverdance in the United States, Canada, Germany and the Middle East.
- Screen tourism: Screen tourism opportunities will be leveraged throughout the year – including opportunities around popular movies and TV shows filmed here, such as The Banshees of Inisherin, Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves, Vikings: Valhalla and Derry Girls.
- Overseas publicity and programming: Tourism Ireland's new three-year International Programming Ireland Fund will support broadcasters to create long-form, engaging content. The fund will enable Tourism Ireland to dial up key messages about our regions and Northern Ireland, as well as messages about off-season travel and the environment.
- Twinning partnerships: Tourism Ireland will continue its 'twinning' initiative this year, which involves overseas markets 'twinning' with a specific region or area on the island of Ireland – placing a special focus on that area and helping to drive more business to our regions.

4.12 Fáilte Ireland - Short Term Tourist Letting Registration System

Fáilte Ireland has been tasked by government to develop an efficient and effective registration system for Short-Term Tourist Lettings in Ireland. Based on international best practice, the system developed will allow Fáilte Ireland to have an accurate, comprehensive and up to date register of all short-term tourist properties across the country. Fáilte Ireland estimate there are at least 30,000 short-term letting properties currently being advertised online.

To create, launch and manage this register, a new division within Fáilte Ireland was established. This division has been working over the last year to ensure all registration processes and procedures are in place in advance of the legislation being enacted.

When the legislation is passed, property owners advertising short-term tourism accommodation for periods up to and including 21-nights will have a statutory obligation to register their property with Fáilte Ireland. Property owners will be provided with a unique registration number for each property registered. This number will need to be used on all booking platforms and advertisements.

Subject to the passing of legislation, the Short-Term Tourist Letting Registration System will be ready to launch in April 2023.

Fáilte Ireland stated ‘the impact of the register on the tourism sector, tourism cannot and does not exist in isolation of local communities. Fáilte Ireland works to develop tourism in a way that is consistent and complimentary to the needs of host communities economically and socially. For communities to thrive, there must be a balanced mix of long-term private rental and short-term letting accommodation for tourists. Therefore, both in the context of long-term sustainable development of tourism and short-term tourism staff accommodation challenges, we believe this initiative is not just good for housing but is also good news for tourism.’

To minimise disruption to the tourism industry, there will be a 6-month clarification period. This will allow those property owners operating in the sector to clarify their position in relation to relevant planning regulations, or for those to apply for change of use planning permission to continue offering their accommodation as tourist accommodation while their application is being considered and processed. It is important to note that the introduction of the new register will not alter or impact upon planning permission requirements.

4.13 Failte Ireland Industry Briefing

Fáilte Ireland’s focus is on ‘Driving Sustainable Recovery’ and will host its annual Industry Briefing on Monday 20th February from 11:00am - 12:00 Noon where they will share their objectives for 2023 and present key national initiatives for the year ahead.

This virtual session will be followed by a series of In-Person Regional Industry Days, held at 9 locations around the country including Galway City, which will give you the opportunity to meet with regional colleagues and learn more about the specific plans we have for each region this year.

The Virtual Industry Briefing will include topics such as 2023 Outlook, Climate Action, Short-Term Lets and Tourism Careers, while the In-Person Regional Industry Days

include region specific product development, domestic sales and marketing campaigns, and business supports.

The Galway briefing will take place on Wednesday 22nd February between 10:30am - 12:30pm at a venue tbc.

4.14 Knock Airport – Announces Strong Year in 2022

2022 has proven to be a strong year of recovery at Ireland West Airport, with passenger numbers increasing by 314% to 722,000 compared to 174,000 passengers in 2021. Compared to pre-covid levels, passenger numbers recovered to 89% of the record 2019 level of 807,000 passengers.

The number of passengers traveling on services to and from Mainland and Continental Europe hit a new high for the airport, surpassing 2019 levels, increasing by 9% to 138,621, with a particularly strong performance recorded on services to and from Cologne, Barcelona and Milan which in turn generated significant economic benefits for the West, Northwest and Midlands regions through increased overseas visitors from these regions.

Passenger numbers travelling on services to and from the UK reached 578,000, boosted by the commencement of 3 new services to Birmingham, Edinburgh and Manchester with Ryanair and the return of the popular Aer Lingus service to London Gatwick. In addition, Ryanair recorded its busiest ever year for passenger numbers at Ireland West Airport, carrying a total of 654k passengers in 2022.

2022 was a milestone year for the airport, as along with Shannon Airport, both airports became the first airports in the world to be recognised as Age Friendly, as endorsed by the World Health Organisation (WHO), in June and in October were crowned joint winners of the Age Friendly Transport Award at the prestigious National Age Friendly Transport Awards. The Age Friendly Transport Award recognises the vital difference that availability to good quality, easily accessible, user friendly and reliable transport options can make to an older person.

Furthermore 2022 saw continued investment in the Airport Transformation Program with several infrastructural projects commencing during the course of 2022, aimed at continuing to enhance the airports facility to meet the future needs of both our airline customers and passengers.

Projects which commenced in 2022 include:

- Sustainability Master Plan to support the airports sustainability and environmental strategy.
- Major upgrade of the airport's electrical infrastructure across the entire airport campus
- Upgrade of the airport ground services fleet of vehicles to electric vehicles.
- Purchase of new Fire Tender Vehicle.
- Resurfacing and upgrading of the airport car parking facilities at Ireland West Airport.
- Essential maintenance works in the upstairs Sláinte Restaurant area of the airport.

2023 has already got off to a good start with the announcement by Ryanair of their biggest ever Ireland West Airport schedule in 2023 with 16 routes, operating 120 weekly flights, a 15% increase on 2022, including an exciting new route to Lanzarote for Summer 2023. In addition, Ryanair have Increased frequencies on 5 UK routes, adding an extra 40,000+ seats on services to Birmingham, Bristol, East Midlands, Liverpool and Manchester.

London Heathrow flight to replace London Gatwick

Aer Lingus have announced a new year-round, daily service to London Heathrow Airport. The new route will replace the current Aer Lingus service to London Gatwick, which will cease operations on 25th March 2023. (Customers already booked on this route will be automatically rebooked on a same day flight.)

Starting March 26th, Aer Lingus will operate daily flights to London Heathrow, London's biggest and most well connected and closest airport to central London. This new service will provide a major boost for the airport and the region as it is the first time in the airports 37-year history that the airport will be connected to one of Europe's major international airport hubs.

As well as providing a daily service to Heathrow, customers can enjoy seamless connections via London Heathrow Airport to North America. Aer Lingus currently has partnerships with a network of airlines out of Heathrow Airport, providing access to an ever-growing number of routes and benefits. Airlines include Air Canada, Alaska Airlines, American Airlines, British Airways, Iberia, JetBlue and United Airlines. British Airways codeshares on Aer Lingus services which will offer global access from Ireland West Airport to/from UK and London Heathrow. British Airways also

codeshares on Aer Lingus operated North American and Canadian services for connecting passengers to and from the UK.

The new route will boost inbound tourism to the West of Ireland. Aer Lingus aims to take advantage of the growing trend of screen tourism, which Tourism Ireland has identified as a key opportunity for 2023, with films like the Banshees of Inisherin showcasing the West of Ireland to a global audience.

4.15 Outdoor Living

Following the success of outdoor living initiatives in 2022 and previous years, it is intended to proceed with notices of Intention for its return in 2023.

The streets intended to close for the period include Woodquay, Dominick Street Upper, Ravens Terrace, William Street West, the Small Crane from the 1st of March to the 30th of September. Areas in the Galway's Westend, will be for evening closures only as in previous years.

ARTS & CULTURE



Helium Arts
CREATIVITY CHANGES LIVES

REGISTER NOW FOR FREE ART WORKSHOPS - CASTLEBAR - GALWAY

FREE creative art workshops to support **children, aged 8-12, with lifelong physical health conditions** in living life to the full.

Drawing, Painting, Puppetry, Sculpture, Film-making, Clay Modelling and more with a professional artist!

Make new friends, learn new skills and have fun this school mid-term break. Join our 2 day art camps taking place in a location near you.

"She enjoyed it so much....I felt so comfortable leaving her in such a safe environment." - (Parent)

Medical support provided in the workshop room

WHEN & WHERE
Thursday 16 & Friday 17 February
Morning and Afternoon Sessions

CASTLEBAR
Lough Lannagh Leisure Complex, Lough Lannagh, Knockacrogghery, Castlebar, Co. Mayo, F23 A257

GALWAY
Westside Library, Seamus Quirke Road, Galway, H91 Y067

For more information and bookings contact:
hello@helium.ie or 083 010 3240
www.helium.ie

arts council funding the arts
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Socsta
Registered Charity No. 20075200

4.16 CREATIVE IRELAND

Creative Ireland has notified the Galway City Culture and Creativity Team of an indicative funding allocation of €161,161 Core funding and €30,000 Cruinniú na nÓg funding for 2023. The C&C Team met recently and has commenced work on their

outputs for the year. Based on the Culture & Creativity Strategy 2023 – 2027 (to be launched later this month by Minister Catherine Martin) the workplan for this year will follow a series of themes to deliver collaborative projects of scale, innovation and ambition in 2023 under Creative Communities.

In addition, four additional funding opportunities for local authorities are being rolled out under the Creative Ireland Programme in early 2023.

1. **Creative Communities Economic Action Fund** - Local Authority Culture and Creativity Teams in all 31 local authorities are invited to submit a proposal for initiatives jointly with their local authority colleagues working to develop creative economies at local level. In particular, CI is asking local authorities, Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) and their partners to support projects in the following sectors (i) Design Sectors (ii) Digital Creative Sectors (iii) Content Creation Sectors. Based on the success of the West Galway Games Initiative, the C&C Team will work with Ardán, the LEO and other stakeholders to develop a continuation project to the first WGGI which will further create initiatives and opportunities with leading games developers.
2. **Creativity in Older Age Scheme 2023**: Local authority Culture and Creativity Teams in all 31 local authorities are invited to submit a proposal for initiatives jointly with their local authority colleagues working to support the Age Friendly and Healthy Ireland Programmes. It is anticipated that applications will open in mid-February with a closing date for applications in and around 10th March 2023.
3. **Creative Climate Action II: Agents of Change**: Applications for the scheme are now open. The 'Creative Climate Action II: Agents of Change' programme is a joint initiative of the Creative Ireland Programme and the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications. There are two funding strands (i) [SPARK](#) grants between €20,000 and €50,000 (ii) [IGNITE](#) grants between €50,000 and €250,000. Closing date Monday 13th March 2023.
4. **Creative Ireland and Shared Island**: The Creative Ireland Programme will engage further in Q1 with a funding opportunity to support local authorities enhance networks of creativity in support of vibrant and inclusive people-to-people and community-to-community partnerships.

The Creative Ireland Programme will issue each local authority with a new Service Level Agreement in February 2023.

4.17 Arts Office

4.17.1 Arts Grant

The Arts Office, with assistance from colleagues across community and culture, IT and communications, launched the Arts Grant for 2023 on January 26th. The annual grant of €400,000 supports arts organisations across the city to deliver high-quality cultural programming and resources to the people of Galway City.

Building on the goals and values in *New Directions: Strategic Plan for the Arts 2021 - 2026*. The 2023 grant includes two application strands, one for professional organisations and one for Community, Voluntary and Amateur organisation. Applicants are invited to register and apply online before the deadline of February 16th.

The 2023 Arts Grant is open earlier than previous years to allow organisations sufficient time for to plan for financial and programming commitments. With a view to ensuring sufficient time is allowed annually, the Arts Grant for 2024 will be launched in September 2023 and the grant will continue on this schedule annually.

Applications Open: 26th January 2023

Closing Date: 16th February 2023 at 4.00pm

www.galwaycity.ie/artsgrants2023

Galway City Council Arts Grant 2023 Open for Applications

📅 Thu 26 Jan, 2023 📰 News



A Chairde, We here in the Arts Office are delighted to announce that applications for the 2023 Arts Grant are now open. This year's application is open earlier than usual as the Arts Office aims to ensure organisations can plan adequately for their financial and programming commitments as early as possible in 2023. We invite applications from arts organisations based in Galway City for the 2023 Arts Grant. Funding will...

[More]

4.17.2 Arts Funding

The annual Band Grant, Creative Practitioner Bursary (formerly the Individual Artist Bursary) and Tyrone Guthrie Regional Bursary are due to open for applications at the end of February. These awards are typically launched later in the year however the Arts Office is keen to allow sufficient time for artists and bands to prepare for their year ahead. The application process has been streamlined to ensure applications are accessible, use plain English and are user-friendly.

The revised applications include detailed guidelines as to how applications are assessed to ensure the process is clear and transparent. Our applications for Creative Practitioners and the Tyrone Guthrie Bursary now include questions to map our social reach. These include questions about the applicant's gender, ethnicity, age, disability status and education. Collecting this data will enable the Arts Office to evaluate the diversity of applications and help us identify groups we need to target with advertising and application support in the future.

The Tyrone Guthrie Arts Centre Regional Bursary is offered by over 27 local authorities and is highly competitive. Two awards will be made available this year, to Galway City Artists, each residency will be two weeks in duration and open to artists working across all art forms.

Advice and Information

The Arts Office continues to meet with Cultural Partners as a source of information and advice on a wide range of arts and cultural topics and opportunities both locally and nationally.

4.17.3 Herstory

Galway City Council funded its first Creative Ireland event of 2023 on 27th January.

Herstory sparked the first national St. Brigid's Day celebrations in Galway city on 27th January 2023 with a spectacular Herstory Light Show in honour of Brigid - Goddess and Saint - and a celebration of the strength and spirit of Galway women. Iconic landmarks illuminated with stunning portraits women by local artists at Lynch's Castle, St. Nicholas Church, Galway City Museum and Pálás Cinema. Bishop Brigid is back, personified by the brilliant visual artist Áine Philips who led a procession through the city, blessing Galwegians who were lucky enough to cross her path. At Lynch's Castle singer Ceara Conway captivated audiences with her mellifluous music. Moth & Butterfly storytellers Órla Mc Govern and Niceol Blue regaled the crowds with performances of their fiery poem revealing the real Brigid. The 2023 Herstory Light Show is co-produced with Dodeca and funded by Galway City Council Creative Ireland Programme, with curation by Herstory in partnership with Galway City Arts Office.

Art of Brigid and local Galway women by artists Geraldine Kilmartin, FRIZ, Erin Darcy, Irene Naughton, Hilary Morley, Eleanor Duggan, Patsy Connolly, Shona MacGillivray, local school children, Courtney Davis, Dee Mulrooney, Jennifer Rothwell, Santiago Rial, Maria Magee, Bob Glynn, Bo Owen, Dee Mulrooney, Geraldine Kilmartin, Kerrie Hanna, Christopher Fernandes, Roxana Manouchehri. Photographs by Anita Murphy, Alice McDowell and Galway Traveller Movement.

The organisers of the event Herstory and Galway City Council publicised the event across traditional and social media. The event was well attended with hundreds of people at each of the locations.

<https://www.herstory.ie/home>



Music Credit: An Caoineadh Vocals - Ceara Conway Violin/Viola - Ultan O'Brien Cello - Kevin Murphy Piano - Francesco Turrisi



Photographer: Steve O Connor

4.17.4 Street Art Walking Tour/Talk

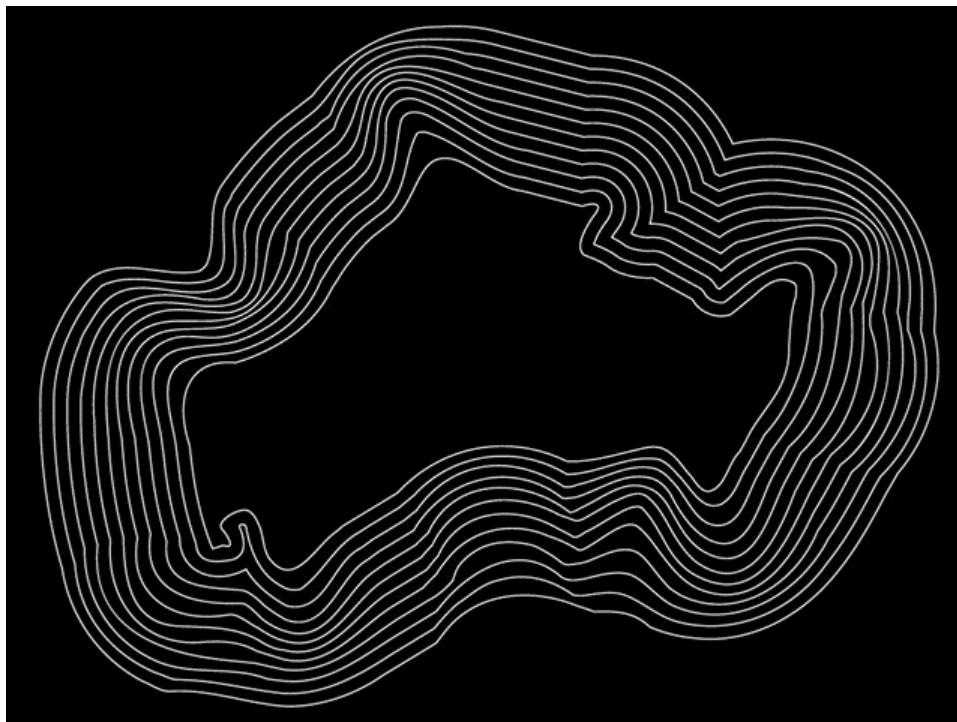
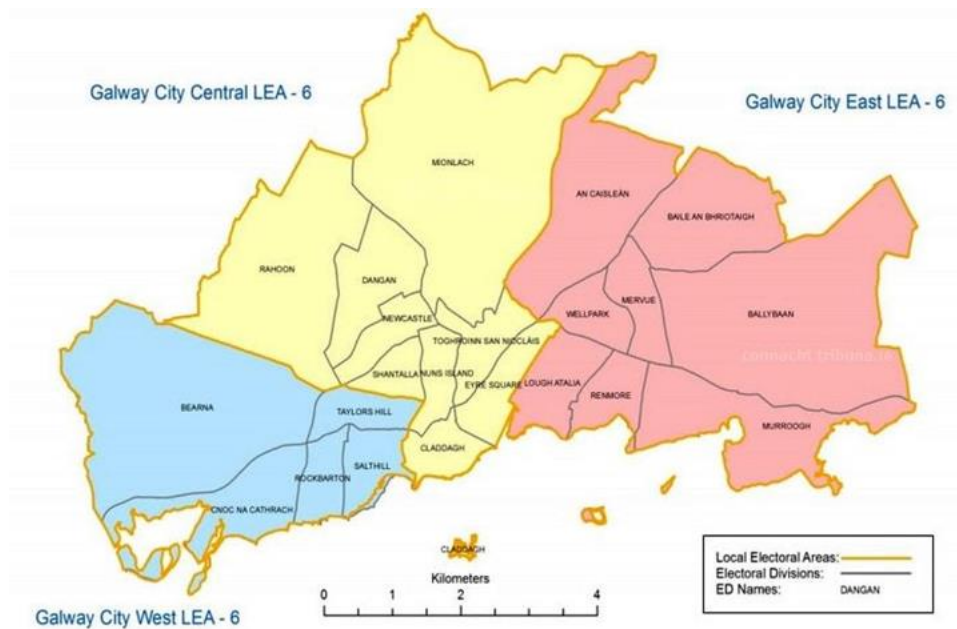
Continuing our work to develop street art across Galway city the Arts Office hosted two walking tours with Outset Gallery on January 30th and 31st. The tours were led by local street artists Finbar McHugh and Shane O'Malley and aimed to equip local artists as well as council staff and potential stakeholders from the business community with the information needed when considering producing and commissioning high-quality street art.

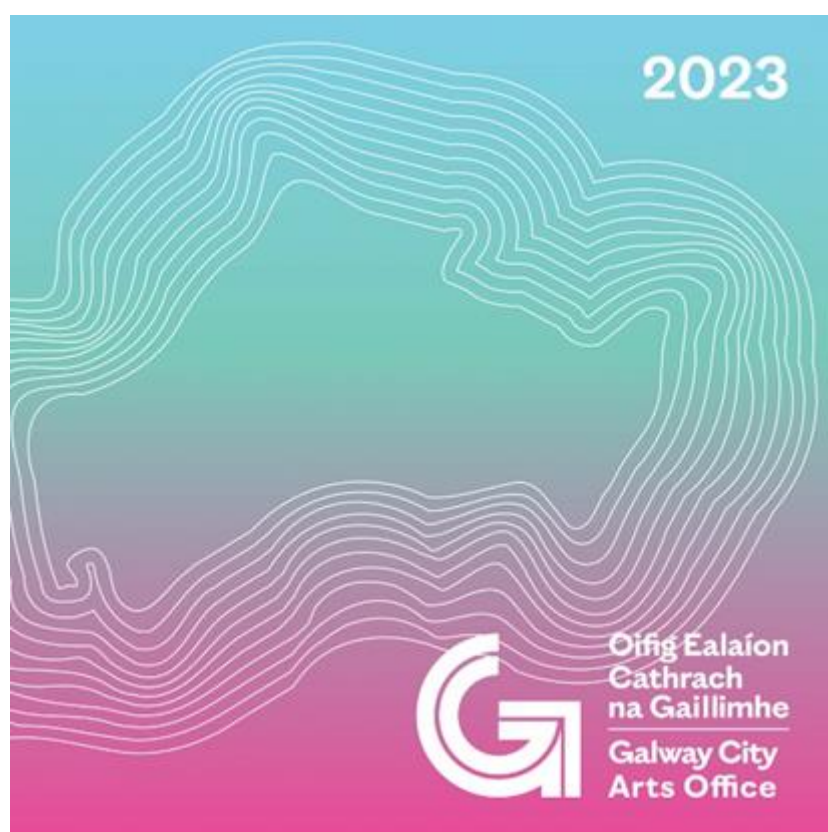


4.17.5 Communications Infrastructure

The Arts Office has worked with Pure Design, to create a visual identity and suite of digital assets for use on our website, publications, and across social media. The design process has included input from the communications officer, and the Arts Office team. The design is rooted in the Galway landscape and takes its inspiration from our city boundaries, topography and waterscape.

These new design elements will be embedded into our open calls, social media, campaigns and ephemera.





4.17.6 Irish Writers Centre - National Mentoring Programme 2023

The Arts Office have committed funding for a Galway City-based writer on the Irish writer's centre national mentoring programme. Applications will open through Submittable on **Wednesday 1st February 2023**, and will close at midnight on **Thursday 2nd March 2023**. The opportunity is available to writers of:

- literary fiction
- creative non-fiction
- children's / YA fiction
- poetry

Find out more at the national mentoring programme [here](#) and view a video information session [here](#).



4.17.7 VAI Galway 2023 Programming

In response to the Artists Needs analysis session and survey, the Arts Office met with Galway County Arts Office and Galway Culture Company to outline the next steps in the delivery of a suite of training sessions in 2023 to build capacity and encourage artist networking. A programme of activities and supports will be rolled out from February.

4.17.8 EU Co-funded Northern and Western Regional Programme

The Arts Officer and Arts Development Officer attended the Launch of the EU Co-funded Northern and Western Regional Programme in the PorterShed. The role of culture and creativity in innovation, commerce and regional development was a feature of several presentations. Poet Gerry Hanberry closed the event with a selection of poems relating to Galway.

4.17.9 Ukrainian Wellbeing Fund

The Arts Office continues to work with the Sports Partnership Coordinator and the Healthy Ireland Coordinator to support the health and well-being of Ukrainian refugees in Galway City. Art Therapy sessions are set to begin in February and Kenny's Bookshop is partnering with us to host a Ukrainian language book club.

4.17.10 Period Poverty – Department of Health Funding

The Arts Office worked with colleagues across community and culture to submit an expression of interest to the department of health for €15,000 to support the provision of free period products in public bathrooms. This initiative will specifically target areas affected by marginalisation and aim to support people effected by period poverty. Community and culture are keen to implement an interdisciplinary approach to this initiative. In this vein, should funding be secured, the Galway City Arts Office will liaise with local artists to design a visual identity for product dispensers and any campaign materials. This will include inclusive imagery depicting a diverse range of service users including BIPOC, trans, non-binary and disabled people. We aim to integrate information about menstrual hygiene, care and resources in multiple languages including English, Irish and Ukrainian.

4.18 Cultural Infrastructure Projects Update

4.18.1 The Manse House – Creative Space

The refurbishment plans for the Manse House on Nun's Island adjacent to the Youth Theatre have been published under Part VIII. The refurbishment will provide additional creative space in the heart of Galway City for creative activities. The proposed refurbishment incorporates a multifunctional venue for a range of artistic uses as well as office, studio and meeting space. Ground Floor: Open, Meeting, Rehearsal, Community Space Upper Floor: Office / Administrative Spaces + Studio spaces. - Accommodating diverse practices with soundproofing, digital systems and supporting technical infrastructure. - Flexible access across the day accommodating a variety of youth, creative and community groups to regularly access the space. The

Part VIII proposal was presented to the Central Area Committee in January and will be on the Council Agenda in March.

4.18.2 Galway City Council Museum Expansion

OBFA were appointed as design consultants in December 2022 to progress the project through to completion. They are currently undertaking a design review with the intention of have detailed design completed by May 2023. This will then enable the project to progress to the project tender stage.

4.18.3 Merchant Road Cultural Facility

The Part X application for development of this site to incorporate housing and a cultural facility has been lodged with An Bord Plenála since Q2 2022 and an outcome is still awaited. The proposal includes 11 residential units and a ground floor cultural facility. It is intended that a call for expressions of interest from suitable cultural organisations to operate this cultural facility will issue in February 2023.

4.19 TOWN HALL THEATRE

Town Hall Theatre & Black Box Theatre: To present, promote and produce a wide range of professional performing arts and cultural events for Galway

Town Hall Theatre had a busy January, with events by many leading local and national companies and performers. Renmore Pantomime, after a 2 year absence arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, got the year off to a great start with a string of sell-out performances. Comedy from Jason Byrne, David O 'Doherty and Neil Delamere, classical music from the Irish Chamber Orchestra as part of the Music for Galway Midwinter festival and music by Sharon Shannon, Francis Black, Mary Coughlan and Derek Ryan all attracted full houses. Musicals by presented by Colaiste na Coiribe and by Galway University Musical Society and a magical children's' show by Galway's Jason Ryan also drew large audiences. The Born To Rise Showcase curated by Dr Caren Hession, and featuring a wealth of talented local singers, brought the busy month to an inspirational end.

4.20 GALWAY CITY MUSEUM

4.20.1 Strategic Planning

The team at the Museum reviewed the museum's strategic plan and devised a one-year implementation plan/team development plan for 2023. This document will also direct the museum's activities in terms of the Economic and Development and Culture, Department's Annual Service Delivery Plan. Each museum team member will draw their PMDS from the TDP and these will be completed with the Museum Director.

4.20.2 Events

The Museum's new Education Room was in use in January with a number of groups booking it for meetings, art classes, English classes and events. Events included:

19 & 26 January: Rab Fulton & Blue Teapot Theatre Company

The Museum facilitated tours of its exhibitions on the revolutionary period and provided a working space for storyteller Rab Fulton and for the Blue Teapot Theatre Company as part of a UCD-organised project using poetry as commemoration.



The Civil War in Galway & the executions at Athlone Barracks by Cormac Ó Comhraí

21 January: 'The Civil War in Galway & the executions at Athlone Barracks'

Cormac Ó Comhraí, historian and author of *Sa Bhearna Bhaoil: Gaillimh 1913-1923*, gave a talk about the Irish civil war and the execution by the Irish Free State of four anti-treaty IRA Volunteers from Galway – Martin J. Burke (25), Hubert Collins (23),

Stephen Joyce (29), and Michael Walsh (26) – on 20 January 1923. The event, which was fully booked, was recorded and is being made available on Soundcloud and YouTube.



HerStory projection at Galway City Museum

27 January, HerStory Projection

The Museum facilitated the Herstory Light Show in honour of St Brigid.

4.20.3 Additional Funding

CURAM MedTech Exhibition, in partnership with Galway City Museum

In conjunction with CÚRAM, the SFI Research Centre for Medical Devices, Galway City Museum continued the development of an exhibition to profile the impact of medical device research and technology in Ireland and tell the story of how the west of Ireland has become one of the top 5 hubs for 'MedTech' research and development worldwide. The project budget is €350,000 through a Science Foundation Ireland grant. CURAM and Galway City Museum have developed an SLA between the two organisations and tenders for a design consultant, and project manager, for this exhibition were received in late July. The exhibition is scheduled to open at the end of Qtr. 2 2023.

4.20.4 Education, Outreach & Exhibition

Outreach

Traveller Engagement Project

The project continued with partners, Galway Traveller Movement, Mincéir Whiden Society and West Trav with the model of a Traveller Encampment being completed this month. The model will go on display in February.

Ó Máille/Mellows Exhibition

The exhibition which features rare photographs and several objects connected to both figures will continue into the New Year. Highlights include a revolver gifted by Michael Collins to Ó Maille on his wedding day and the last letter of Liam Mellows, written to his mother, Sarah, shortly before his execution. The letter, which is on loan from the National Museum of Ireland, has never been on public display.

Produced as part of Galway City Council's Decade of Centenaries Programme 2022, the exhibition is funded by the Department of *Tourism*, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. It will run until May 2023, the centenary of the end of the Irish Civil War.

4.21 LEISURELAND

4.21.1 Amusement site

Currys Amusements move back into the amusement site on St Patrick's Day, 17th March for the summer season. Discussions are to take place regarding the site for the following winter season.

4.21.2 Event Hall

In February: We have London Film Music Orchestra, four days of Foil Arms & Hog comedy show, The High Kings, Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott

In March: We have Miniature World exhibition, Jehovah Witness Conference, Bingo Loco, Mario Rosenstock and The Marty Party.

We have less Bingo loco bookings this year, compared to last year. We noticeably have new promoters, contacting us about booking the venue. January is a traditional quiet time for the event space, but the rest of the year is filling up quickly.

All other groups including Baby Sensory and Phoenix Stage School are still operating their classes weekly.

4.21.3 Pool Hall

The Leisureland Swim Academy this term has 1,621 children learning to swim each week, the highest number again, since the Academy started in 2015.

The pools are very heavily booked and Schools etc. have already booked up the pools until June 2023, which was never the case before.

An Inter County Swimming Club gala was held last Saturday.

Following Covid shutdown and re-opening several Schools lost previously held sessions in the pools. Six schools are trying to get back into our swimming programme. Consideration is being given to changing our pool timetable in September 2023 to accommodate these schools.

4.21.4 Potential renovation works

We are investigating further Asset management works comprising of the foyer re-roofing, Air handling units and renovating the Event hall entrance and facilities.

4.21.5 EU Funding Application

Galway City Council in conjunction with the Cultural Development Company has submitted a funding application to the European Urban Initiative European Urban Initiative to pilot an innovative approach to rejuvenating a single block in the medieval city centre that has a significant vacancy rate. The innovative, practice-led development strategy will mobilise artists, citizens, landowners and architects to open up a large impenetrable block, transforming it from a lifeless group of buildings to a thriving place that is inclusive, beautiful, sustainable and connected with its medieval roots. The project will stimulate the community to create a vision for the block to inform the construction of social housing and cultural space. To achieve this outcome, the community will reimagine currently closed, problematic spaces as new public spaces connecting homes, studios, workshops and retail. If funding is secured it is planned that this approach will unlock the space using innovative methods and transform the block into one that is less carbon-intensive, provides more residential accommodation for people from all backgrounds, and hosts vibrant cultural activities that build on Galway's history and its people's values.

4.21.6 The Galway Culture Company

Galway Culture Company launched to the public on January 22nd. Galway Culture Company will bring together key agencies and stakeholders to drive forward a collective creative vision for Galway through meaningful partnership and collaboration. The company was established to create opportunities to engage with EU and International partners and local place-based programming which honours the relationships and builds on the learnings, outcomes and legacies of Galway's many European and Global designations including Galway's designation as European Capital of Culture, UNESCO City of Film, European Green Leaf, European Region of Gastronomy. The Galway Culture Company is working closely with Galway City Council and Galway County Council to deliver a collective creative vision for Galway.

<https://galwayculturecompany.ie/about-us/>



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

4.22 Africa Day

Africa Day, the annual celebration of the continent's cultures and people, falls on May 25th each year. Irish Aid at the Department of Foreign Affairs partners with local authorities around Ireland to organise events aimed at marking this special and unique day. Financial support will be provided to local authorities to organise events for Africa Day, aimed at celebrating African cultures and the links between Ireland and Africa. Galway City Council is inviting expressions of interest from local community groups for events for Africa Day 2023 in Galway City. The closing date for receipt of applications is Wednesday, February 15th.



4.22 Launch of the Resource Guide on Inclusive Community Engagement in Planning and Decision Making

On February 2nd, Minister of State Joe O'Brien TD launched *A Resource Guide for Inclusive Community Engagement in Local Planning and Decision Making*. In support of the implementation of [*Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: the five-year strategy to support the community and voluntary sector in Ireland*](#), the Department of Rural and Community Development, in partnership with Pobal, has developed a **Resource Guide on Inclusive Community Engagement in Planning and Decision Making**. The guide provides useful advice for any organisation, body or person that is committed to inclusive local decision-making and service provision - including local authorities, public sector bodies and any organisation or community group. It outlines the principles of engagement and how to put them into practise in local consultation and engagement processes and to make sure that the community engagement process is meaningful and effective.

Drawing from best practice examples and developed in collaboration with Community Work Ireland (CWI) and the Irish Local Development Network (ILDN), the Resource Guide was developed as part of a Dormant Accounts funded project to enhance engagement of marginalised and seldom heard groups in local planning and decision-making processes. Designed to be practical and user friendly, it is hoped this resource will be a handy guidebook for all involved in developing policy, leading consultations and making decisions that affect communities.

Staff members from Galway City Council and Galway City Community Network who are leading out on the project made a presentation at the event. A representation from Galway United Women also attended.

4.23 Inclusive Community Engagement in Planning and Decision Making

Following on from the launch of the Resource Guide *for Inclusive Community Engagement in Local Planning and Decision Making*, Pobal will be organising training workshops to further support LCDCs in their role of promoting inclusive community engagement in the planning and evaluation of development programmes. Topics covered will include:

- The rationale for and benefits of collaboration and engagement for Local Authorities, LCDCs and the communities that they serve.
- Core principles that underpin collaborative and engagement processes.
- How to put principles into practice in planning and implementation of community engagement, including for stakeholder identification, identification of barriers, supports and outreach, creating an inclusive environment, information, communication and relationship building, feedback and reflection.

These workshops are intended for the Chief Officer and members of Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs), as well as local authority staff, local development companies (LDC), public participation networks (PPNs), and Education and Training Boards (ETBs) involved in local consultation processes. Others that may be involved in or leading the process of community consultation and engagement for the development of the LECP, or other local planning and decision-making processes, should also be asked to attend. The Galway workshop is taking place on Tuesday 21st February in the Menlo Park Hotel from 10.00 am until 1.00 pm and Pobal would encourage LCDC members to attend.

4.24 Knowledge Exchange event to prevent and reduce alcohol harm



The Atlantic Technological University in Ireland will be hosting a series of events to build links between academic researchers and community actors who have an interest in tackling alcohol harms. Two Knowledge Exchange events and a One-day Symposium will take place from February to May 2023.

Community action on alcohol networks have been growing in Ireland and have achieved significant successes; notably developing the i-Mark: Supporting Independence from Alcohol Industry Influence toolkit, and in campaigning to prevent Drinkaware.ie from delivering alcohol education in Irish schools.

The project seeks to attract academic researchers in Ireland with an interest in alcohol harms who are keen to learn more about the community levels perspective on alcohol harms and how they are manifesting and changing on the ground and it seeks to attract community actors concerned about alcohol harms and who would like to explore how academics and community activists can work together to address alcohol harms.

The first Knowledge Exchange event will take place on Friday 10th February 2023 in the ATU - Galway, Dublin Road Campus from 9.00am -3.00pm. A second Knowledge Exchange event will take place in ATU Sligo on Friday 10th March. The one-day Symposium will take place on 12th May in ATU Donegal, with Prof Tom Babor as keynote speaker. For more information on the Alcohol Researcher - Community Links Project contact Dr Grainne Ketelaar grainne.ketelaar@atu.ie

4.25 LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

The next meeting of the Galway City LCDC is taking place on Wednesday 1st March 2023 starting at 3.00pm via MS Teams, in line with the schedule of meetings agreed. Items to be discussed at this meeting include the Community Recognition Fund, the LECP process and approvals under the Community Support Fund. Members will also receive updates on the SICAP Annual Plan 2023 & Annual Performance Review

of SICAP 2022 & SICAP Annual Progress Report 2022, in addition to discussing a draft LCDC Annual Report 2022.

4.26 GALWAY VOLUNTEER CENTRE

1,292 new members of the public registered in 2022 including 37 new organisations. 139 new volunteer roles were created. 871 volunteers were Garda vetted and 15 online training events took place.

Ukraine Supports: – project workers are planning continuation and expansion of a number of activities, including; Cross Cultural Dialogues to assist Ukrainians to understand life in Ireland; Understanding Ukrainians workshop for service providers, host families and members of the public; Breakthrough English classes for Ukrainians with no English; Empathy Support Workshops; Introduction to volunteering groups and one to one workshops; Assisting with Christmas shoebox gifting to Ukraine.

Community Volunteers have begun to engage with City Council on St. Patricks Day parade stewarding. Human Library plan on running at least 2 more public events in 2023 in partnership with the international Human Library organisation.

4.27 GALWAY CITY COMMUNITY NETWORK (GCCN)

4.27.1 Sustainable Development Goals - GCCN Workshops

GCCN extended an invite to Galway City Councillors and City Council Staff to join their workshops held in collaboration with Development Perspectives (Saolta) and aimed at exploring the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Two sessions were conducted, one online and one in-person. The sessions explored how the 17 Goals support the pillars of Social Inclusion, Voluntary and Community Services, and Environmental work of member groups of GCCN. These workshops covered topics relating to the social and environmental issues facing communities locally while also connecting them to global challenges. It also took an action-orientated approach to capacity building by using the SDGs as a framework to increase participation and meeting Ireland's targets as set out in the SDG National Implementation Plan 2022-2025, to meet the challenges facing society today and to build prosperity for the future. The sessions included opportunities to connect with others using the principles of Global Citizenship Education to empower, inspire action and affect change

4.28 COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND FUNDING

4.28.1 Community Support Fund

Galway City Council through the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) invited applications for funding from interested community groups within the Galway City administrative area under two new schemes called Community Support Fund (CSF) & Women's Sheds Fund (WSF). Both schemes are being administered by Galway City LCDC on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development, with the total funding allocated to Galway City under the scheme being €274,070 & €2,768 respectively.

The aim of both schemes is to support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas with their non-pay running costs, for example, energy costs (electricity costs, refuse charges, heating charges) or other non-pay operating costs for example rental/lease costs, insurance bills. In addition, The Community Support Fund (CSF) can also be used to carry out necessary repairs and minor improvements to their facilities, purchase equipment, for example, tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies, and training equipment. The deadline for online applications for the Community Support Fund and the ringfenced fund for Womens Shed's was Friday 27th January 2023 at 4.00 pm. 74 applications were received with a total funding request of €331,515. The applications will be assessed, and grant recommendations made through the LCDC Sub-committee to the LCDC at their next meeting on the 1st March 2023.

4.28.2 HSE National Lottery Grant Scheme 2023

Applications are invited for the HSE's National Lottery Grants Scheme. The Scheme is open to community and voluntary organisations wishing to apply for one-off grants (€300-€10,000) to implement improvements in the health and social care area e.g. Health & Wellbeing; Older People; Disabilities; Mental Health and Primary Care. Applications will be considered for items such as furniture, equipment, fittings, courses, classes, personal development etc. All information and application form can be accessed through the link below. The closing date is Friday Feb. 17th at noon.
<https://www2.hse.ie/services/schemes-allowances/lottery-grants/>

4.28.3 Assisted Decision Making Training for our Older People's Councils



Older People's Council members from around the country had the benefit of hearing award-winning Meath solicitor Elaine Byrne who presented to them on the Assisted Decision Making Act during January 2023. She explained what changes will be coming into effect with the new legislation, covering issues such as Wardship, Wills, Enduring Power of Attorney, Capacity, Living Wills and Letter of Wishes. Older People's Council representatives would like to encourage all older people to keep up to date with the changing legislation in this area and to take steps to ensure that their wishes for future decisions are documented while they are in good health. The Irish Hospice Foundation's 'Think Ahead' booklets are very useful resources.

4.29 UKRAINIAN RESPONSE

4.29.1 Community Recognition Fund 2023

The Community Recognition Fund 2023 was announced on the 24th January 2023 and aims to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities in recognition of the contribution being made by communities across the country in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries. The funding is specifically targeted at projects that are located in areas that are hosting the Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and/or International Protection Applicants. The Fund aims to support the development of facilities that will be used in the future by all members of the community.

€50 million is available nationally under the Fund, and this is allocated between each local authority based on the number of new arrivals located there. €30m of the Fund will be available in 2023 and €20m in 2024. A minimum spend of 60% must be incurred by the local authorities in 2023 with the remaining 40% in 2024.

Galway City have been awarded **€1,911,918** which can include funding for sports clubs, community organisations, transport infrastructure and local groups. Projects to be funded will be capital in nature, deliver tangible benefits for the communities in which they are located, and be capable of being delivered over the course of 2023 and 2024. Eligible projects will receive funding for capital costs, but not for any

ongoing operational or running costs. Local authorities have scope to invest the funding based on their own distinct local needs as identified through a “bottom-up” approach based the community engagement referenced above. However, the type of projects eligible for funding are:

- development, enhancement or refurbishment of community or cultural facilities including play areas, walkways, parks, community/sensory gardens including communication boards, allotments, and recreational areas
- development, enhancement or refurbishment of local club and sports facilities including facilities such as community swimming pools, changing rooms, toilets, digital aids such as score / information boards etc
- enhancement to school/parish facilities which are open to use by all of the community after school hours
- purchase of equipment for local clubs, festivals, community events and organisations e.g. music, arts or sports equipment
- transport infrastructure such as the purchase of community vehicles, bus shelters and attendant information boards; and
- purchase and refurbishment of buildings and/or the purchase of land for the development of community facilities such as play areas/ MUGAs or town parks/ community gardens, recreational areas etc. for community use where a clear need is identified.

Each local authority will submit a funding proposal to the Department for approval. This proposal will outline the projects to be delivered, the indicative cost for each project broken down by the constituent elements, confirmation that the projects are to be located in the towns, villages and communities most impacted by new arrivals, and the community engagement undertaken. The Department will examine each proposal and will revert to local authorities with any queries. No works should commence in advance of formal funding approval from the Department. All approved funding proposals will be the subject of a funding agreement between the local authority and the Department.

Funding proposals can be submitted to the Department as soon as they are ready but no later than 15th March 2023. To expedite the process the Department will assess and approve the funding on a rolling basis as proposals are received.

4.29.2 Offer A Home Scheme

The Offer a Home Scheme was launched nationally in November 2022 and focuses on vacant properties suitable for non-shared accommodation for Displaced Ukrainians. A tax-free recognition payment of €800 per month is available for such properties offered through the scheme. Interested parties register their interest on the offer-a-home website, and the Local Authority coordinates the process with the property owner from there – further details are available here: <https://offerahome.ie/?faq=1>.

To date, 13 properties have been registered in Galway City of which 12 properties qualified as non-shared options. The remaining property has been referred to the Irish Red Cross, given its shared status. With the assistance of Galway City Partnership, 22 displaced Ukrainians have so far been accommodated in 5 properties. Of the remaining 7 properties, 5 will be available for allocation throughout February with the remaining 2 coming on-stream in April and May 2023.



4.29.3 Offers of Commercial Accommodation for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTPs) from Ukraine

As part of the Whole of Government Humanitarian Response, the Department of Children, Equality, Integration, Disability and Youth (DCEDIY) has responsibility in relation to the provision of initial short-term accommodation to Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTPs), fleeing the conflict in Ukraine. There are significant challenges for the state in continuing to source suitable space for the number of refugees seeking accommodation. As of 18th January 2023, almost 71,674 temporary protection orders have been granted to those arriving in Ireland, fleeing the war in Ukraine. To date, 54,892 have sought assistance from the State to find emergency short term accommodation. This has been achieved primarily through accommodation procured by DCEDIY and has involved sourcing hotel beds, guest-houses, hostel accommodation, pledged accommodation in peoples' own homes, and emergency-style accommodation centres via local authorities across the country.

As part of the response, DCEDIY have developed an improved and streamlined process, through which owners of accommodation can submit commercial offers of accommodation to support those fleeing the war in Ukraine. The updated offer submission form is the only route through which to submit an accommodation offer. Offers received through any other channel will not be considered at this time. More information on the essential criteria a commercial offer must meet, to be considered for contract with DCEDIY, can be found [here](#) . If an offer can be categorised as one of the following accommodation types, and meets the above criteria, it can be submitted [here](#).

Approved accommodation categories include; Hotel; Hostel; B & B or similar property which can accommodate at least 15 people; Guest house or similar property which can accommodate at least 15 people; Non-standard accommodation (e.g. multi-units; offices; warehouses) requiring reconfiguration to ensure suitability as accommodation for BOTPs; Disused nursing home (i.e. nursing homes registered with HIQA on or after 1st September 2022 will not be considered); Holiday village (i.e. a complex of holiday homes / apartments).

The property must be ready for occupancy within three months of offer submission. The accommodation provider must be in a position to provide meals for a charge or have sufficient self-catering facilities to allow preparation of meals. Costs for ancillary services will be met by BOTPs. The accommodation provider must be in a position to provide one of the following: a laundry service, access to laundry facilities for residents to do personal laundry, access to a local launderette.

All new contracts with DCEDIY will be on a bed-only rate or self-catering basis, which the procurement team will discuss with the property owner provided the offer meets essential criteria, as specified by DCEDIY. Following online offer submission, the Department will review the details and required documentation, to ensure it meets the essential criteria set out above. Once this review has taken place, a representative from the Department will contact providers directly with an update on the offer status and the next steps. DCEDIY are currently prioritising larger capacity offers and those with upcoming availability.

4.30 HEALTHY GALWAY CITY

The Healthy Ireland Fund Local Strategy for Galway City 2023 – 2025 and the Healthy Galway City Round 4 Application were submitted to POBAL in January 2023. The selected Outcome Indicators are; Percentage of adults & children meeting physical activity guidelines; and increase in individual's level of positive mental health as per Energy and Vitality Index. The selected Target Groups for prioritisation under Round 4 are: People living in Disadvantaged Communities; The Traveller Community; Older Adults and People with disabilities

Round 4 2022: POBAL and the Department of Health allocated €40,000 for the period 1st June to 31st December 2022 to allow delivery of priority health and wellbeing initiatives, and to support the planning process relating to HIF 2023-2025. Initiatives and planning for HIF 2023 – 2025 are now complete and Local Authorities are required to report on 2022 activities and expenditure by the 17th February of 2023.

Perinatal Wellbeing Video Series: HSE Community Healthcare West recently launched its Perinatal Wellbeing Video Series. This series was created by Psychologists from Adult Mental Health Services and Primary Care Services in

Galway, Mayo and Roscommon to provide simple evidence-based messages in a visual video format to help new parents. The Perinatal Video Series comprises of eight short videos describing many of the challenges faced by new parents. The videos aim to help parents understand common feelings and experiences and to offer suggestions for self-care and where to get further help if needed. Additionally, some videos specifically address anxiety and mental health in the perinatal period.

The videos share ideas on how parents can develop their bond with their baby and how to “build a healthy baby”. The series offers practical psychological support for new parents in the format of a short video, which can be easily accessed on a phone. The videos were funded by the HSE and Galway Children and Young People’s Services Committee (CYPSC). Please click on <https://bit.ly/3G1Vs5K> to view the videos.

Ukrainian Refugee Health and Wellbeing Support Fund: The Department of Health allocated the Ukrainian Refugee Health and Wellbeing Support Fund to Galway City Council the sum of €28,575. Galway Sports Partnership, Healthy Galway City, the Galway City Council Arts Office are partnering with Galway City Partnership Ukrainian Emergency Response Project Leader & Ukrainian Refugee Support Worker and Volunteer Galway Ukraine Support Worker to develop and deliver activations to promote health and wellbeing of Ukrainian refugees; including art and music therapy, physical activities, trauma-informed workshops with psychotherapists, Woodlands for Health and excursions / family days. The activations started in January 2023 and will run until March 2023.

4.31 COMHAIRLE NA NÓg

The committee meetings for 2023 resumed after the Christmas break and take place on Monday evenings from 4.30pm to 5.45pm. The committee agreed at the 2022 AGM to continue to work on the topic of Accessibility for 2023. The committee will be focusing on supporting physical and sensory accessibility for Galway City. The Comhairle na nÓg 2023 Funding Request and the Comhairle na nÓg 2022 Annual Report were submitted to Pobal via the online portal before the deadline of Friday 13th January 2023, awaiting to get notice on the funding awarded for 2023.

4.32 National Policy Framework for Children and Young People – Public Consultation

Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O’Gorman, T.D. announced the launch of a consultation seeking the public’s views on the next national policy framework for children and young people. The next national policy will run from 2023 to 2028 and will build on the successes of previous strategies in improving outcomes for children and young people living in Ireland. It will involve Government Departments working collaboratively with statutory agencies and

services, and the community and voluntary sectors to achieve the five national outcomes outlined in Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures. This is the first of a range of consultations that will be carried out in the design and development of this new policy framework and will help identify the key issues for children, young people and their families. It will help to guide further consultations over the development of the new policy.

The sixth and final [Annual Report for the 'Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures \(BOBF\) National Policy Framework for Children and Young People'](#) was published on 20 January 2022. The design stage of the successor framework which will run from 2023-2028 has commenced and this consultation is the first of a series of consultations which will seek the views of all stakeholders in the development of the new framework. Guided by the responses to this consultation, as well as input from Government Departments, agencies and the Children and Young People's National Advisory Council, more targeted consultations will take place over the next six months. Like BOBF, the new policy framework is intended to support those 0-24 years of age and will focus on the five national outcomes previously identified.

These are:

1. Active and healthy with physical and mental wellbeing
2. Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development
3. Safe and protected from harm
4. Economic security and opportunity
5. Connected, respected and contributing to their world.

Further details on the consultation and the survey can be found [here](#).

4.33 GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP



Galway Sports Partnership (GSP) continues to work with a number of groups to encourage more people to be more active more often. We have set out to deliver over 50 Safeguarding 1, 2 and 3 courses in 2023 along with first aid and disability awareness training. Courses and booking links can be found on our website galwayactive.ie or from this [link](#).



Age & Opportunity have opened their National Grant Scheme for 2023. Funded by Sport Ireland, a total of €320,000 is being made available to all eligible local clubs, groups, care settings and organisations that promote increased participation in recreational sport or physical activity for older people as a main element of their activities. Closing Date; Friday 24th February 2023. Further details can be found [here](#).



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

The HSE National Lottery Grant Scheme is now open for applications. This grant is available to community groups and voluntary organisations to apply for funding that might help people with disabilities, older people, carers or disadvantaged groups.

Closing date is 17th February at 12 noon.

Further information can be found [here](#).



BOCCIA TOURNAMENT: GSP were delighted to host Galway's first Boccia Tournament on Monday 23rd Jan in partnership with Healthy Galway County. The event took place in Ballinfoile Castlegar Neighbourhood Centre. Groups from all over the City and County took part in the event. GSP would like to thank the groups who took part including the Brothers of Charity Services Rehab Group along with others.



**Buggy Buddies
online classes**
WITH HELEN DALY

SPORTS IRELAND
COMMUNITY SPORTS DEVELOPMENT
SPORTS IRELAND
SPORTS IRELAND

FREE

**Postnatal Friendly Virtual
Exercise Classes**
Helping you make time for
exercise & get back to fitness!

**Starts 24th Jan
6 weeks
Tues @ 10.00am
Registration via Eventbrite**

email: galwayactive@galwaycoco.ie

*For health and safety reasons participants must a minimum
6-weeks postpartum to register

**SPÓRT ÉIREANN
SPORT IRELAND**

GSP is delivering a FREE 6 week online Buggy Buddies programme with a postnatal exercise specialist, Helen Daly. Designed to help you safely get back to fitness.

The online class consists of 45 minutes of postnatal-friendly strength, mobility and gentle cardio exercises in the comfort of your own living space.

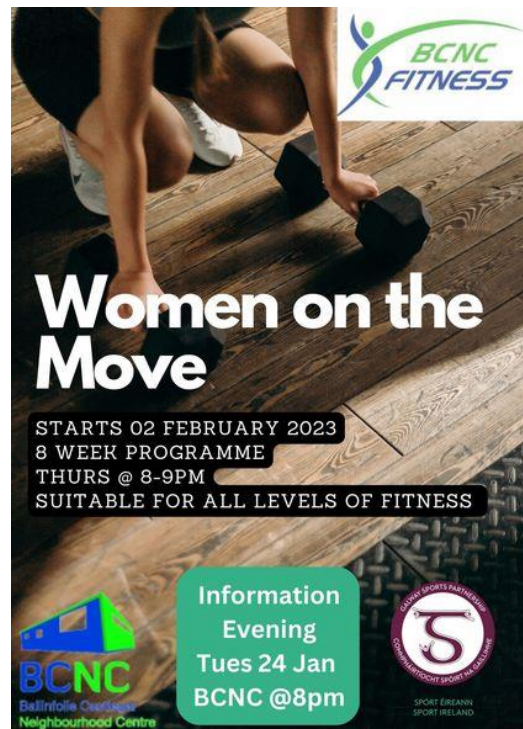
Started Tues 24th January 2023

Every Tuesday at 10am for 6 weeks online

Register via Eventbrite to get the Zoom link:

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/520486799027>

*Please note, for health and safety reasons participants must a minimum of 6-weeks postpartum to register



We have two new exercise programmes for Men and Women starting soon at the BCNC [#ballinfoilecastlegarneighbourhoodcentre](https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/513908011697)

Men on the Move a gym-based exercise programme suitable for beginners and those returning to fitness.

Starts Tues 31st January at 8pm

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/513908011697>

Women on the Move

Starts Thurs 02nd Feb at 8pm

Register at:

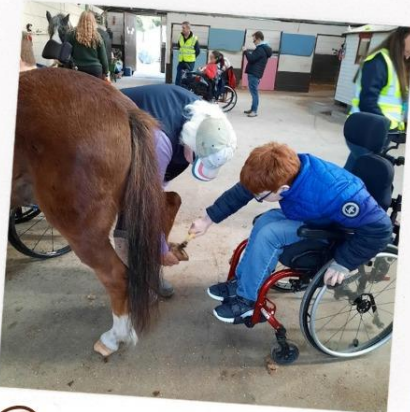
<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/518984004127>

Camp for Teens with disabilities

Horses Connect, Galway City
Tue 14th - Fri 17th Feb
10am - 11am



 **Therapeutic sessions with horses**



 **Grooming, mucking out, feeding & leading horses**

 **€10 per teen**
No Horse Riding



GSP will be hosting our first Camp for Teens with Disabilities in partnership with Horses Connect in Galway City! This equestrian camp is for teens with disabilities where they will take part in therapeutic sessions with the horses. Participants will groom, lead, feed and muck out the horses each day. There will be no horse riding as part of this camp. These sessions will take place from 10am-11am from Tuesday 14th Feb - Friday 17th Feb. To register please use this link: <https://buff.ly/3H9hVik>

This program is funded under the Disability Participation and Awareness Fund 2021 from Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth through Galway City Council.



4.34 Ballybane/Doughiska Community Sports Hub (CSH)

A number of activities are being delivered across the communities of Ballybane and Doughiska as part of GSP's CSH. Below is a snapshot of those activities.

Ballybane After School Sports Club Project, delivering sports and physical activity to primary school children working with Galway City Partnership, GRETB and Saint Vincent de Paul.

Operation Let Get Walking Community Walking Campaign in support of the Get Galway Active 2023 alongside the Operation Transformation programme where people meet up for social exercise. Walks take place in Merlin Woods.

5. Environment & Climate Change

5.1 Automatic Public Conveniences

The recent opening of the new Palmer's Rock unit in Salthill has been a welcomed additional APC to the city. The APC's are providing an essential service to members of the public across Galway City.

The changing place facility in Ladies Beach, Salthill is on the final snagging stages but also cannot be opened until vacancies are filled within the department to manage the contract.

5.2 Ladies Beach, Changing Facility.

There is outstanding snagging required on the facility prior to it being opened. Galway City Council is liaising with the contractor to complete out these snags, with a view to opening the facility as soon as possible.

5.3 Environmental Awareness

5.3.1 Pride of place awards 2022



Congratulations to Friends of Merlin Woods who were runners up in the Creative place category at the IPB Pride of Place awards 2022 on the 21st January 2023.

An all-island competition acknowledges and celebrates the work that communities are doing all over the island of Ireland. Congratulations also to Scoil Iognáid, School Streets initiative for being nominated in the Community Wellbeing category and John Coogan Park Residents Association for being nominated in the Urban Neighbourhood/Village under 3000 category.

The awards were attended by Mayor Cllr. Clodagh Higgins; Patrick Greene, Sharon Connolly and Tiarnan McCusker from Galway City Councils Environment and Recreational Amenity department and members of the community groups.

5.4 Galway City Community Network (GCCN) meeting

The Environmental awareness Officer (EAO) met with representatives of the local PPN network to discuss collaboration in the year ahead. The EAO has been invited to attend their upcoming Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) workshop on the 8th of February. In addition, they discussed potential synergies in upcoming projects to include community groups and a stronger working relationship moving forward.

5.5 Litter Management

The Civic Amenity site, located at Sandy Road is a key amenity for the people of Galway City. In 2022, a total of approximately 838 tonnes of various recyclable material was brought to this facility by the people of Galway City. The Civic Amenity site is only available to residents of Galway City and doesn't take any waste from commercial operations. This material is then collected by the various waste operators for processing. All information in relation to the Civic Amenity site is available on the Galway City website. <https://www.galwaycity.ie/recycling-centre>

The Litter Management Unit works all over the city to clean as much as possible throughout the day. Crews commence work at 5am to 1.30pm every day of the year to clean the city centre. This involves road sweeping, litter picking and street bin emptying. This ensure the city centre is as clean as possible daily. At 8am to 4.30pm, crews commence work in the east, west and north areas of the city. They undertake, street cleaning, litter picks, bin emptying and illegal dumping etc. During the summer months and during events there is additional personnel assigned to the city centre to undertake litter picks and bin emptying.

For a reporting to the EPA point of view the waste collected by the litter management unit is classified into 2 categories.

- 20 03 03 - street-cleaning residues – Road Sweepers
- 20 03 99 - municipal wastes not otherwise specified – Street Bins, illegal dumping, litter picks etc.

Below is a table which briefly summaries the tonnages collected 20 03 99, Street bins, illegal dumping, litter picks etc.

GCC Crew Collected	621,27
Waste Contractor (1100 bins Prom)	45,966
GCC Crews to Sandy Rd	195,419
Total	862,655

Table 1 – 20 03 99 Tonnages of Waste Collected from Street Bins Etc.

The above table shows that 862,655 tonnes of municipal waste was collected in Galway City Council in 2022. A general weight conversion for a 240litre household bin is 16kg per bin. This means Galway City Council employees collected the equivalent of 53,915 number household wheelie bins in 2022.

To the end of December 2022, the Road sweepers have gathered a total of 1,496,399kg of waste or 1,469 Tonnes of street cleaning waste. This is an average of 122 tonne a month.

In total Galway City Council crews gather to the end of December 2022, the following weights summarized below.

Road Sweeping	1,496
Street Bin Collections	862,655
Total	2,358.655

Table 2 - Total Weights Collected by GCC.

A combined total of 2,358 tonnes of waste is collected by Litter management crews in 2022.

In 2022, a total of 1,500 environmental incidents were reported of which 760 incidents were classed as illegal dumping. All of which highlights the scale of the works being undertaken by the litter management crews daily.

Litter management Services has returned close full capacity in January 2023. Over the next number of months, the litter management crew will and are undertaking a variety of training much of which has elapsed due to the pandemic. This will ensure all litter management staff are up to date and will continue to work to a high safety and environmental standard.

The Bulky Good Services recommenced on the 10th of January 2023. Appointments for bulky goods collections are made via City Hall. This service is only available to residents of Galway City and doesn't take any waste from commercial operations. All information in relation to the Bulky Goods Collection is available on the Galway City Website. <https://www.galwaycity.ie/bulky-goods-collection>

5.6 Waste Enforcement

Local authorities have been notified of the revised Waste Enforcement Priorities for 2022-2024 (Circular WP 07/22). They are as follows:

- Tackling significant illegal waste activity
- Construction and demolition activity
- End-of-Life Vehicles (ELV) Directive & the Waste Metal Industry
- Waste Collection – Household & Commercial
- Producer Responsibility Initiatives and additional local priorities

Galway City Council is currently working on a plan of inspections and work programme for 2023, aligned with these waste enforcement priorities. This will be submitted to the EPA at the end of February as part of the annual Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) process.

5.7 Derelict Sites

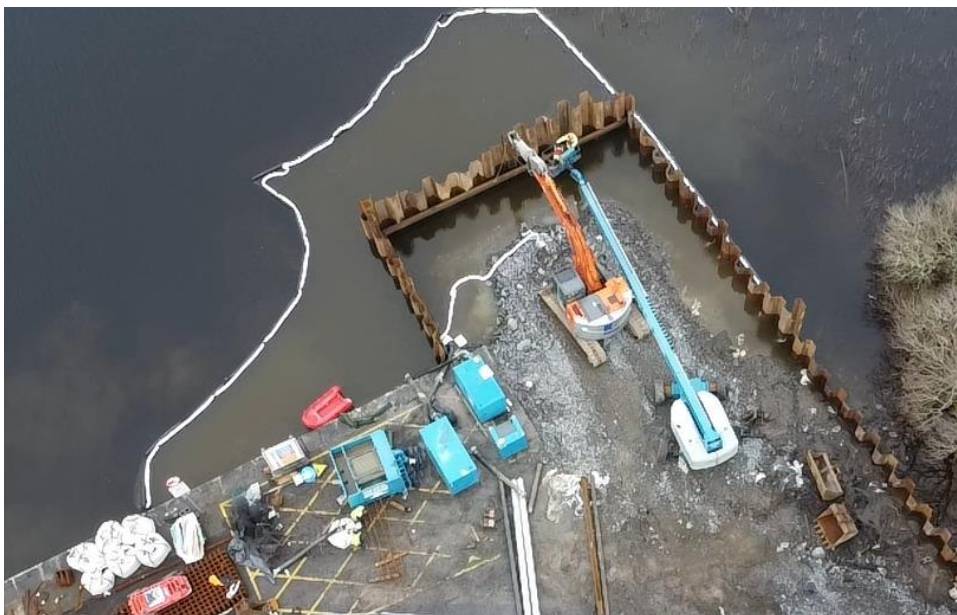
The number of sites on the current Galway City Council Derelict Site Register is 8. The number of sites currently on file in terms of The Derelict Sites Act, 1990 as amended, is 291. Inspections are ongoing in relation to a number of sites and correspondence to property owners issues on a regular basis regarding those sites under current investigation.

5.8 Markets/Casual Trading:

Casual Traders have resumed normal trading post Christmas. No issues reported to date as per weekly Community Warden inspections.

5.9 Lough Corrib Navigation Trustees

Works are progressing on the slipway refurbishment at Lisloughrey. A specialist sub-contractor was mobilised to site in early January to complete the piling works and since then, temporary works to reinforce the coffer dam have also been completed.



A package of maintenance works has been identified along the Eglinton canal and planning is underway to mobilise a contractor to complete the works in Q1.

LCNT staff continue to issue Marine notices through the Lough Corrib Navigation Facebook page regarding navigation hazards on the lake.

Work is underway to complete a design and refit of selected markers on the Navigation Channel.

Maintenance works have been completed at Kilbeg pier and a full inspection by LCNT staff of the remaining piers has been carried out to identify required works.

LCNT staff continue to monitor the markers on the channel and report any required works to the nominated marine contractor.

6. Financial Report

The financial outturns for 2022 are currently being reviewed and finalised and work has started on our Annual Financial Statements for 2022. Revenue Expenditure and Income has been within budget and we anticipate that there will be a small surplus for the year ended 31st December 2022.

The Local Government Auditor will commence the Interim Audit work with regards to 2022 during January 2023.

Capital Expenditure of €3.7m has been incurred in so far in 2023 and has been across the following areas:

- Housing Construction and Acquisitions,
- Housing Adaption Grants

Approval for an overdraft limit of €8m was sanctioned by the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government for 2023 and Galway City Council had recourse to this facility for 2 days in January 2023 up to a value of €2.3m.

2023 rate demands totaling €39,297,819 were issued on the 19th January to 3762 customers in Galway City. Receipts to date in 2023 amount to €1.31m which is favourable on that collected in the same period previous years.

We continue to offer various payment options and payment plans and promote our direct debit facility, which allows businesses to spread the costs across the year. This year direct debits will be taken over a ten month period instead of 9 months in previous years, thus reducing instalment amounts, so far we have had an increase of 11% opting to pay by Direct Debit. We continue to engage with our rates customers who face difficulties meeting their payments.

Receipts from Commercial Rates in 2022 amount to € 34.86 m with a collection rate of 82%. Our collection on Housing Rents in 2022 were €9.28 m with a collection rate of 80% and a collection on Loans of €1.49m with collection rate of 88%. For commercial rates, this represents an increase of 15% in collection from 2021.

7. Other Issues

7.1 Civic Reception for Damien Browne

A Civic Reception was held by Galway City Council on 23rd January 2023, to celebrate the achievements of Damien Browne in the world of sport, and beyond. The Mayor of Galway City, Councillor Clodagh Higgins, acknowledged Damien Browne's achievements, notably his arrival into Galway on Tuesday 4th October 2022, having travelled more than 3,450 nautical miles over 2,696 hours, to become the first man to row from New York to Galway.



7.2 Ethics Declaration

Correspondence issued by email to All Elected Members on 25/01/2023 advising of your obligations under Section 171 of the Local Government Act 2001. An online application form option has been designed this year to make it easier for Councillors to complete and submit the application online. The deadline to submit a completed return to the Ethics Registrar is Tuesday 28th February, 2023. Failure to submit a completed annual declaration form by this date is an offence under the Act.

7.3 Draft Planning and Development Bill 2022 published

The draft Planning and Development Bill was approved by Government in December 2022, and published on January 26th, 2023. Once Pre-Legislative Scrutiny by the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage has been concluded, a finalised Bill will then be published and will proceed through the Houses of the Oireachtas.

The Draft Planning and Development Bill 2022 can be found below:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/c6f60-draft-planning-and-development-bill-2022/>

An outline and policy guide to the bill can be found below:

<https://assets.gov.ie/242339/8c70c3b4-9303-4c72-905d-6fbe0bed5296.pdf>

7.4 Urban Regeneration and Development Fund – Third Round of Funding Support

Circular URDF 01/2023 was issued by the office of the Minister for Housing, detailing the proposed arrangements for the third round of funding support to be provided under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund. The URDF is a flagship element of Project Ireland 2040 and was established to support more compact and sustainable development, through the regeneration and rejuvenation of Ireland's five cities and other large towns, in line with the objectives of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the National Development Plan (NDP). This will enable a greater proportion of residential and mixed-use development to be delivered within the existing built-up footprints of our cities and towns and ensure that more parts of our urban areas can become attractive and vibrant places in which people choose to live and work, as well as to invest in and visit.

While the URDF programme will continue to support the progression of approved proposals and projects through their project lifecycles, the third round of funding support, which is a key action in the Government's Vacant Homes Action Plan 2023, will be specifically designed to address long term vacancy and dereliction across our URDF cities and towns and the acceleration of the provision of residential accommodation.

7.5 Letter to Cathaoirligh – Urban Regeneration and Development Fund

The Minister for Housing issued a letter to Cathaoirligh & Chief Executives of Local Authorities on the 31st of January on the URDF, following a circular outlining the detail for the third funding round. Some €1.48bn has been committed through the URDF to date across 2 separate calls encompassing some 132 proposals across the 31 local authority areas comprising almost 400 sub projects each of which are at different stages in the project lifecycle. These schemes will help to renew and revitalise towns across our country.

7.6 Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 – Draft Ministerial Direction

The Minister for Housing Local Government and Heritage in accordance with Section 31 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) issued a Draft Direction in relation to the Galway City Development Plan to Galway City Council on the 13th of January 2023. The Draft Direction sets out a number of steps that the Planning Authority are directed to take with regards to the Development Plan.

As required by legislation, Galway City Council published a notice which included the Minister's reasons for the Draft Direction, giving details of where the notice and the content of the Draft Direction could be viewed and invited written submissions or observations from the 20th of January until the 3rd of February 2023.

This public notice afforded an opportunity for anyone to make a submission/observation to Galway City Council. The Elected Members, as provided for by the legislation, were given a specific opportunity to also make a submission directly to the Office of the Planning Regulator with a copy to issue to the Minister. Fifty-six submissions in total were received during the consultation period.

There is an obligation for the Chief Executive, following the public consultation period to prepare a CE Report within four weeks of the completion of the public consultation process that is before the 2nd of March 2023. This report is required to summarise submissions and observations; summarise views and recommendations of the Elected Members (if any); views and recommendations of the regional assembly (if made) and for the Chief Executive to make recommendations in relation to the best manner in which to give effect to the Draft Direction. A copy of this CE Report is required to be furnished to the OPR, the Elected Members and the Minister.

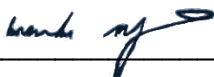
Following on from this stage the OPR will consider the CE Report, all submissions received including Elected Members submissions and consequently make a recommendation to the Minister regarding whether the final Direction is to be issued and if so with/without any amendments or not issued at all.

It is estimated that where a Direction issues, at a minimum this process could take approximately 10 weeks from the receipt of the CE Report by the OPR, circa. May 2023 but this estimate assumes no complications with the process. Where it is the opinion of the OPR / Minister that a material amendment to the Draft Direction is required or further investigation is necessary the timeline for making this final decision will be more extended.

Where a Ministerial Direction issues, the Planning Authority is required to act on the Direction and to take measures to ensure the plan is adapted accordingly. The legislation further specifies that the Elected Members are obliged to exercise their powers and functions in compliance with the Direction as issued. To note also that planning legislation affirms that any part of the development plan that is the subject of the Draft Ministerial Notice cannot be considered to have come into effect.

8. Notable Dates

Date	Time – Meeting
10/02/2023	09:00 – 10:00 East Ward Committee Meeting
13/02/2023	15:00 – 18:00 Ordinary Council Meeting
17/02/2023	11:00 – 13:00 North & Western Regional Assembly
22/02/2023	14:30 – 17:00 Environment SPC
22/02/2023	10:00 – 11:30 LTACC Meeting
24/02/2023	09:30 – 11:30 Housing SPC
01/03/2023	15:00 – 17:00 LCDC Meeting
10/03/2023	14:00 – 16:00 Economic, Community and Culture SPC

Signed: 

Brendan McGrath,
Chief Executive

8th February 2023