

CHIEF EXECUTIVE MONTHLY REPORT MEITHEAMH / JUNE 2023



TUARASCÁIL AN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNAIGH

CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT

MEITHEAMH / JUNE 2023

Do Gach Ball do Chomhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe,

Re: Agenda Item 4(b)(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.

1. Transport.....	3
2. Housing.....	12
3. Recreation & Amenity	15
4. Economic & Culture & Community & Sports Partnership	38
5. Environment & Climate Change	87
6. Financial Report.....	95
7. Other Issues.....	97
8. Notable Dates	105
9. Update on issues arising from previous Council Meetings. Error! Bookmark not defined.	

1. Transport

1.1 The Salmon Weir Pedestrian & Cycle Bridge Opening

The Salmon Weir Pedestrian & Cycle Bridge was officially opened on 26th May 2023, by Mayor of Galway City, Councillor Clodagh Higgins along with Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan T.D. Large Galway crowds turned out for the event, including Government Ministers, T.D's, Senators, and Councillors. The project was completed 5 weeks ahead of schedule. As well as removing potential conflicts that pedestrians and cyclists may have with drivers over the current bridge, which is over 200 years old, it is already also proving to be a valued public realm space.

A proposed pedestrian crossing on University Road is awaiting approval from An Bord Pleanála under the BusConnects application. This will be constructed if / when approved by An Bord Pleanála.





1.2 Martin Junction

The project is nearing completion with landscaping work recently completed and final surfacing works and antiskid application scheduled. It is anticipated that the traffic signals will be commissioned on the 19th June 2023. The traffic signals will be closely monitored post commissioning and adjustments made where necessary.

The new junction will provide pedestrian, cycling and bus priority facilities to link residential areas south of the junction to the Galway Clinic and the proposed residential area at Ardaun.



1.3 Miller's Lane

The Miller's Lane project entails upgrading of the existing pathway, to provide a lit urban permeability route in the Knocknacarra area, linking Ragoon Road and Kingston Road. The Lane is approximately 950m long, and runs by estates including Garraí de Brún, An Logán, The Orchard, Manor Close, Gort na Bró, Grangemore, Gort Gréine, Cruachan Park, and Ros Geal. The aim of the project is to support permeability into adjacent estates, providing off-road walking and cycling routes for residents, and for children travelling to school. Miller's Lane will link into the wider Galway City Cycle Network, supporting travel by bike beyond the Knocknacarra/Ragoon area.

The Millers Lane Permeability Upgrade project is nearing completion with landscaping work almost complete and final surfacing works and antiskid application completed in the last week in May. It is anticipated that the pedestrian crossings on Ragoon Road and the Western Distributor Road will be commissioned in the coming weeks and the laneway opened to the public in June.



1.4 Coast Road Cycle Infrastructure

Galway City Council will undertake an appraisal for the provision of a segregated cycleway on the hard shoulder of the Oranmore Coast Road. The appraisal will consider the objective to provide a safe segregated cycle and pedestrian area on the existing hard shoulder while engaging with the County Council, the Galway to Athlone Project Office and the National Transport authority.

1.5 Wolfe Tone Bridge

Tenderers for the construction of the project “Wolfe Tone Pedestrian Walkway II” were received at the end of May. The assessment of tenders is currently underway to determine the most economically advantageous tender. It is anticipated that a preferred contractor will be identified by the end of the month, with the intention that works can start in July.

1.6 Eglinton Canal Active Travel Scheme

The main works contract for the Eglinton Canal Active Travel Scheme was signed by Jons Civils on Wednesday 26th of April 2023, with works commencing along the route on Monday 15th of May 2023. The works which will see the upgrading of the canal towpath, junctions and carriageways from Claddagh Quay to the south, and University Road to the north.

The project will be split into 3 main sections beginning with:

- Upper Dominick Street to Claddagh Quay
- University Road (Wards Corner) to Presentation Road
- Presentation Road to Dominick Street

A public liaison for the scheme has been appointed and notifications have been issued to businesses and residents along the route.

1.7 BusConnects Cross City Links – University Rd to Dublin Rd

Galway City Council received correspondence from An Bord Pleanála (ABP) in relation to the proposed Cross City Link Project. The Board have notified Galway City Council that they have considered the case and have concluded that this case can be dealt with adequately through

written procedure and therefore have decided to determine the application without an Oral Hearing.

In relation to the Compulsory Purchase Order made by Galway City Council for the lands necessary for the scheme, the Board has decided to hold an oral hearing in regard to that CPO before making a determination on the CPO.

1.8 Operations & Maintenance

1.8.1 Road Resurfacing Projects

Road resurfacing works is nearing completion on the Barna Road R336/ Kingston Road R337

A monetary contribution towards the cost of the resurfacing works has been received by Galway City Council from the contractor who carried out the Kingston Road Water Main Upgrade Works on behalf of Irish Water.

Additional road surfacing has been carried out and completed at the following locations:

- Rockbarton Park
- Circular Road
- Ballagh Road
- St Vincents Avenue
- Tara Grove

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

1.8.2 Mobility Improvement Works

Mobility improvement works and renewal of footpaths were completed at the following locations:

- Emerson Avenue
- Ard na Mara
- St Anthony's Terrace
- Ballybane Road
- Upper Salthill Road

- Grattan Road

1.8.3 Proactive Drainage Maintenance

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

- Drainage improvements were carried out at Newtownsmith prior to resurfacing works taking place.
- Culvert repairs were carried out at Cappagh Road to reduce the risk of flooding.

1.8.4 Lower Cost Bridge Rehabilitation Works

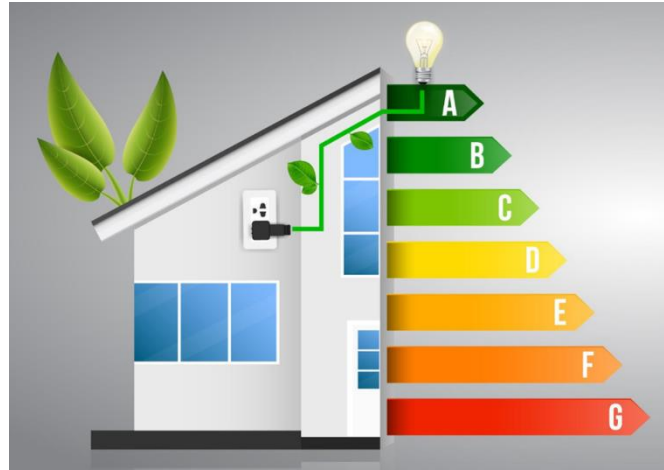
Galway City Council appointed a Contractor to undertake maintenance & rehabilitation works to various bridges in the City Area. Water management and vegetation clearance works were undertaken at New Road Bridge. Vegetation clearance and masonry repointing works were undertaken at Dyke Road Bridge.

Tender documents were issued for the appointment of consulting engineers to provide consultancy services for the design of bridge remedial works.

1.9 Climate Action

1.9.1 Review of Building Asset Register

The Climate Action team conducted a task of reviewing the building asset register to pinpoint areas where electricity consumption was prevalent. This comprehensive assessment aimed to identify specific locations within various structures where electricity usage was high. This project is currently ongoing and will continue into the summer. Once all buildings have been assessed, the team will compile a detailed register of opportunities to significantly reduce electricity consumption. This initiative contributes to the broader goal of promoting sustainable practices and achieving energy efficiency within buildings, thereby playing a pivotal role in mitigating the impact of climate change.

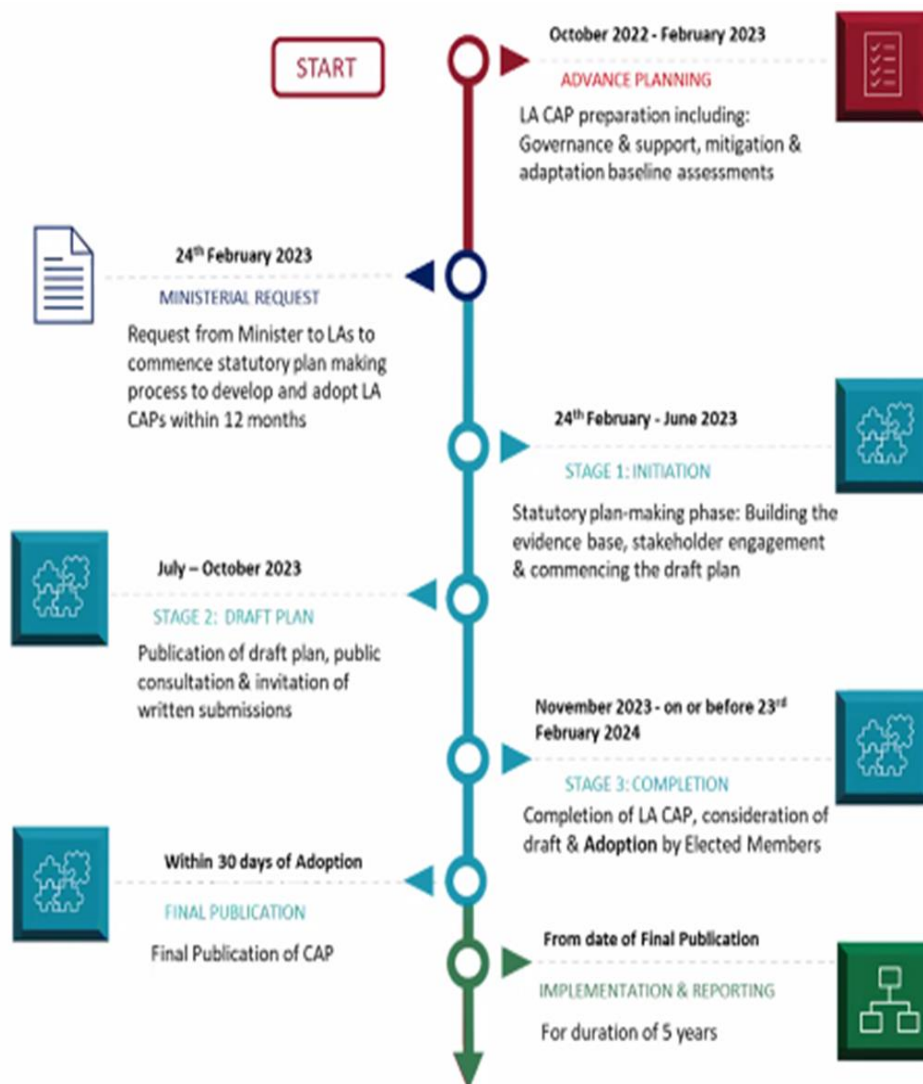


1.9.2 Net Zero pilot Cities

Following the award of 1 million euro to Galway City as part of the Net Zero pilot Project, Galway City Council have completed a number of specialist training bootcamp workshops. A refined application has been submitted to the commission for review with agreed budget costs allocated. Galway City Council are now working through review of service level agreements with each stakeholder.

1.9.3 Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP)

The Climate Action Department presented the outline of the stages to development of the LACAP to SPC members on the 24th of May 2023.



There will be two stages of the plan where all stakeholders will be given the opportunity to inform the LACAP: Stage one will commence in mid-June whereby Galway City Council will initiate a non-statutory consultation process to gain insights into the various streams of knowledge and concerns that will inform the draft plan.

Stage two will be presenting the draft plan forward to all stakeholders through statutory public consultation process which will commence in quarter 4 2023.

1.10 Outdoor Living 2023:

Following on from the postponement of the Outdoor Living Scheme 2023 of April 28th, all unresolved issue has been completed. A consultant has been appointed to act as PSDP (Project Supervisor for the Design Stage) for the duration of the scheme along with updated traffic management plans and required traffic diversions.

GCC crew are on site for the mobilizations and demobilization of the of the bollards and traffic management from 6pm to 11pm each evening.

2. Housing

2.1 Summary of Social Housing Assessments 2022

Housing Needs Assessment 2022: Section 21 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009, states that each housing authority is required to prepare a Summary, in the prescribed form, of the social housing assessments carried out in its administrative area.

The Summary of Social Housing Assessments (SSHA) 2022 was published in March 2023.

This SSHA indicated an increase of 10.4% on Galway City's social housing waiting lists since the SSHA 2021. The SSHA shows 1,394 households in Galway City were assessed as being qualified for, and in need of, social housing support as of 1st November 2022.

Nationally the total number of Qualified Households in 2022 was 57,842 compared to 59,247 in 2021, a decrease of -1,405 (2.4%).

Households currently living in local authority rented or Approved Housing Body (AHB) accommodation, or accommodation provided under the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) or the Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme (SHCEP) or any household on a transfer list, are not included in the total number.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Galway City	3,322	2,219	1,728	1,551	1,233	1,263	1,394
National	91,600	85,799	71,858	68,693	61,880	59,247	57,842

2.2 Expansion of the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

On the 21st March 2023 a Government decision was made concerning the expansion of the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, which is funded through the Croí Cónaithe Towns Fund. The Grant was launched in July 2022 (see Housing Circular 30/2022) and originally applied to eligible properties in towns and villages built before 1993. It was expanded to include eligible vacant properties in both cities

and rural areas from November 2022 (Housing Circular 43/2022 refers). In order to increase the number of vacant and derelict properties being brought back into use, the Grant is being further expanded from 1 May 2023. Details of the expansion are as follows:

- 1) The inclusion of one property which will be made available for rent, by the owner, in addition to one grant for a property which will be the principal private residence of the owner i.e., a maximum of two grants will be available to an individual, with only one grant available for a property to be rented;
- 2) Changing the property eligibility date, which is currently pre-1993 for the build date, to include vacant and derelict properties built up to and including 2007; and
- 3) Increasing the current maximum grant rates from €30,000 to €50,000 for vacant properties and from €50,000 to €70,000 for derelict properties. Full details of the changes to the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant are provided in the updated scheme outline along with the revised application form and FAQs. Further information to support local authorities in administering the scheme will be available on the Housing Agency's Housing Manual (www.housingmanual.ie). The Department is currently examining the resources needed to further support local authorities in carrying out the important work of bringing vacant and derelict back into use. The provision of any additional funding to local authorities will involve the submission of a business case by each local authority, outlining the activities undertaken and outcomes in relation to the number of vacant and derelict properties brought back into use to date, along with the planned activities and output targets for the year ahead. The Department will communicate with all local authorities with a further update in respect of this.

2.3 Letter from Minister O'Brien Re: Social Housing Delivery 2023

Minister Darragh O'Brien has written to the Council regarding Social Housing Delivery 2023. 2022 saw the highest number of new build social homes delivered in the state since 1975. Local authorities are being asked to examine what is in the pipeline for 2024 in order to ensure targets can be met and to highlight any constraints that may be emerging and to notify the Department of these without delay. There will be a Housing Summit in September where progress on all housing programmes in the Council can be discussed with the Minister.

For a full copy of the letter please contact corporateservices@galwaycity.ie

3. Recreation & Amenity

3.1 Sports Capital

3.1.1 Corrib Park Grass Pitch

The contractor has made significant progress with the main earthworks element of the project with a large volume of material imported and levelled in the site. Services diversion works outside the site have also been completed. Grass seeding and demobilisation are targeted to be completed in July 2023. Once this is complete, the pitch will be left to rest in order for grass to grow and is anticipated to be available for use by Q3 2024.

3.1.2 Refurbishment of Glen Oaks/Drom Chaoín MUGA

Refurbishment works on the lower MUGA pitch is substantially complete and will be open for use in the coming days. Basketball hoops will be installed shortly once fabricated. Access to the facility will be administered through the Galway City Council's online booking facility. Preliminary design has been completed for the landscaping scheme and public consultation is due to be organised in the coming weeks.



Corrib Park MUGA

Detailed design is well advanced with tender documents nearing completion. It is envisaged that a request for tender will be advertised in early June.

Woodquay Park Development

The preliminary design stage is advancing with a range of surveys currently being procured. Initial deliverables will entail a range of surveys and site investigative works being undertaken, design development and engagement with various stakeholders. The preliminary design stage is due to be completed in June 2023.

3.1.3 Salthill Tidal Pool Feasibility Study

Tender assessment for multi-disciplinary consultancy services has been completed and the contract has been awarded. Initial survey work has already commenced. 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.

3.2 Refurbishment of Blackrock Diving Tower

A structural assessment has been undertaken on the diving tower to determine the extent of rehabilitation works. Scoping of further structural investigative works is being carried out, which will involve closure of the tower for a brief period. The timing of these works has yet to be determined but consideration will be given to the busy summer period

3.3 Framework for Consultancy Services

Galway City Council tendered for a Multi-Supplier Framework for Multi-disciplinary Consultancy Services for a New/Upgraded Public Recreational Amenities in Galway City. The Framework provides for the engagement of consultancy services by competition during the four-year lifetime of the framework.

The tender was advertised on the 11th of May 2023 with a deadline for return of tenders on the 8th of June 2023. Following very significant interest in the tender from interested parties the deadline was extended to the 22nd of June 2023 to allow time for bidders to complete their proposals and maximise the number of bidders for the City Council. The framework is for the purpose of furthering and advancing a range of Capital type Recreation and Amenity projects. Many of the projects have been adopted for delivery under the five-year City Council Capital Programme and are supported under the Galway City Development Plan 2023 – 2028.

The framework will enable streamlining of the current procurement processes, in that it will undertake the pre-qualification process and reduce the need for individual pre-qualifications per project. In addition to the major projects listed below, the

framework will be used across our department for a wide range of medium to small scale capital projects.

Once the framework is established the masterplans to be tendered this year are Kingston and Millars Lane, Southpark and Renmore.

3.4 Cemeteries

Trial graves were dug in the Ragoon Lawn cemetery to establish methodology before the extension opens for burials.



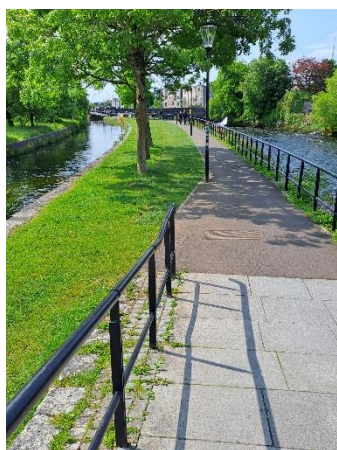
The new container has been installed in Bohermore. Commissioning is due to be complete in early June.



3.5 Operations

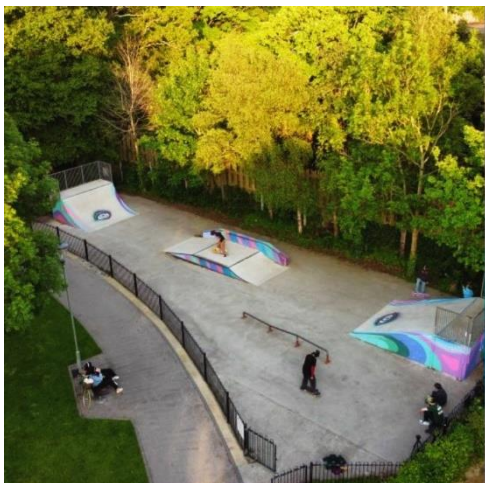
3.5.1 River Walk Works

Improvement works have been completed by R&A Operations on Bruach na Corribe in preparation of the opening of the new pedestrian link from Friar's Walk. See below photos of the improvement works.



3.5.2 Playgrounds and Skateparks

Works are now complete by R&A Operations on refurbishing Childrens Millennium Park (CMP) Skatepark. See below photos of the finished works.



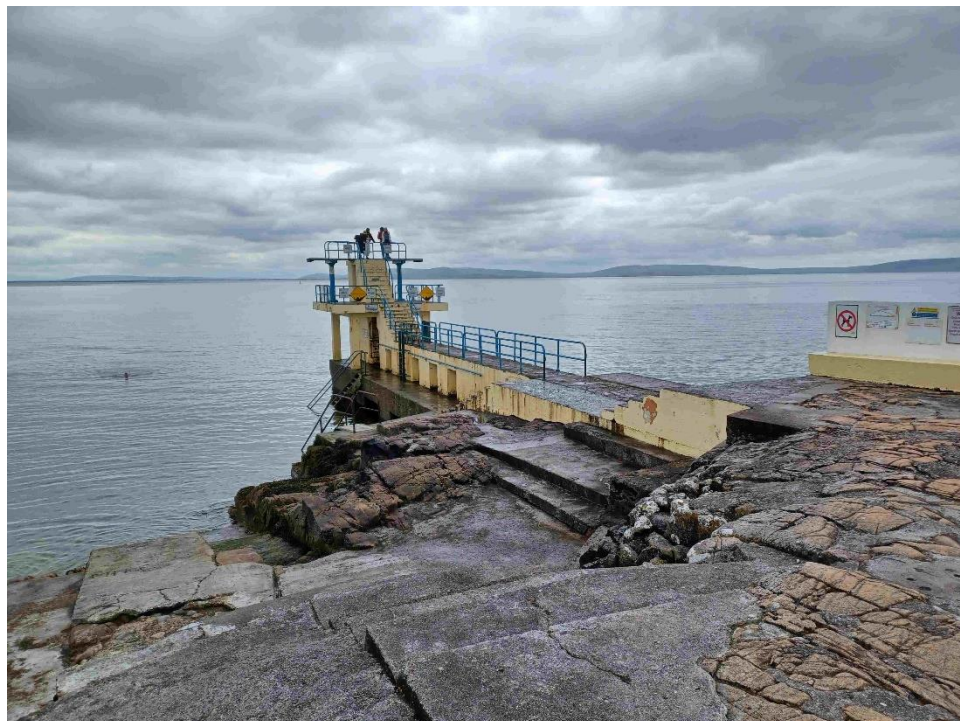
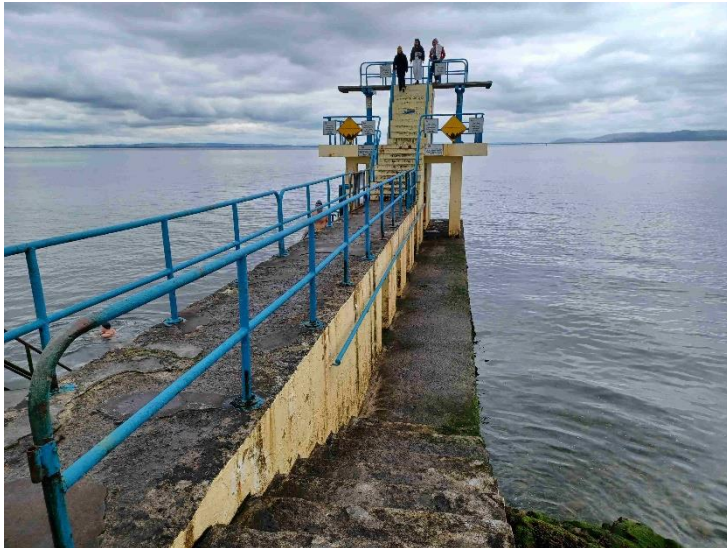
The bright eyes signify the youth in all of us that carries on through our adult lives.

The side colours of the quarter pipe help one to travel downwards giving each level of skater the ability to aim at where to travel toward when going off the ledge.

Cooling and vibrant colours have been introduced to CMP to complement the warm colours of our natural greenery and clear skies of dawn & dusk for the Summer months.

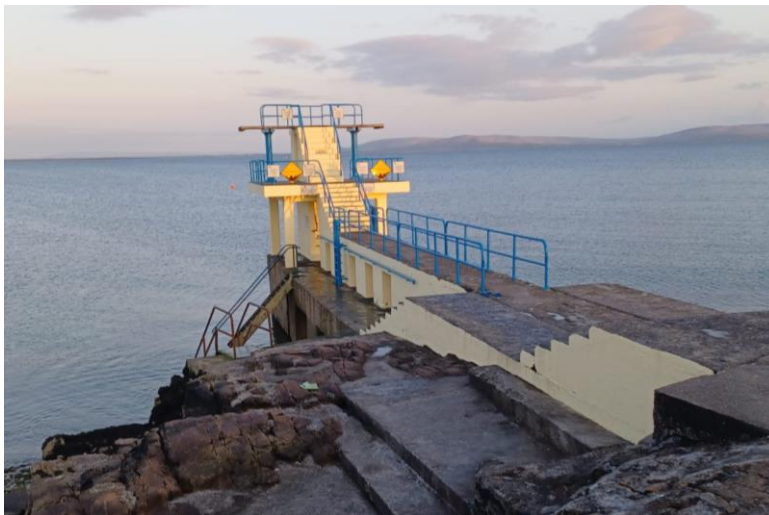
3.5.1 Beach Works

Painting and power washing works were recently carried out on Blackrock Diving Tower by R&A operations. See below for more information on this.





Work in progress photos



Completed works photos

3.5.2 Grass Cutting Operations

Exceptional grass growth has been experienced in Galway in the recent weeks. R&A operations are progressing the cutting of grasses throughout the green spaces in the City.



3.6 Lifeguard Bathing Season

Lifeguard huts were recently reinstalled by R&A operations on Galway City beaches. See below photo of the installation of the hut at Silverstrand by a beaver tail truck and teleporter. The lifeguards commenced duty from 27th May for the Summer bathing season.



3.6.1 2023 International Blue Flag & National Green Coast Award

Galway City Council was recently awarded International Blue Flag Awards and the National Green Coasts Awards for both Salthill and Silverstrand Beaches for the 2023 bathing season - a great achievement with only 8 beaches in the country having attained both flags.



At the recent award ceremony at Donabate Beach were LtoR: Mayor of Fingal County Council, Cllr. Howard Mahony, Aisling Glynn, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Sharon Connolly, Galway City Council, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage Darragh O'Brien TD, Mariana Colman, Blue Flag & Shane Dineen, Fáilte Ireland



At Silverstrand Beach LtoR: Denis O'Dwyer, Bailte Slachtmhara Bhearna, Frank McDonagh & Peter Glynn, Galway City Council, Mayor Clodagh Higgins, Sharon Connolly, John McCarthy & Brendan Derrane, Galway City Council



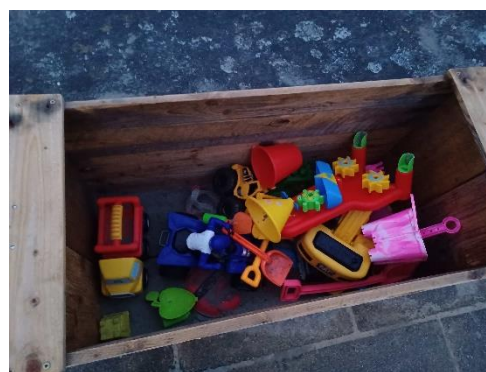
At Ladies Beach LtoR: Peter Glynn, Sharon Connolly, Brendan Derrane & Frank McDonagh, Galway City Council, Mayor Clodagh Higgins & John McCarthy, Galway City Council

3.6.2 Bathing Water Sampling

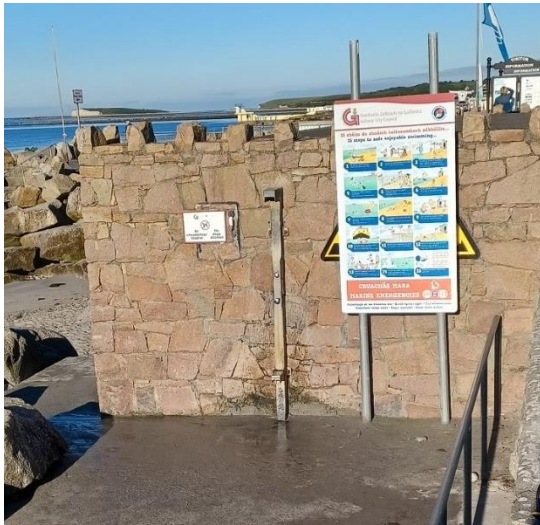
Testing of bathing waters has commenced for 2023 with the pre-season samples taken on 22nd May. Results for all four beaches; Ballyloughane, Grattan, Salthill and Silverstrand, were returned as excellent.

3.6.3 Beach Toy Boxes

Trials of toy boxes are being examined by Environment Department and R&A Operations at GCC's beaches. The below project is being progressing with the idea of reusing plastic toys that are left behind on Galway Cities beach. People can take the toys and leave them back in the box after use. See the below photos for further information on the idea.



3.6.4 Ladies Beach shower replacement



R&A operations recently replaced the below shower on ladies' beach

3.7 Roundabouts Summer Flower Planting



Summer seasonal floral display are due to be installed in the next fortnight as part of the City Roundabouts and Verges Contract by R&A operations.

3.7.1 Unveiling of Westside Memorial Garden

The unveiling of the Rocky Road Memorial Garden was held by on the 25th of May 2023. Below is a photo of some of the contributors to the project.



3.8 Launch of newly refurbished Claddagh Playground

The launch of the newly refurbished playground in South Park was held on the 25th of May 2023.



L to R: Mark Ryan, Craft Foreman, Peter Glynn, Executive Engineer, Cllr Mike Cubbard, Cllr Eddie Hoare, Cllr Martina O'Connor, Liam Moran (Kompan), Mayor Clodagh Higgins, Irene Naughton (Artist), Cllr Donal Lyons, Sharon Connolly, Senior Engineer

3.9 Pitch Allocation Software

Galway City Council are always looking at ways to improve their services, in particular looking to the future and the drive by Government to have 90% of Council services provided online by 2030. Therefore, as part of our digitization programme we are looking at software solutions that we can put in place in our department. One of these is the 'pitch allocation software', which would bring online all of our 46 grass pitches. We are at the very start of this project and in the exploratory stage. It will be end of 2024 before we could be ready to introduce something like this. We have a lot of stages to go through before this date including engagement with organisations such as Connacht Rugby, FAI and GAA. It will need consultation internally and with SPCs and Councillors. There would also be an extensive engagement exercise with the Clubs prior to any implementation of changes.

Further information will be provided as we progress this exercise.

3.10 Biodiversity & Pollinator Plan Updates

3.10.1 Green Spaces Strategy

Three public workshops for the Green Spaces Strategy were carried out during the month of May. These were held on Sunday the 21st May in the Clybaun Hotel, Wednesday 24th May in the Connacht Hotel and Tuesday 30th May in the Menlo Hotel. The themes of the workshop were Sports (outdoor sports), Play (for all ages, traditional play and nature play) and Recreation (biodiversity, wildlife, picnicking and other passive recreation activities). Participants were encouraged tell us what facilities their area needed, how their local park, beach or woodland could be improved. They were encouraged to complete worksheets and interact with maps and boards to illustrate their ideas.

There are 2 more workshops planned in June with focus groups and additional workshops will be planned if needed to ensure the Strategy captures a wide range of voices. The online survey will close on the 2nd June.

[General Survey \(for completion by adults\)](#)

[Youth Survey \(for completion by young people\)](#)



3.10.2 Pollinator Plan

The mechanical bulb planting works carried out in November 2022 are in full bloom by now. A total of 2,361sqm of public open space was planted with a mix of spring/early summer bulb and summer/autumn flowering wildflowers. The mix was developed to improve on the planting that was carried out in 2021, to extend the flowering season. Much of the planting in 2021 was focused on the west of the city. In 2022 we focused mainly on the east of the city (but in both years there were sites on both sides of the city). The 2022 mechanical bulb planting sites include x4 locations on the Ballymoneen Road, x7 locations on the Castlepark Road and x1 site at Whitestrand Road in Salthill.



Beach
Crescent,
Whitestrand
Road



Rahylin Glebe,
Castlepark
Road



Bayview Rise,
Ballymoneen
Road



Rahylin Glebe,
Ballymoneen
Road

3.10.3 No Mow May

The No Mow Meadow Management programme supports our native wildflowers in the city. The No Mow team have extended the areas under No Mow to include the Mervue Village green and pockets of Liosban Industrial Estate. This is in line with GCC's policy to keep expanding the meadow programme in the city every year. Grass cutting of edges and mown paths is well under way in the established meadow areas of the city such as Renmore and Castlepark Road.





3.10.4 Healthy Green Spaces

The Healthy Green Spaces Initiative is in its third year and the No Mow areas in the estates are performing beyond expectations. Residents in these areas are seeing a reduction in grass energy and their native wildflowers increasing. In some areas, these activities are being adopted by neighbouring communities who want to see a wildflower meadow established in their local open space. An example of this is The Links estate (Cappagh Road/ Knocknacara) next to Ros Ard estate who are part of the Healthy Green Spaces Initiative. Residents of The Links estate have now implemented their own No Mow area on foot of the success of the No Mow meadow in Ros Ard estate.



3.10.5 Invasive Species Week 15th – 21st May 2023

Invasive Species Week is an annual national event promoted by the National Biodiversity Data Centre to raise awareness of the impacts of invasive species and to celebrate action being taken to prevent their spread. Galway City Council Biodiversity Officer, LAWPRO Community Water Officer and Catchment Scientist with the support of Tuatha Terryland Forest Park conducted a walk through Terryland Forest Park on the 16th May to areas infested with terrestrial and aquatic non-native Invasive Alien Species (IAS). We looked at the identifying the species, risks to the environment and infrastructure, management measures and best practice such as the 'Check Clean Dry' protocol for water users to minimise the spread of aquatic invasives. Working with local volunteers, we trialled herbicide free no dig method of controlling winter heliotrope within the woodland, using cardboard and bark mulch.





Everyone

@GalwayCityCo are working to raise awareness & address invasive species in their local area, trialing a herbicide free control for Winter helitrope with LAWPRO, Tuatha Terryland Forest Park & volunteers.

Tell us if you're taking action on invasives:
<https://bit.ly/3Mxlp0S>



Twitter post from NBDC and images from the event.

3.11 Ballyloughane Beach Sand Fencing Trial

In mid-June 2023, Galway City Council, in conjunction with the University of Galway and the Atlantic Seaboard North Climate Action Regional Office (CARO), will carry out a pilot project to install sand fencing at Grattan Beach. The pilot project will help us develop nature-based solutions to manage Grattan Beach and sand dunes, as a 'Living Lab' for Galway City. A 'Living Lab' is where scientists move from the laboratory to the real world to find solutions to problems, working with other experts and the public. This project extends the work of the community led 'I Like Beaches'

project (since 2012) where local groups have been contributing their ideas to develop a living lab that would make space for nature and visitors on Grattan.

**Grattan Beach Living Lab
Sand Dune Fencing Pilot Project
June 2023**

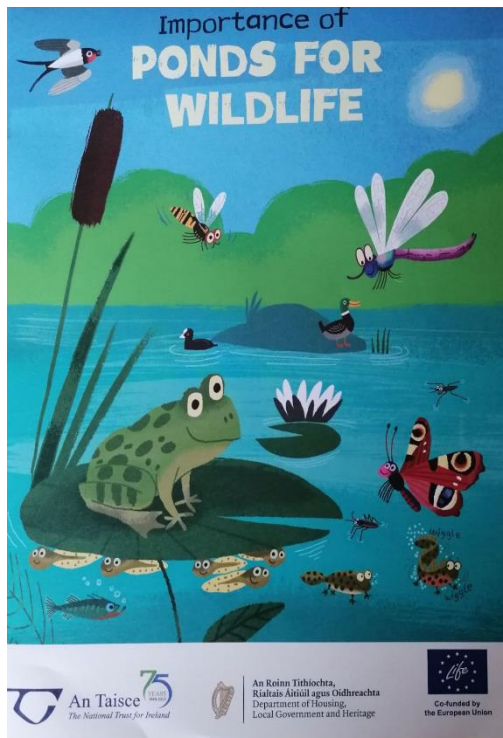


press release 31st May 2023.

3.12 Biodiversity Week

3.12.1 Merlin Park Rivers and Ponds Projects Talk Monday 22nd May

The biodiversity officer led a talk in Merlin Woods on returning water to the Woodland. Galway City Council are exploring the potential of de-culverting (daylighting) the Merlin Park Stream in Merlin Park. This is a pilot project for Nature based solutions to inform a baseline for future projects. This is a complex project and will require specialist input from hydrologists, hydrogeologists, ecologists and engineers. Paula also discussed the value of ponds for wildlife. GCC with the support of An Taisce's Legacy4LIFE Ponds project aims to promote the establishment of a pond network across Galway as a measure for climate action, biodiversity restoration and conservation.



3.13 An Taisce Legacy4LIFE Ponds Booklet and image from the event (source: Colin Stanley FoMW)

3.13.1 Leave No Trace Ireland Training - Barna Woods 26th & 27th May & 3rd June

Through the support funding from the NPWS Local Biodiversity Action Fund Training GCC organised training with Leave No Trace Ireland for GCC R&A staff, members of the public and stakeholders of Barna Woods. The Leave No Trace core programme aims to raise awareness of responsible outdoor recreation and tackle issues impacting the environment upon which we all depend, as well as actions we can take to improve and sustain it.

This training is the first step in a consultation process to be undertaken in the coming months to inform the Barna Woods Biodiversity Implementation Plan. In order to inform the sustainable management objectives for the wood from an ecological and amenity perspective, stakeholder engagement is vitally important. Designing and agreeing options together, ensures collaboration with the broader community and other stakeholders to have a genuine input into the decisions.

3.14 Lough Corrib Navigation Trustees

A deep clean of the surface of Steamers Quay has taken place using high pressure pan washers. The cleaning was carried out without the use of detergents or cleaning agents by utilising a high temperature washing system.



The ongoing works at Lisloughrey Pier are in the concluding stages of the project objectives. Surface re-instatement works have been completed and the pontoon and gangway are scheduled to be delivered in early June



The summer opening of the Claddagh basin Lock Gates has taken place and boats have been able to exit the basin successfully

The winch at Steamer's Quay has been restored and returned to the Quay



4. Economic & Culture & Community & Sports Partnership

4.1 New Galway Economic Monitor Launched

During May 2023, Galway Chamber launched their inaugural issue of the Galway Economic Monitor, a data driven report reflecting the economic performance of Galway, focussing on a variety of key economic indicators that drive the growth of the economy. This is the first in what will be an ongoing report issued bi-annually. Through the Galway Economic Monitor, over time you can gain a comprehensive understanding of the current state of Galway's economy, as well as the challenges and opportunities facing the city and county in the years ahead. The economic performance of Galway has many drivers from FDI investment to domestic business growth. In the last two years Enterprise Ireland investment has had a significant impact on the Galway landscape with investments of some €20 million spread across a range of startup and scaling enterprise projects that will build a tremendous job creation and export legacy for Galway over the years to come. Highlights from the first monitor included details on the labour market, housing and transport. The inaugural edition of the Galway Economic Monitor is available on the Galway Chamber website

www.galwaychamber.com



4.2 Minister Coveney announces plans to develop a National Industrial Strategy for Offshore Wind

The Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Simon Coveney, has announced plans to develop a National Industrial Strategy for Offshore Wind which will set out how Ireland can maximise the economic opportunity arising from the production of Offshore Wind Energy (OWE).

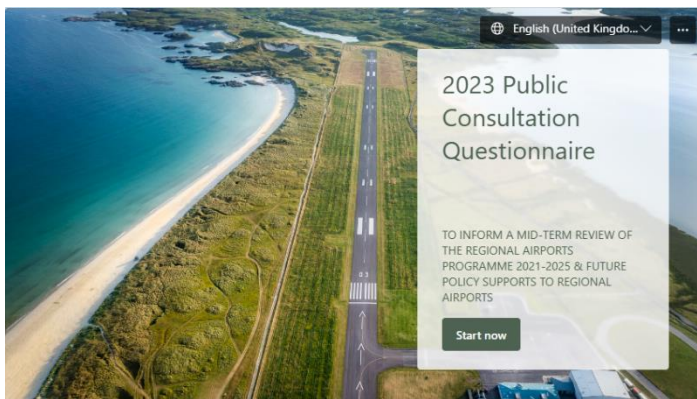
Ireland's Offshore Energy Programme includes a target to deliver 5GW of OWE by 2030 and a further 2GW of Floating OWE to be in development by 2030. The total

target for OWE rises to at least 37GW by 2050. This forms part of the government's target to provide 80% of our electricity from renewable sources by 2030. In order to deliver the enterprise opportunities associated with these targets, a collaborative approach between state and industry is needed, and today's announcement sets out the government's plan for achieving this. The National Industrial Strategy for Offshore Wind will be developed in consultation with the relevant government departments, agencies, and industry, with the objective of ensuring that Ireland fully captures the value of both the supply chain to deliver an OWE sector at scale, and the routes to market for this renewable energy.

The broad scope of the Strategy will include measures to develop supply chain capacity and opportunities of OWE, measures to mitigate the risk to achievement of Ireland's OWE targets arising from supply chain constraints, measures to develop both indigenous and export demand for energy derived from OWE and an integrated spatial and economic framework for the development of clusters of economic activity in locations critical to the development of the offshore wind sector. It is expected that the National Industrial Strategy for Offshore Wind will be published in Q1 2024 and complement the suite of upcoming government policies led by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications through the Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce.

4.3 Public Consultation to inform a mid-term Review of the Regional Airports Programme 2021-2025

The Minister of State Jack Chambers has launched a Public Consultation to inform a Mid-term Review of the Regional Airports Programme 2021-2025. The Programme commits to carrying out a mid-term review of operational supports in 2023 and this public consultation is intended to inform that review. It is also envisaged that submissions received as part of the consultation process will contribute to the development of policy on future appropriate and cost-effective support measures for Ireland's regional airports, including the development of future programmes.



The mid-term review will also consider how the Programme is currently delivering on its objectives, primarily in the context of how international connectivity and services, to and from the regions can be maintained and enhanced, whilst also exploring how balanced

regional development is being supported. The consultation period will be open for a six-week period, with the closing date for receipt of completed questionnaires being Friday 16th June 2023 at 6pm. To access the online form visit

https://forms.microsoft.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=XopdSBark0SWzQ37Kc61_dLRO-8eUnZCoGOMIzCQLyBURDlaODhDQVNFUDFJV1M1UU0xQ0hiUDBFQS4u

4.4 Hybrid Social Finance Loan 2023 – 2024

The Hybrid Social Finance Loan is a partnership between Rethink Ireland, Community Finance Ireland and the Department of Rural and Community Development via the Dormant Accounts Fund. It aims to build the capacity of start-up social enterprises that are first-time borrowers. At present, there is a lack of



investment readiness among social enterprises and there is no tailored financial instrument that fits the needs of the growing social enterprise market. The Hybrid Social Finance Loan aims to tackle these gaps following extensive research on financial instruments for social enterprises in Ireland and consultation with the sector. This unique new financial instrument will provide a combination of a repayable loan, a non-repayable loan and business support for up to 20 social enterprises in total through two open calls. The Department of Rural and Community Development has committed €890,000 for this. In addition, Community Finance Ireland will provide

approximately €500,000 in repayable loans. You can apply for the Hybrid Social Finance Loan via the [online portal](#) from Wednesday, 10th May 2023 to 21st June 2023 at 1pm.

4.5 Mná na hÉireann, Women of Ireland Empowerment Fund 2023-2026

Rethink Ireland, in partnership with Bank of America and the Department of Rural and Community Development via the Dormant Accounts Fund are pleased to announce the launch of the new Mná na hÉireann, Women of Ireland Empowerment Fund 2023-2026. This \$1 million Fund is committed to empowering women experiencing socio-economic disadvantage and migrant women, through targeted support for four to five non-profit organisations. The Mná na hÉireann, Women of Ireland Empowerment Fund builds on the resounding success of the previous €2.2 million Mná na hÉireann, Women of Ireland Fund, which empowered women across Ireland to enhance their economic mobility and secure employment. The previous Fund supported five Awardees, enabling 1,088 women to secure sustainable jobs, while a further 747 women were supported to enrol in accredited education programmes. The new Fund aims to support more than 850 women into employment and/or education programmes, with at least 260 of those women supported into quality, sustainable jobs. Applications for the Mná na hÉireann, Women of Ireland Empowerment Fund 2023-2026 are now open. Interested not-for-profit organisations are invited to apply through Rethink Ireland's website: www.rethinkireland.ie with the application period closing on Friday, 2nd June 2023.



4.6 Three National Awards for Galway Students at 2023 Enterprise Finals

Students from Galway have scooped three national awards at the 2023 Student Enterprise Programme Final. Coláiste Einde in Salthill won the Best Commercial Potential with their business, Galway Engravers. There were 82 student businesses in contention across three main categories for the Final in what is Ireland's largest entrepreneurship programme for second level students. The initiative, funded by the Government of Ireland through Enterprise Ireland and delivered by the 31 Local Enterprise Offices in local authorities throughout the country, saw 25,000 students from almost 500 secondary schools across the country take part. The Finals of the Local Enterprise Office initiative took place on Friday 5th May 2023 in Croke Park.



4.7 Minister Humphreys launches key report on Social Enterprise in Ireland



For the first time in Ireland, 'Social Enterprises in Ireland: A Baseline Data Collection Exercise' provides key data on social enterprise. The data indicates that Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, TD, has recently launched 'Social Enterprises in Ireland: A Baseline Data Collection Exercise'. One

of the most important measures in the National Social Enterprise Policy was the need for improved data relating to the extent of social enterprise in Ireland and the areas in which they operate. Historically, the lack of concrete data has impeded efforts regarding raising awareness, and the provision of supports for social enterprise. In 2022, the Department of Rural and Community Development commissioned a consortium including [Amárach](#) Research, Social Enterprise Republic of Ireland (SERI) and the Irish Local Development Network (ILDN) to conduct the Baseline Data Gathering Exercise of Social Enterprise in Ireland. In partnership with the social enterprise sector, an online survey was developed and published. Over 800 social enterprises completed the survey. Read the full report: [Social Enterprises in Ireland – A Baseline Data Collection Exercise](#)

4.8 Galway Technology Centre Rebrands as Platform94

Galway Technology Centre has announced a rebrand and shift in direction with the launch of its new vision and regional remit as Platform94. Unveiled at a recent ceremony in Galway City, Platform94 is promising to support businesses across the West and deliver scaling expertise for firms in Mayo, Roscommon and Galway. Like

its predecessor, Platform94's goal is to help more businesses and founders based in the west of Ireland to scale their ideas. GTC was originally set up in 1994 to facilitate emerging ICT businesses in the west as they grew their operations. The new brand, Platform94 will provide similar supports while also helping the west's tech entrepreneurs set their sights on global markets. Its tagline is 'global ambition, local support'.

Platform94's headquarters remains in IDA Ireland's Mervue Business Park in Galway. The existing building is soon to be joined by another hub that will open its doors to entrepreneurs from the Atlantic Corridor counties. Building work on the expansion got underway [last October](#). Once completed, the 15,500 sq. ft addition means the overall area of the premises will cover more than 65,000 sq. ft. As well as assisting companies scaling in global and domestic markets, Platform94 provides a base for companies coming into the west of Ireland to grow their operations there. It is owned by non-profits Galway Chamber and WestBIC, and has developed key partnerships with Enterprise Ireland, Local Enterprise Offices and IDA Ireland. It also launched its new website www.platform94.ie



4.9 Launch of HBAN 2.0

HBAN is a platform in Ireland that links individual angels and syndicates with startups. They have established connections with leading VCs and investors, who frequently seek angel participation in funding rounds. Additionally, HBAN has a

network of experienced entrepreneurial mentors who refer startups to their platform. PorterShed are happy to announce that they are regional network hubs for HBAN 2.0

If you're interested in connecting with HBAN and learning more, click [here](#).



4.10 TOURISM

4.10.1 Visitor Levy

At the recent CPG a request was made to draw up a report in relation to the introduction of a visitor levy or tourist tax for Galway City. Galway City Council is conducting research into the matter and a report will be issued shortly.

4.10.2 Marketing Fund Report 2022/23

The Marketing Promotion Fund was established to ensure that the Council provides support for the holding of major events and festivals in the city. Assistance from these funds is provided only to projects that will support local economic development, i.e., attracting or generating investment, spending, jobs, or additional events in the city. In 2022, 8 events were supported. In total €93,500 was awarded to events with €18,500 funded by Fáilte Ireland and the remaining €75,000 funded from Galway City Council. Details of the impact of this funding are outlined below.

Galway Comedy Festival - Funding granted of €30,000 all funding has been paid.

2022 Festival featured 100+ artists from Ireland and abroad, in 68 shows across 17 venues (including a bus), over 7 days and nights. Galway Comedy Festival had a positive economic impact and benefit to Galway and was successful in promoting it

as a destination both nationally and internationally. Through the 2022 Festival campaign from mid-September to the end of October, Galway was promoted as a destination both nationally and internationally through national PR/digital activity, as well as the organic promotion of the Festival and Galway by the programme of 100+ artists (with total followers in the millions) who were excitedly posting about their upcoming visit to Galway Comedy Festival, as well as social activity by the sponsors, partners & venues.

Included in the diverse programme of events were a selection of family-friendly and daytime events, such as afternoon comedy shows, comedy bus tours to Galway County, as well as an afternoon city bus tour.

Total number of tickets sold 15,003.

1. Domestic - local: 24% Box Office reports / Google Analytics
2. Domestic (outside local area): 71% Box Office reports / Google Analytics
3. Overseas: 5% Box Office reports / Google Analytics

Connacht Rugby - Funding granted of €30,000, all funding has been paid.

Connacht Rugby offer a unique experience to watch live professional sport played by some of the best players from around the world right in the heart of Galway. Visitors come from across the 32 counties of Ireland and last season, from 21 different countries.

In years past, Connacht Rugby hired Economic Consultants KHSK to undertake an economic impact study on the effect Connacht Rugby has for the local economy. The report found that Connacht Rugby has a considerable and positive economic and social impact on the region. The organisation directly employs 100 people full-time and an additional 33 part-time workers along with match day staff. Direct expenditure by the organisation amounts to €8.83 million per annum. When related consumer expenditure and expenditure by visitors to home games is included, the total direct economic impact of Connacht Rugby is estimated to be €15 million per annum.

This Season Connacht Rugby welcomed over 65,000 supporters through its gates and hosted over 650 hospitality guests at premium level pre match events in 3

different hotels close to the ground. With each ticket sold a guide on local Galway business in the area to visit outlining hotels, transport options, restaurants to visitors' attraction in the area is issued.

Galway International Rally - Funding granted of €10,000. All funding has been paid. The event attracted 10,000 visitors to the city and county. It kicks started the tourist season with its early February date. The event attracted team entries from the UK, France, Finland, Norway, Germany, America, Australia, UAE and from Ireland, North and South. Importantly, the event secured a date in the International Motorsport Calendar, on the new February Bank Holiday Weekend in 2023, 4th - 6th February 2023. In 2023 saw the promotion of green fuels, reduction of waste and non-recyclables. Motorsport is embarking a new era of sustainable energy vehicles in its premier formula. Galway Motor Club is supporting the FIA Global Environmental Strategy (2020-2030).

Domestic tickets sold were 10,000 with numbers of bed nights generated estimated at 2,500. Overseas tickets sold were 2,000 with number of bed nights generated estimated at 500. Officials, other volunteers accounted for a further 200 bed nights. On average each competing team brought with them up to 20 team members requiring accommodation for 2/3 nights generating approximately 5,000 bed nights in total. Of the over 150 of entries, the composition was as follows:

- Local teams – 30
- Outside of Connacht – 60
- Outside of the state – 60

Galway Masters Int Basketball Tournament - Funding granted of €7,600 all funding has been paid. Galway master's Basketball Association hosted the 10th Galway Masters" International Masters Basketball Tournament in Galway on the weekend of Friday 4th – Sunday 6th November 2022, the Tournament was open to international as well as National Teams welcoming 49 Masters Basketball Teams to Galway. The Breakdown of teams were as follows:

- Ladies over 40's – 12 Teams
- Ladies over 50's – 7 Teams
- Mens over 40s – 12 Teams

- Mens over 50s – 12 Teams
- Mens over 60s – 6 Teams

The Tournament had a very international flair with 22 Teams from Overseas and 24 teams from outside of Galway.

- 14 Teams travelled from the UK and Scotland
- 3 Teams travelled from Europe (France, Spain, Italy)
- 5 Teams travelled from the USA and Canada.

The 2022 tournament was a Three-Day Event with a welcome party on Friday evening, Games on Saturday and Sunday and a Gala Dinner / Ball on Saturday Night in the Galway Bay Hotel. There were 490 to 585 guests travelling to Galway on one of the quietest weekends of the year -the weekend after Midterm/November Bank Holiday Weekend. This creates a minimum of 1154 to 1400 Bed Nights for this weekend and this is a spend on accommodation of between €86,000 - €105,000

Run Galway Bay- Funding granted of €7,000. All payments have been made.

Run Galway Bay is a 10k, half marathon and full Marathon. The event is organised, managed, and promoted by Proactive Design and Marketing who have extensive experience in designing and implementing international digital campaigns for major corporate companies, Run Galway Bay is promoted as a family-friendly event where supporters are encouraged at all points along the course. Over 65% of the participants are from outside Galway with a smaller 3% from overseas again due to uncertainty on travel restrictions. The positive impact on the city is evident for the whole weekend while runners and walkers enjoy the restaurants and pubs. In addition, many charities benefit hugely from the event, and this brings a very positive feel-good factor to the city.

A large part of the event of the Field comprised of entries that were deferred from cancelled events during Covid, there was a good turn out with 3,100 entries split as follows.

- Marathon - 890
- Half - 1,252

- 10K - 958

The event is Alcohol Free and Galway City council sponsorship was used to cover the cost of T -shirts, Barriers, signage and race numbers. Plans for 2023 are that the event will get back to pre-Covid levels. So far, there are 476 entries and the organisers are actively searching for a title sponsor.

- Projected visitor and bed nights
- Domestic 2,700, bed nights 5,400
- Overseas 400, bed nights 800

The Village Salthill - Funding granted of €4,400, all funding has been paid.

An Tostal (the Gathering) event was a revival of currach racing in Salthill the 70th anniversary of the original event. The event was a joint venture between the village Salthill and Galway Hooker Sailing Club.

The Event took place over 2 days with the following categories.

- Seniors Mens,
- Seniors Woman,
- Fear & Dean (Mixed Doubles),
- Junior Boys,
- Junior Girls

The Sunday event included a family fun day organised by Galway City Council through the Galway Sports Partnership. Media Coverage was extensive with extended pieces on RTE and TG4 news bulletins and a 2-page spread in the Connacht and City editions of the Tribune. The event proved to an outstanding success, it attracted large crowds to Salthill and set up further events to expand and develop into the future. Several thousand visitors attended over the 2 days.

Galway Cartoon Festival – Funding granted of €3,000. All funding has been paid.

The sixth annual Galway Cartoon Festival kicked off with a well-attended exhibition and grand opening at The PorterShed, Bowling Green, Galway. As well as the opening of the exhibition, several of the visiting cartoonists were in attendance. Over the course of the festival there were question and answer session, talks, animation show cases and exhibitions across the city. The festival ran from 30th September to

8th October with several cartoonist and venues including – Town Hall Theatre, An Taibhdhearc, Drew Drop Inn, Palas Cinema, Charlie Byres bookshop, The Wylde and Galway Distillery.

Estimated:

- Bed night for domestic visitors 100
- Bed nights for overseas visitors 60

The Irish Computational Biology & Genomics symposium – Funding granted of €1,500, all funding has been paid.

The Irish Computational Biology and Genomics (ICBG) Symposium (formerly known as Systems Genomics Summit) was a 2-day, international event which highlights the latest genomic research being carried out across the island of Ireland. The event included activities such as presentations delivered by keynote speakers, short oral presentations by PhD researchers, poster sessions showcasing current research, networking opportunities, and sponsor talks.

The Event took place on December 2022, with an overall positive economic impact on Galway City, 3 industry sponsors joined the 2-day event and showcased Galway as an emerging Hub of genomics research in Ireland. The timetables of the event were developed to allow the majority of the attendees time to explore the Christmas markets and wider city to support the local economy. The Seisiun Gaeilge (the first day of the event) highlighted Galway city status as a bilingual city and provided a platform for researchers to discuss their work through the medium of Irish.

The event had partnership to 2 local hotels (the Maldron and Galway Bay hotels) to provide accommodation for the events which resulted in 75 bed nights.

Projected visitors to Galway city

- Domestic 130, bed nights 285
- Overseas 12, bed nights 6

4.11 ARTS OFFICE, CULTURE & CREATIVITY

4.11.1 VAI Galway 2023 Programming

In response to the Artists Needs analysis session and survey, the Arts Office, in collaboration with the Galway Culture Company and Galway County Council hosted an in-person networking event in Portershed 2. The networking event was attended by over 40 creative practitioners from across city and county. Artists were invited to discuss their practice, challenges they face and explore potential collaborations.

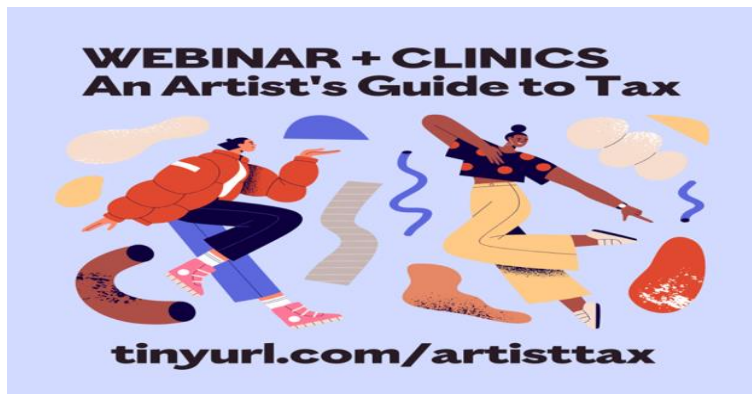


Portershed 2 – Artist Networking Event.



Portershed 2 - Artist Networking Event – Artist's discussing their practice.

As part of this series of artists' supports, we are hosting a free webinar and 8 one to one clinics to advise artists on their tax obligations. Artists can sign up at tinyurl.com/artisttax



Artist support Clinics Advertisement

4.11.2 Áras Éanna - Residency

Galway City Arts Office is delighted to partner with Áras Éanna on a three-week residency. This residency supports one Galway-City-based Creative Practitioner to attend Áras Éanna Arts Centre on the Island of Inis Oírr from 6th – 24th June 2023.



Áras Éanna Advertisement

The residency includes: Accommodation and studio facilities at Áras Éanna

Use of other Áras Éanna facilities (theatre/galleries/cameras etc.) when available

A stipend of €1600. The Arts Office received 12 applications in total. The residency was awarded to Brian McNamara.



Brian Mc Namara is an artist working with a focus on sound, music and psychogeography. By absorbing influence from his surroundings, the results attempt to touch on the emotions a physical place can generate through auditory and visual means. Most recently, Mc Namara has been developing a live performance of album material that includes spoken-word, field recordings and written electronic music, influenced by place, community and identity.

4.11.3 Tyrone Guthrie Centre - Residency

The Tyrone Guthrie Centre Regional Bursary received 19 applications this year. Due to the increased number of applications and the relatively low cost of the residency the arts office increased the available places to 4.

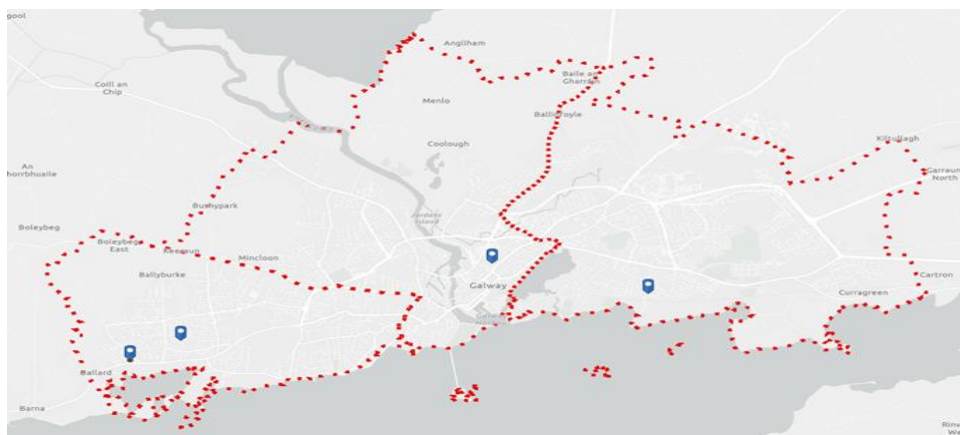
4.11.4 All Applicants

Examining the domicile address provided by each applicant reveals we received 7, 10 and 3 applications from Galway West, Galway City Central and Galway East respectively.



4.11.5 Successful Applicants

2, 1 and 1 applications from Galway West, Galway City Central and Galway East respectively.



Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Applicants	6	2	12	0	N/A	19
Successful	2	2	0	0	N/A	4
Total Expenditure	€1400	€1400	N/A	N/A	N/A	€3,200

Name	Discipline
Kirsty Warren	Literature
Tom McLean	Visual Art - Painting
Anna Mullarkey	Music
Karen Conway	Multidisciplinary - Education and Engagement

4.12 Arts Office Funding

4.12.1 Band Grant

The Band Grant has received 6 applications compared to 4 last year. The arts office specifically increased communications to schools this year and as a result 5 applications are to establish or maintain primary and secondary school bands.

Name of Group	Award
Mercy Primary (Scoil an Linbh Iosa)	2700
Scoil Bhríde School Band	2800
Scoil Chaitríona Senior	1000
St. Nicholas' NS Band	2700
St. Patrick's Band (Galway) Ltd	10000
St. Patrick's Primary School	800
	€ 20,000.00

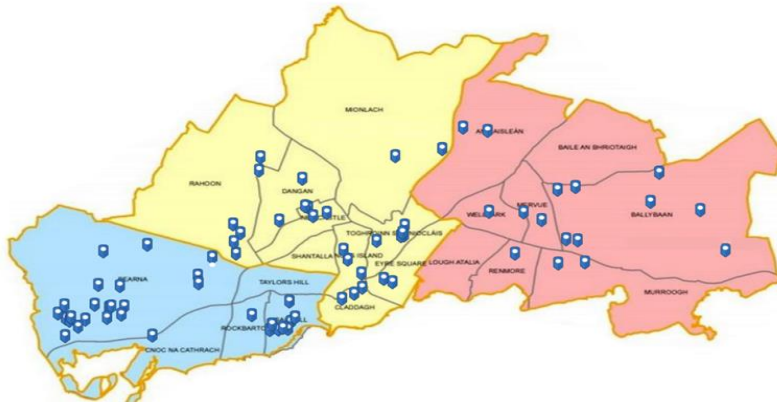
4.12.2 The Creative Practitioner Bursary

The Creative Practitioner Bursary for 2023 now features two funding strands. Strand 1 for funding up to €500 and Strand 2 for funding from €501 to €3,000. Previously the award had been capped at €1,500 however the arts office is keen to support creative practitioners working on ambitious projects as well as developing capacity within the sector.

Strand 2 was the most popular with 82 applications. Strand 1 Received 5 applicants. A total of **€227,326** was applied for through this year's bursary. Strand 2 had 10 successful applications and Strand 1 had 4. Application numbers more than doubled for this year's bursary following an enhanced marketing campaign and streamlined application. This year's application collected more social statistics from applicants to enable the arts office to develop monitoring and evaluation processes.

Location **All Applicants**

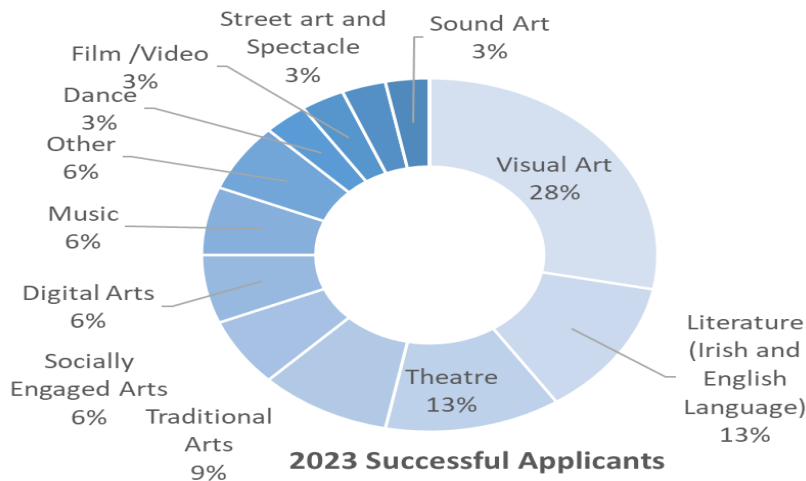
Examining the domicile address provided by eligible applicants reveals we received 31, 27 and 16 applications from Galway West, Galway City Central and Galway East respectively.



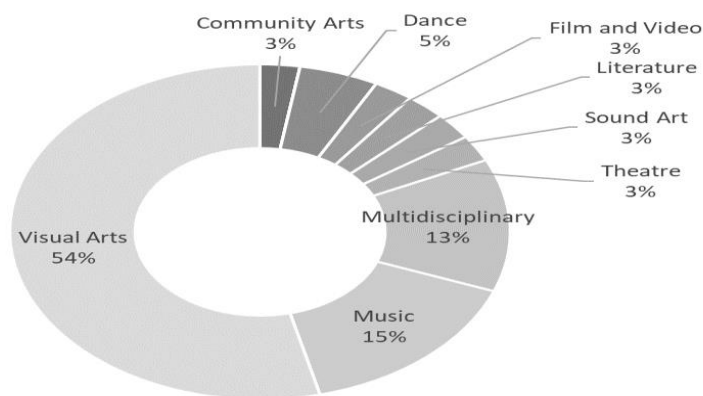
Successful Applicants In terms of successful applicants, we see 5, 7 and 2 came from Galway West, Galway City Central and Galway East respectively.



2023 Successful Applicants Artform



2022 Successful Applicants Artform



Comparing all applicants from 2022 – 2023 we can see there is significantly more diversity in the artforms selected. This can be attributed to the change in the name of the Bursary from Individual Artists Bursary to Creative Practitioners Bursary as well as the enhanced marketing strategy which specifically identified underrepresented artforms.

- Visual arts decreased from 54% to 22%
- Circus, Street Art and Spectacle increased from 0% to 5%
- Traditional Arts increased from 0% to 3%

Funding across the spectrum of creativity aligns with the strategic objectives laid out in Everybody Matters, New Directions and the Culture and Creativity Strategy.

Successful applicants

	Name	Amount Awarded
Strand 1	Robert Fulton	2,500
	Miriam De Burca	2,500
	Enda Burke	2,500
	Tom McClean	2,250
	Peter Bradley	2,250
	Gráinne Cotter	2,000
	Shane O 'Malley	2,000
	Eimear Finan	1,800
	Lily O'Shea	1,800
	Kate McSharry	1,800
Strand 2	Maryna Kyvenko	500
	Camila Maia Bezerra	500
	Tracey O'Callaghan	500
	Aoibheann McCann	500
		23,400

4.12.3 Creative Ireland Creative Communities Grant 2023

The Arts team assisted in the scoring process for the Creative Communities Applications. Over €47,000 was allocated to support the creative capacity of communities across Galway city. The application for Galway city based creative practitioners, organisations and communities of place and interest to submit applications for the Galway City Creative Communities Grant 2023 closed on May 5.

Strand 1. Professional, collective, or organisation: This strand of the funding scheme is aimed at Galway City-based individual professional creative practitioners, collectives and organisations that wish to develop and deliver collaborative community-centred projects based in the city of Galway. The grant can be used on research and development activities and/or the costs of implementing the project. The community at the centre of the proposed project should be actively involved in the proposed research and development activities and in delivery of the project.

Strand 2. Community groups, of place or interest: This strand of the funding scheme is aimed at Galway City-based community groups of place or of interest that wish to develop and deliver creative projects that promote active participation, understanding of creativity, and creative engagement within their communities

19 applicants in total

- €87,474 in funding requested
- €68,314 in funding requested Strand A
- €19,160 in funding requested Strand B

Strand 1 Applicant	Recommendation
Hugh Murphy	2,500
COPE Galway	2,000
Galway City Libraries	3,500
Galway Dance Project	2,000
Galway Traveller Movement	5,000
TULCA Festival of Visual Arts	3,500
Saolta Arts	5,000
Galway City Library	1,000

Galway Arts Centre	6,600
	33,100

Strand 2 Applicant	Recommendation
Aine Phillips	3,000
Nike Monisola Awoyemi	2,000
OASIS Day Service, Rehabcare	1,660
Galway Simon Community	3,500
AMACH! LGBTI+ Galway	4,000
	14,160



4.13 Cruinniú na nÓg 2023

Galway City Council, in partnership with Youth Work Ireland Galway, launched Cruinniú na nÓg 2023. Cruinniú na nÓg celebrates and encourages children and young people's participation in culture and creativity by providing free, accessible, activity-based creative action in their local areas. Full list of events can be found [here](#).



Cruinníú na nÓg Launch 2023



Cruinníú na nÓg Launch 2023 –Mayor meets Shannon and Shirley Ward, youth ambassadors.



4.13.1 PUBLIC ART COMMISSION: Salmon Weir Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge



Galway City Council is pleased to invite artists to submit applications for a public art commission under the Per Cent for Art Scheme for the new Salmon Weir Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge. Galway City Council under the Per Cent for Art Scheme invite artist(s) to submit proposals for a public art commission. Proposals are welcome from both individuals and collaborative artistic teams. The purpose of the percent for art scheme is to commission artists to create new and ambitious work. The Commission is open to all art forms including that of visual arts, literature, music, theatre, digital arts, performance, live art, multimedia, video art, sound art, socially engaged, participatory and research based. Funded under the Per Cent for Art Scheme as part of the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS).

The total budget available for the artwork is up to €47,750 inclusive of Artist fee, VAT, labour, and materials). This is a two-stage commission process; Please forward any queries to arts@galwaycity.ie with Per Cent for Art Scheme: Salmon Weir Pedestrian & Cycle Bridge in the subject line. For further information: <https://www.galwaycity.ie/public-art>

4.13.2 Galway City Council - Shared Island Culture Connects

Culture Connects is a creative placemaking pilot study that investigates the connection between visual artists and place. Based across two places, Culture Connects explores the opportunities for artist support programmes, cross-border

mobility, shared workspace, and residencies. This pilot project runs June-September 2023, and results in a feasibility study. It will be informed by specific focus groups, site visits, symposia, and some wider-reaching surveys of visual artists in your area. The study is funded by the Shared Island project funded by The Shared Island Local Authority Development Funding Scheme

Culture Connects is a Shared Island project funded by The Shared Island Local Authority Development Funding Scheme, developed in partnership with Galway City Council and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council facilitated by Galway Culture Company in collaboration with Galway Arts Centre, Atlantic Technological University and Southern Regional College.

Funding for this research comes from the Shared Island Civic Society Fund: an initiative which promotes practical North-South cooperation on the island of Ireland. The fund engages with a range of sectors and themes, consistent with the objectives and commitments of the Good Friday Agreement.

The project team is composed of representatives from Galway Culture Company, Galway City Council and Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, with a freelance Project Manager and Research Associate.

4.13.3 Baboró international arts festival for children

Baboró have launched their Strategic plan for 2023 – 2027. Baboró's purpose is to nurture children's innate creativity and curiosity for the world around them through their experience of the creative arts.

They do this by - Curating an exciting international arts festival and innovative arts in education programmes in Galway; Encouraging and enabling families, teachers and communities to facilitate children's participation; Supporting artists across Ireland to make innovative work for children which has the potential to tour nationally and internationally; Advocating for children's right to



participate fully in the cultural life of their community. The strategy dovetails with their new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policy, available at baboro.ie.

4.13.4 Events

The Arts Office attended several events and launches this month including the launch of the Galway International Arts Festival, Galway Early Music Festival, the Skylight 47 poetry magazine 10-year anniversary, Druids Fuel residency programme showcase, Culture Meets Business presented by the Galway Culture Company and the Galway Chamber.

4.13.5 Creative Ireland Programme: Creativity in Older Age

Galway City Council's proposed "Ceol na Cuimhní / The Music of Memories" has been selected for grant funding under Scheme A of the Creativity in Older Age Scheme 2023. Starting in June 2023, local musicians will provide a series of live music workshops and performances for patients of Merlin Park University Hospital and University Hospital Galway, and for residents of residential healthcare settings.

Galway City Council's proposed "Cupán ceoil Tea Dances" has been selected for grant funding under Scheme B of the Creativity in Older Scheme 2023. Healthy Galway City, working in partnership with Galway City Partnership, Cope Galway and Galway Contact will coordinate a programme of social and cultural activities to promote health and wellbeing in older adults. The programme includes elements such as an inclusive outing to a beautiful Irish heritage site, crafting, food and drink, storytelling, live music and dancing.

4.13.6 TOWN HALL THEATRE

Town Hall Theatre had very busy month in May, with an extensive line-up which included the best in theatre, music, comedy, dance and film. Our theatre programme included Galway Theatre Festival; Decadent Theatre's production of *From A Low and Quiet Sea* by Donal Ryan; This Is Pop Baby's acclaimed *Conversations After Sex*; and Aedin Moloney's *Reflections of Molly Bloom* featuring music by her late dad Paddy Moloney of The Chieftains. Our Studio featured performances by Bernard Field, Hysteria Teater, Eastside Community Theatre and Anam Productions.

Our music line up included concerts by Ron Sexsmith, Rebecca O'Connor and Whistleblast Quartet; comedy by Emma Doran, Paul Smith and Dirtbirds and Michael Harding gave a very special spoken word performance. Our Dance programme

included Eriu and Liz Roche and our film programme featured the super BANF Mountain Film Festival. We were delighted to welcome the return of so many of Galway's leading Performing Arts schools including Club Shine, Bushypark National School, Genevieve Ryan Academy and Ciara Beech Dance. But perhaps the highlight of our May programme was the performance of A Call To You by Catherine Young Dance Company, inspired by Ukrainian folk-dance traditions and attended by 120 members of the Galway's Ukrainian community as our special guests.

4.13.7 GALWAY CITY MUSEUM

Planning: In May the capital development - Museum Extension Project - continued apace with building and exhibition design review workshops and meetings throughout the month. Fortnightly meetings also took place with Fáilte Ireland.

Energy Audit: A working group was established in Galway City Museum to begin the implementation of the recommendation of the energy Audit carried out by the Tipperary Energy group in 2016

Exhibitions: 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. The exhibition is scheduled to open in Qtr. 2 2023.



13 May at Galway City Museum. Photo: Irish Palestine Solidarity Campaign (IPSC).

Events

- On 13 May, Galway Palestine Solidarity Campaign hosted a celebration of Palestinian Culture at Galway City Museum.
- On 20 May, Galway City Museum participated in National Drawing Day, an initiative of the National Gallery of Ireland that encourages people to sketch, by providing art materials to its visitors.
- On 27 May, Galway City Museum hosted a creative writing workshop led by the University of Plymouth.



20 May: National Drawing Day at Galway City Museum

Brendan McGowan, GCM Education Officer, is leading a new project, 'A History of Galway in Objects'. Inspired by the History of Ireland in 100 Objects project and the educational resources on its [microsite](#), Galway City Museum proposes to develop educational resource packs with high-quality information and lesson plans for primary school teachers that relate to key objects on display at the Museum. The Museum will be working in conjunction with Galway EC, primary school teachers and arts educators.

GUIDED TOUR

Free guided tour of the highlights of Galway City Museum for families

- Specialised Guided tours :
- International Museums Day: Sustainability and Well-Being
- University of Plymouth – Creative Writing Workshops

- Evening tour- European Digital Health researchers with ENLIGHT Programme

OUTREACH

- On 2 May, Brendan McGowan met with a representative of the JAM Card initiative, a card which allows people with a hidden disability, such as autism, or communication barrier to tell others discreetly and easily that they need 'Just A Minute' (JAM). It is envisaged that the Museum will become the first in the Republic to join the scheme.
- On 18 May, Brendan McGowan met with Corrib Beo and representatives from several community groups to discuss the forthcoming exhibition, Corrib Shores: These are Our People, which is due to go on display at the Museum from Heritage Week until Culture Night weekend. The Museum will be a co-curator. A talks series is to accompany the exhibition.
- On 26 May, Brendan McGowan delivered a talk on aspects of traditional Irish culture to a group of Ukrainian adults at the GTI, as part of a 'cross-cultural dialogue' series.
- Working in partnership with the Museum, Galway City Partnership has applied to Creative Ireland to run summer workshops for Ukrainian children to introduce them to various aspects of traditional Irish culture – music, dance, traditional boats, craft, etc.

Education Room

The Museum's Education Room has been used by several groups, including Ukrainians Helping Ukrainians Galway (UHUG), Galway City Partnership, and Baboró.



Weed Control at Galway City Museum

The Parks Department carried out great work down at the Museum replanting the Planter boxes in front of the Museum and removed all of the weeds around the Museum and Spanish Arch. The work looks great, and it has really enhanced the area around the Museum.

4.14 LEISURELAND

Amusement site - Currys Amusements are set up in the amusement site and are currently open each weekend. During July and August, it will open every day for the summer season. Discussions are taking place about the site for the upcoming winter season.

Event Hall - Recent hall events have included:

- In May, the hall held six Jurassic Live children's shows which sold out.
- Two Orchestra performances were also hosted at the hall - Music for Galway on 13th May and National Symphony Orchestra on 29th May.

- Trad on the prom returned with their Irish dancing and traditional music shows, on 14th May and will perform every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday, until the end of September - Fifty-two shows in total.
- In June the hall will have the end of year dance show for the Phoenix Stage School, who also use the event hall throughout the week.
- There are also regular weekly activities in our rooms including Dance Classes for children, Salthill Active Retirement meetings, Baby sensory classes and Unislim meetings.

Pool - The Leisureland Swim Academy this term now has 1,689 children learning to swim each week. The Academy also has over a hundred one-to-one swimming lesson sessions taking place per month. The Easter to summer pool timetable is full, with only a few sessions available. The pool timetable has been reorganised for September in order to accommodate additional schools that are trying to access the schools swim programme. These September's school term pool bookings are filling fast and look likely to increase usage on previous years.

Potential works

- Leisureland is progressing Asset management and Energy Team works comprising the foyer area re-roofing and air handling units for both the pool and event halls. Funding has been approved for these works by the Community Recognition Fund.
- The centre is also completing works with the Energy Team regarding register of opportunities for energy saving measures in the complex.
- All the pneumatic valves in the Leisure pool are being replaced so that all the pool features will operate again along with a new heat exchanger.
- The centre has also completed some mechanical works to ensure heating capacity, on the CHP unit circulating pump.
- The centre is looking into a full refurbishment of both the Gym and Pool Saunas.

50th Anniversary - On Thursday 29th June 2023 Leisureland celebrates its 50th Anniversary. Staff plan on holding a celebration on the day. In 2019 Leisureland

recorded 250,000 people using the entire facility. Leisureland will have served the community for an incredible 50 years. The good news is the future looks very bright!

4.15 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

4.15.1 Mayors Awards 2023

The winners of Galway City Council's Mayor's Awards have been announced. Speaking at the awards ceremony at the Galway Bay Hotel on the 24th May, the Mayor of Galway City, Cllr. Clodagh Higgins said that Galway City Council was proud to honour and celebrate the many people who work quietly behind the scenes to make their communities stronger, more vibrant, often inspiring and motivating to others. Speaking on the winners and nominees at the awards, Mayor Clodagh Higgins commented:

"The Mayor's Awards provide an opportunity to acknowledge people who commit time and effort to make their community a better place. We all know people who despite their incredibly busy lives still find time to support neighbours, local groups and communities in a very significant way. On this, the twentieth year of the Awards, I am delighted to acknowledge and celebrate true community spirit as per the long-established Irish meitheal that brings communities together". Mayor Higgins also stated that "of all ages and from all backgrounds, they all share one important characteristic: they give freely and generously of their time to make life better for their communities.

Galway City Council would like all volunteers to know their contribution is very much appreciated and that volunteering is celebrated for its inherent value to our society, helping to develop vibrant, inclusive and sustainable communities.



Almost 80 individuals and groups, who were nominated across all categories received an individually designed Certificate from the Mayor in recognition of their voluntary activity in community life across the city.

The list of award winners in the various categories is as follows:

- **Arts, Culture, Heritage & Cúrsaí Gaeilge Award:** Bádóirí an Chladaigh for their strong boating tradition to ensure the continuous upkeep and restructure of our heritage boats, the Galway Hookers. They keep the boating tradition and heritage alive and thriving in Galway City for everyone to enjoy and embrace.
- **Neighbourhood Community Champion Award:** Ballinfoile Community Remembrance Garden for their efforts in providing a beautiful peaceful space where local people can come together and take time to reflect and remember those who have unfortunately passed away.
- **Community Service & Social Inclusion (Individual) Award:** Laura McDermott for her voluntary efforts to try and improve the quality of life of residents living in direct provision. She supports many families by contributing to the distribution of in-kind donations to children on special occasions.
- **Community Service & Social Inclusion (Group) Award: (Joint Winners)** Blood Bike West for their enduring support to Public and Private Healthcare services in the transport and delivery of Blood, other samples, and medical equipment throughout the 32 counties. United Women Galway for their continued support for the migrant women living in direct provision in Galway City. Driven by social inclusion values, this group have provided incredible support, offering hope and positivity to their community. They are an example of all that is positive about diversity in Galway city.
- **Older Person Volunteer of the Year Award:** Frank Downes and Zander - Frank has worked as a volunteer for the Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind for the past 44 years. Frank has worked tirelessly in fundraising events with the Irish Guide Dogs raising over €3m for the charity which helps to support visually impaired clients and families of children with autism.
- **Environmental Sustainability Award:** Sliabh Rua Residents Association for their trojan work in putting this group together and undertaking a huge amount of work in a very short period of time. They have made a measurable contribution to the community with the environmental improvements involving planting new flowers and trees in the estate and leaving a positive impact on the environment.

- **Sports Volunteer of the Year Award:** Natasha Zgadova for her kind and enthusiastic manner which has played a huge part in getting the club to where it is today, by introducing Judo to the migrant community and especially the Eastern European sector and making it easier for them to be a key part of the wider community.
- **Children and Youth Support Award:** Galway Sick Kids Foundation - This is a local based small group of volunteers who fundraise so that projects could be undertaken in St Bernadette's Paediatric unit. To date they have raised and spent approximately €80,000 for the unit and last year through their voluntary fundraising activities the Charity supplied the unit with a Sensory Cubbie Unit and a wheelchair accessible swing in the playground.
- **Young Volunteer of the Year Award:** Sláinte Society- University of Galway – are the proud organisers of the annual Teddy Bear Hospital with over 200 volunteers giving up their time to help run the event. The volunteers of Sláinte Society are selfless with good humour and kind nature towards over 1,000 children that attend and leave the event with less fears and anxieties when visiting a healthcare environment in the future.
- **The Galway City Volunteer of the Year Award** was presented to Stephen Cullinane, Brian & Lisa Higginbotham in recognition of the charity funding that they have raised to date with over €400,000 raised for various charities over the years. For their generosity of time, energy, devotion and determination for what they are fundraising for and all it offers to the people of Galway and across the Country.

The winners were presented with a beautiful piece of crystal, made by Galway Crystal.

4.16 Launch of the new Planet Youth City & County Reports



The Western Region Drugs and Alcohol Task Force and the Planet Youth Steering Group launched the latest Planet Youth City and County Reports. Planet Youth reports are available for download for each Council area. The reports present the results, key findings, key messages, and recommendations derived from the Planet Youth survey datasets. The Planet Youth survey comprehensively examines the lives and lifestyles of young people and asks questions about the risk and protective factors that influence their behaviours. See link below for Galway city survey results: <https://planetyouth.ie/survey-results/galway-city>

4.17 Older People's Conference, Co. Kerry

Age Friendly Kerry and Kerry County Council hosted the National Older People's Council Convention 2023. The Convention took place over 2 days in the Rose Hotel in Tralee, Co. Kerry. Siobhán Griffin, Kerry Age Friendly Programme Manager and her team organised the wonderful 2-day event, full of fabulous speakers, workshops and a beautiful Gala dinner with fantastic entertainment. The Age Friendly Programme Manager Theresa Donohue and three members from Galway City Old People Council attended the event.



4.18 Africa Day 2023

Africa Day was held on the 25th of May to celebrate the richness of African cultures and the contribution of people of African descent to Irish life. Africa Day celebrations are organised by Irish Aid at the Department of Foreign Affairs in partnership with African embassies in Ireland and local authorities around the country. This year was

Ireland's largest-ever Africa Day programme, with events being held nationwide. Galway City Council Africa Day 2023 included a cultural festival, symposium and Afro Music Night to celebrate the occasion.

On Saturday, 27th May a cultural festival took place in Salthill Park featuring live cultural music, balloonist and face painting, arts and craft display and food tasting. On Thursday, 25th May a symposium was held in the Institute of Lifecourse and Society (ILAS) building in the University of Galway including an arts exhibition, a showcase of African businesses, mental and health awareness session and a live Afro/Caribbean music performance. On Saturday, 27th May an Afro Music Night for all of the community featuring the best Afro DJ's in Galway was held in the Ol'55 Bar on 30 Prospect Hill. Other events which took place for Africa Day can be viewed at <https://www.ireland.ie/en/africa-day/#events>.

4.19 Galway City Street Feast 2023

Street Feast is taking place on Sunday 25th June 2023. Street Feast is Ireland's national day of celebrate community celebrations & neighbourhood lunches. Street Feast is all about celebrating our communities. More life on the streets, more friends closer to home and a celebration of the community around us. There's never been a better time to shine a light on the communities, networks and organisations that are holding everything together. While some of us are lucky enough to be a part of a strong community, there are many who find themselves increasingly isolated. We're all going to need to strengthen our communities to cope with the changes we'll see in the near future. Street Feast gives us an excuse to get out there, share food and conversation, and help build stronger neighbourhoods.

Street Feast is also a great way to explore different ways your community can work together to make great things happen, you might discover new neighbours, new interests and new ways to improve your community together. Link to register for Street Feast: <https://streetfeast.ie/>



4.20 COMHAIRLE NA nÓg

The Galway City Comhairle na nÓg committee continue to meet weekly in the training room in City Hall on Monday evenings to work on the topic for 2023, which is Physical Disabilities and Accessibility. Galway City Comhairle na nÓg hosted a youth consultation on the 16th of May in the Clayton Hotel, Ballybrit, with the support of Access For All Galway. There was a good turnout for the consultation and the members were happy with how it went. A report is being compiled on the recommendations from the consultation. The Comhairle na nÓg Annual Organisers Event 2023 took place on Friday May 26th at Miesian Plaza. The Galway City Comhairle na nÓg Coordinator gave a presentation on the work completed on the topic Invisible Disabilities as an example of best practice. Members from the Galway City Comhairle na nÓg are attending the Regional Networking Day in Sligo on the 20th June.

For more information on the work of Galway City Comhairle na nÓg, please follow the social media pages.

www.youthworkgalway.ie

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

<https://www.instagram.com/galwaycitycomhairle>

4.21 Galway Volunteer Centre Activities



Community Volunteers have been exceptionally busy in May with the team of volunteers supporting the following events
The Village Community Choir – St Nicholas Church; Voices of Phoenix Choir - St

Nicholas Church; Africa Day 2023; Galway City Council Mayor's Awards 2023; St Nicholas - Mannersache Choir; Galway Music Residency - Lunchtime Concert Tue 2nd May.

GVC also assisted in adjudication and presentation of awards at Galway City Mayors Awards. 3 Lunchtime and 1 evening workshop on volunteer management was delivered in partnership with Galway City Community Forum. A Connect and Chat session was held – these are open sessions that enable networking between volunteer managers. Garda Vetting workshops for new organisations using our Vetting service. ‘Human Library’ was a successful event held in Westside Library on 20th with plans to hold 2 more in Autumn and Winter.

4.22 COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND FUNDING

4.22.1 Local Community Festivals Grant Scheme

Galway City Council has announced details of the Local Community Festivals Grant Scheme for 2023. Local communities planning festivals or events in their areas in the coming months may be eligible for a small-scale grant under this scheme. Galway City Council supports community festivals in local areas to encourage participation in community life. The Council will support festivals or events which are organised and run by residents to reconnect the local community to encourage, support and celebrate participation in neighbourhoods across Galway city. A fund of €15,000 is available this year and interested local communities are invited to apply.

Applications can be completed online at <https://www.galwaycity.ie/lcf>. For any queries in relation to the scheme please email candc@galwaycity.ie. The closing date for applications online under the Local Community Festivals Grant Scheme 2023 is Friday, 9th June 2023 at 4.00pm.

4.22.2 National Philanthropy Policy

Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD announced the commencement of a Public Consultation on Ireland's First National Philanthropy Policy. The proposed National Philanthropy Policy is intended to deepen understanding and knowledge, create an enabling environment and accelerate engagement with philanthropy in Ireland for social good. The policy is being developed by Government in collaboration with key stakeholders.

Non-profit organisations play an important role in Ireland's social and economic life and receive part of their funding from philanthropic sources. The range of non-profit organisations which benefit from philanthropy is diverse, ranging from small community groups like sports clubs to large national organisations. The aim of this

policy is to set out clear objectives, and specific actions to enable philanthropy to grow and thrive in Ireland for social good. The philanthropy policy will also support knowledge and capacity development of the sector. It will also identify the supports required for it to thrive and maximise its potential. The Department is now widening the consultation process on the policy and encourage interested parties to take the opportunity to have their say on a policy that aims to create an understanding of the philanthropy sector and underpin its importance to civic society. More information on the National Philanthropy Policy Public Consultation is available [HERE](#).

4.23 UKRAINIAN RESPONSE

4.23.1 Community Recognition Fund

The Community Recognition Fund 2023 was announced in January 2023 to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities in recognition of the contribution being made by communities in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries. The funding is targeted at projects 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. A list of proposed projects was discussed and agreed by the LCDC in advance of submission to the Department as required last March.

Grant aid of €1,816,322 was approved by the Department to support the Community Recognition Fund approved projects and €95,596 for the associated administration costs, giving a total approval of €1,911,918.

Location	Proposal	Funding allocated
Glen Oaks / Droim Chaoin	Refurbishment of Multi Use Games Area / and development of new community park at Droim Chaoin	€180,000
Salthill	Installation of power supply to facilitate community events at area next to main car park	€35,000

Leisureland Salthill	Repair and maintenance to PVC Roof, Recover Building 3, M&E Air Handling units to be replaced (refurbishment and energy efficiency works)	€379,404
Sports Fields Various locations	Purchase and installation of Box Up kits at sports facilities at Miller's Lane, Cappagh Park, Salthill Park, McGraths Field, Crestwood, The Plots, South Park, Glen Oaks, Ballybane, O'Sullivan Park Mervue.	€230,000
Crestwood	Upgrade and refurbishment of community facility / club house and development of Astro pitch MUGA for community use	€206,918
Corrib Park	Astro pitch surface replacement / lighting provision. Additional facilities for Grass Pitch development including toilets and changing rooms	€150,000
Westside	Additional funding for lighting Westside running track	€50,000
Westside Boxing Club	Purchase of equipment	€5,000
Claddagh Pitches South Park	Installation of pitch walkway lighting for recreation use	€40,000
The Manse Nun's Island	Refurbishment of the Manse Nun's Island cultural centre	€140,000
St Nicholas Church	Purchase and installation of new lighting system for exterior of iconic city centre building and development of Wellness Garden / Oasis in the city centre	€140,000

Black Box Theatre	Purchase and installation of new accessible ramp for entrance to theatre	€10,000
Galway City Museum	Purchase of audio – visual equipment for intercultural education programmes	€15,000
Galway's Westend	Purchase of equipment for Access for All pilot scheme in Galway's Westend	€15,000
O'Sullivan Park Mervue	Installation of environmentally sensitive bollard lighting around the park walkway to increase use and enjoyment and enhance overall accessibility.	€220,000

4.24 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>.

27 properties have been registered in Galway City to date, of which 20 properties qualified as non-shared options. Properties which did not qualify under the scheme have been referred to the DCEDIY and Irish Red Cross, depending on their status. With the assistance of Galway City Partnership, 51 displaced Ukrainians have so far been accommodated in 12 of the registered properties. The remaining 8 properties will be coming on-stream for allocation from June to September 2023.



4.24.1 The Ukrainian Refugee Health and Wellbeing Support programme

The Ukrainian Refugee Health and Wellbeing Support programme was completed in May. Financial and progress reports have been submitted to the Department of Health. Final activities in April and May included Music Therapy, excursions to St. Brigit's Garden and Wildlands and My Mind Positive mental health workshops in 3 locations in the city. A community BBQ is planned for the 1st of July to wrap up the project. Feedback from participants and partner organisations has been extremely positive regarding this programme.

4.25 HEALTHY GALWAY CITY

The Healthy Ireland (HI) Fund Local Strategy for Galway City 2023 – 2025 and the Healthy Galway City (HGC) Round 4 application have been approved by Pobal and the Department of Health. The HIF Round 4 2022 – 2025 Grant Agreement between Pobal and Galway City Council was signed 24th May 2023. The HGC Steering Committee will meet 2nd June to initiate strategic planning and actions under Round 4 2023.

A HIF Support Event regarding practical elements, implementation and the HIF Outcomes based approach was held in May. Place-standard Tool training workshop was held in May to train HI Coordinators in the use of [The Place Standard tool - Place - Impact of social and physical environments - Health inequalities - Public Health Scotland](#).

The 27th annual Health Promotion Conference will be held in the University of Galway on 22nd June 2023. [Health Promotion Conference - University of Galway \(hprcconference.ie\)](https://hprcconference.ie)

Several programmes promoting positive mental and physical health continue to be delivered under HHGC Round 4:

- Singing and music lessons for older adults living in Ballinfoile
- Walking groups in Westside and Ballybane
- Gentle exercise programme for parents of teenagers living in Ballinfoile
- Yoga for parents living in Ballybane
- Healthy Cookery demonstrations in Westside

HGC partnered with Galway Sports Partnership (GSP) to host a Family Fun Day in Salthill as part of An Tóstal, Traditional Irish Racing in Galway Bay in May. Activities included face painting, corn hole, egg and spoon races, sack races, Drumadore festival workshops and medieval sword fighting. Woodlands for Health is a 12-week woodland-based walking programme for adults availing of mental health services or supports. HGC in partnership with the HSE, GSP and Mental Health Ireland will be offering a programme starting in June based in Merlin Park woods. A further programme is planned for September 2023.

4.26 Period Poverty Project

Galway City Council has been awarded €10,000 by Department of Health under the Period Poverty Project to deliver pilot project relating to the provision of free period products in certain locations managed by the LA. Free dispensers and period products have been delivered to the following venues managed by Galway City Council: Ballinfoile Castlegar Neighbourhood Centre; Leisureland; Renmore Community Centre; Westside Community Centre; Knocknacarra Community Centre; Westside Resource Centre; Galway City Museum



and City Hall. For further details of this project please visit [Healthy Galway City | HSE Period Poverty Pilot across Galway City](#)

4.27 The Ukrainian Refugee Health and Wellbeing Support programme

HGC, in partnership with GSP, Galway City Partnership and Volunteer Galway have been involved in the coordination and delivery of the Ukrainian Refugee Health and Wellbeing Support programme; see UKRAINIAN RESPONSE for further detail.



4.28 Men's Health Week

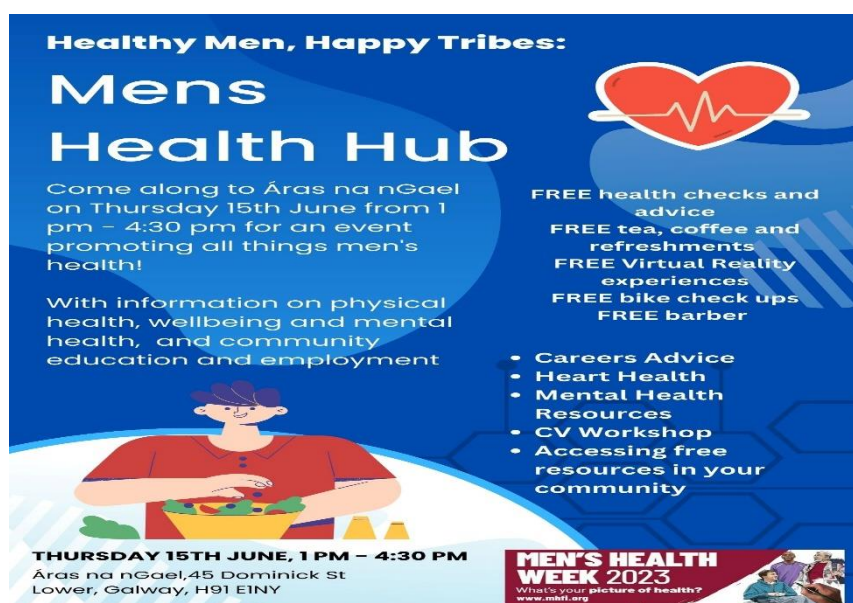
Healthy Galway City and the Galway City Council Homelessness Services wish to invite you to **“Healthy Men, Happy Tribes: Mens Health Hub”** on Thursday 15th June from 1pm to celebrate [Men's Health Week \(MHW\)](#) 2023. This event takes place in Áras na nGael, Galway city, H91 E1NY. This event is open to men and boys of all ages and all backgrounds, with a specific emphasis on supporting men experiencing homelessness in Galway City.

“Healthy Men, Happy Tribes: Mens Health Hub” is an interagency event that will promote positive mental health and wellbeing for men and support them to choose healthier options. Organisations including Croí Heart and Stroke, the Simon Community, Galway City Partnership, Galway Traveller Movement, Galway City Libraries, Jigsaw, Mental Health Ireland, Galway Recovery College, An Mheitheal Rothar, the Community Detox team and many more will be represented and offer support, information, and advice to attendees.

What: “Healthy Men, Happy Tribes: Mens Health Hub’

Where: Áras na nGael, 45 Dominick St Lower, Galway, H91 E1NY

When: Thursday 15th June 1 pm – 4:30 pm



4.29 Galway City Joint Policing Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Galway City JPC is taking place on Monday 19th June at 11.00 a.m. in the County Chamber and online.

4.30 Pobal Pilot Project

Spear-headed by GCCN and supported by Galway City Council, Galway City Partnership, AMACH! LGBT and Galway Traveller Movement, Inclusive Community Engagement - DAF Pilot Project culminated in a Feedback & Recognition event held on May 30th in the Maldron Hotel. The event heard from women living in Direct Provision, people with disabilities, the Deaf community, LGBTQI people, the Traveller community and those working with young people.

The outputs of this Pobal funded project, and the work of the Civil Society Panel will help with the identification of outcomes for the next LECP that will help drive Public Sector Duty. GCCN joined the LECP Advisory Group in January 2023.

4.31 GCCN Core Work

GCCN will hold the 2023 Summer Plenary and AGM on Wednesday, 28 June at the Menlo Park Hotel.

GCCN continues to support and promote the engagement of its membership with relevant training opportunities that can build their capacity to work in their communities. GCCN in collaboration with Galway Volunteer hosted a series of four workshops around Finding and Keeping Volunteers in between April and June 2023. The workshops were free to attend and open to all.

GCCN continues to attend the National PPN Resource Worker Network meetings and also joined the PPN Workers' Retreat scheduled for late April.

An Earth Day Communications Campaign aimed at highlighting local Environmental Champions was held in this period. GCCN was delighted to showcase Friends of Merlin Woods, Westside Community Organic Garden, Grattan Court Residents Association, An Taisce, Galway Conservation Volunteers and Tuatha of Terryland Forest Park, An Mheitheal Rothar and Galway Cycling Campaign for their work on environmental protection and advocacy in Galway City.

4.32 GALWAY SPORTS PARTERSHIP

In May, GSP delivered 3 Safeguarding 1 courses and one each of the Club Children's Officer and Designated Liaison Officer courses.



Bike Week 2023 had numerous events both big and small throughout Galway and kicked off in the city with a Family Cargo Bike Festival on Sunday 13th May in Toft Park.

Activities were delivered throughout the city with schools, residence associations, cycling groups and the general public. 25 events were planned just in the city. The annual City Centre Cycle was led off by Mayor of Galway City, Cllr. Clodagh Higgins on Wednesday 17th May. Over 100 children from several city schools took part on a glorious May day in Galway. Sunday was the last day of activities with a cycle to the Galway v Antrim hurling match.



4.32.1 An Tóstal Salthill



GSP along with colleagues in Tourism and Healthy Galway supported this event in Salthill by organising old school games, cornhole, facepainting and interactive medieval martial arts. The highlights of the day were the egg & spoon and sack racing with all ages taking part. Cornhole (an American target game) was popular with everyone, even the local Gardaí had a go.

4.32.2 Olympic Handball - Teacher training

Galway has the highest number of primary schools taking part in Olympic Handball competitions in the country. The sport is very popular across Galway. To support the sport of Olympic Handball, GSP linked with the Irish Olympic Handball Association to deliver two teacher training courses in Renmore Community Centre on the 17th and 18th May. The courses were aimed at primary and secondary school teachers as part of a plan to develop the sport from primary school to adults with the aim of having a Galway club in the coming years.



4.32.3 Africa Day

GSP supported Africa Day in both the City and County. The big event in the city was the annual soccer game between the African Community and An Garda Siochana. The game took place in Knocknacarra Community Centre astro pitch. Well done to all who took part, especially Shining Light Galway and An Garda Siochana from the Salthill Garda Station.



5. Environment & Climate Change

5.1 Environmental Awareness

5.1.1 Greening the laneways

Members of Galway City Councils Environment, Recreation and Amenity and Transport Departments met with residents of 'the Backs' laneway, Bridget's place, Galway City Centre to discuss a new Greening the laneways project. The laneway has a lot of graffiti, partial dumping and anti-social behaviour. There is also an issue with parked cars blocking access for residents. Potential works include art murals, planters, a rain garden and line markings. Funding is from the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2023.



5.1.2 Love your Beach Week 2023

The Galway City Council Love your Beach Week is back for the third year, with expert environmental talks, beach clean-ups, sounds of the sea percussion workshops, and a children's sandcastle building competition! Events take place from the 7th to the 11th June, on Ballyloughane, Grattan, Salthill and Silverstrand beaches. All events are free of charge and open to young and old-
www.galwaycity/love-your-beach-week

Love your Beach Week officially starts on Wednesday 7th June at 5.30pm on Ballyloughane Beach with an official opening by Mayor of Galway City, Councillor Clodagh Higgins. This will be followed by a beach clean-up by Beach Buds Clean Coasts group, with the public invited to get involved. While cleaning the beach, you can also find some shells or stones to use for percussion at the African drumming circle straight after, with Community Spirit Drumming “Drum sounds and the Sea”.

World Oceans Day on Thursday 8th will be celebrated on Grattan Beach with a beach clean at 5:00pm, led by Galway Volunteer Centre. This will be followed at 6:00pm by an environmental workshop, “How beaches help us tackle climate change”, with Dr Kevin Lynch, Geography Department, University of Galway.

The events then move onto Salthill Beach on Friday 9th June with a 4:30pm rock pooling experience and Litter Clean up with Galway Atlantaquaria. Another fun drumming Workshop will then follow with Community Spirit Drumming, “Drum sounds and the Sea”.

The week will finish at Silverstrand Beach on Saturday 10th June with a 4:00pm Litter Clean up with Bailte Slachtmara Bhearna. At 5:00pm there will be a fascinating workshop on “Why coastlines are valuable and how do we use science to understand them?”, by Dr Eugene Farrell, Department of Geography, University of Galway. This will be followed at 6:00pm by a children’s sandcastle building competition, with prizes for best sandcastle.

Speaking about the week’s activities, Tiarnan McCusker, Environmental Awareness Officer with Galway City Council said, “All of these events are free and open to the public so I hope as many Galwegians and Tourists alike can come and get involved in in Love Your Beach Week 2023. Every week is a good week to appreciate the great beaches we have in Galway, particularly our two Blue Flag Beaches in Salthill and Silverstrand – but the week is also a reminder that we need to take responsibility and protect these amazing facilities and the amazing wildlife that can be found on them”.

Speaking about Love your Beach Week 2023, Dara Dever, Clean Coasts Officer said “Clean Coasts are delighted to partner with Galway City Council on Love Your Beach Week again this year. The more people we can get to engage with our beautiful coast in a positive way, the more likely they will be maintained and

improved into the future. We would love to see new faces, young and old come along to these free events.”

For further information on clean coasts Ireland or to become a clean coasts group visit: <https://cleancoasts.org/> For a full program of events and litter clean ups on your local beach, please visit www.galwaycity.ie/love-your-beach-week or email environment@galwaycity.ie



Love Your Beach Week 2023

Wednesday 7 June  Ballyloughane Beach	5:00pm • Launch with Mayor Clodagh Higgins • Litter clean up with Beach Buds Clean Coast Group • Workshop 'Beachcombing for Biofacts' with Gary Kendellán, Galway Atlantaquaria 6:00pm • Fun Workshop 'Drum Sounds and the Sea' with Community Spirit Drumming
Thursday 8 June  Grattan Beach	5:00pm World Oceans Day • Litter clean up with Galway Volunteer Centre 6:00pm • Workshop: 'How Beaches Help Us Tackle Climate Change' with Dr Kevin Lynch, University of Galway
Friday 9 June  Salthill Beach (Ladies beach Kiosk)	4:00pm • Rock pooling experience and Litter Clean Up with Galway Atlantaquaria 5:30pm • Fun Workshop: 'Drum sounds and the Sea' with Community Spirit Drumming
Saturday 10 June  Silverstrand Beach	4:00pm • Litter Clean Up with Bailte Slachtmara Bhearna 5:00pm • Workshop: 'Why are coastlines valuable and how do we use science to understand them?' with Dr. Eugene Farrell, University of Galway 6:00pm • Kids Sandcastle Building Competition

For more information, see GalwayCity.ie/Love-Your-Beach-Week

Galway City Council, City Hall, College Road, Galway, H91 X202 | Email: customerservice@galwaycity.ie | Phone: +353 (0) 91 530 400

5.2 Amenity Grants 2023

A total of €22,600 grant funding will be distributed to 92 residents Associations and community gardens in this year's Amenity Grants. The scheme is open to all housing estates, community gardens and allotment schemes in Galway City and must be applied for through the resident's association/group.

The Amenity Grants Scheme covers general improvement works and environmental initiatives, such as the purchase of small garden equipment, litter pickers, estate name stones, repair works and litter clean-ups.

5.3 Litter Management

Street cleaning crews continue to commence work daily at 5am. 4no road sweepers sweep the City Centre and then move to different sections of the city. The deep clean trial is continuing where a tractor and bowser spray water on to the streets in the early morning which help the road sweepers with the brushing of the road. We are now going to progress this trial on to other areas of the city centre.

Litter management crews work throughout the city daily undertaking litter picks, cleaning illegal dumping, emptying street litter bins, bulky good collections, and community clean up collections.

Bins continue to be vandalised on a regular basis. This includes graffiti, political posters, advertising posters and damage to the cigarette holders on the sides of the bins. It has been noted that there is a significant increase in the number of Posters been stuck on the bins, which when removed leave glue residue which is difficult to take off. Community wardens are currently investigating any leads to this vandalism.

Civic Amenity Site: The Civic Amenity Site is open, 6 days a week and is a frequently used facility by the public.

Bulky Goods Collection: Bulky Goods Collections take place every Tuesday. This is a well utilised service in Galway City. On average 40 bulky items are picked up every Tuesday. Booking in advance is required for this Service at, <https://www.galwaycity.ie/bulky-goods-collection>

Community Clean Ups: Community clean-up is an underutilised service which residence of Galway City have at their disposal. Galway City Council Provide bags, gloves and litter pickers to groups who wish to take part in clean ups. To register and for further information visit the following website. <https://www.galwaycity.ie/community-cleanup>

Gum Removal: A specialist contractor undertook cleaning and gum removal works on paving in Eyre Square [Paving area outside Bank of Ireland, The Galway Advertiser and Supermac's, Taxi Rank & Bus Stop] Williamgate Street, William

Street. These areas had a sealing agent applied to the paving which should make future gum easier to remove.

Road Litter picks: Litter Picks along roads of some of the city's busier roads is taking place on one Saturday a month. This is a joint operation between the environment department and the roads department. As these roads are generally busier, these roads require a stop and go system to be put in place.

Galway City Hazardous Waste Event: The Galway City Council Hazardous Waste Event for 2023 is going to take place on the 9th of September 2023, at the Galway Racecourse in Ballybrit.

5.4 Markets/Casual Trading

The Summer Trading period (Wednesday – Friday, July - August) application portal opened on the 01.05.2023 and will close on 02.06.2023. Last year a total of 41 traders attended the Summer Market at St. Nicholas, a similar attendance is predicted for 2023.

Discussion on "The Casual Trading Bye Law 2022" review continues with opinion sought from the Parks department, Planning department and Transport department. The St. Nicholas' Market Traders Committee sent a delegation to present at the Climate Action, Environment, Recreation & Amenity SPC meeting of 24th May 2023 outlining their requests and concerns on the proposed bye-law review.

5.5 Waste Enforcement

Waste enforcement staff continue to work through Galway City Council's inspection plan for 2023, aligned with the following waste enforcement priorities:

- 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

A training day was held for Galway City Council staff involved in waste enforcement. 16 staff members attended the training and the focus was on the powers of an authorised officer.

Roadside checkpoints were carried out, in conjunction with An Garda Síochána, Revenue and the Road Safety Authority. Galway City Council waste enforcement staff were checking for compliance with waste permits and unauthorised waste activity.

5.6 Anti-Dumping Initiative 2023

Galway City Council has been successful in securing €110493.81 in funding for 7 projects under the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2023. The Anti-Dumping Initiative, which is funded by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, aims to reduce incidents of illegal dumping by supporting projects aimed at tackling the problem. Project work will take place during the summer months, to be completed by the end of September.

5.7 Draft National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy

The Waste Management Act 1996 requires Local Authorities to make a waste management plan either individually or collectively for their functional areas. In 2015 local authorities established three Regional Waste Management Planning Offices to develop and implement three regional waste management plans on their behalf. Following an evaluation, it was recommended that a single plan be prepared to replace the existing regional plans.

This Plan seeks to influence sustainable consumption and prevent the generation of waste, improve the capture of materials to optimise circularity and enable compliance with policy and legislation.

The statutory consultation process has begun and runs from 3rd May until 4.00pm on Wednesday the 5th July 2023. The consultation phase is being supported by a communications campaign including press release, press advert, radio and social/digital media. All information, including how to make a submission is available on mywaste.ie.

The plan is presented in five volumes as follows:

VOLUME I

Sets out the current situation including policy, the existing waste landscape and financial, human and market resources deployed. It also identifies the key waste management challenges facing the State.

VOLUME II

Sets out the responses to the waste management challenges identified including the Plan ambition, targets, policies and priority actions. Targeted policies and priority actions are identified for a range of focus areas chosen to align with the challenges.

VOLUME III

Sets out the delivery roadmap for the responses contained in Volume II and contains key deliverables required to enable the ambition, targets, policies, and actions identified.

VOLUME IV

Provides the supporting information for the Plan in a series of technical appendices.

VOLUME V

Contains the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Natura Impact Statement.

The ambition of this Plan is 0% total waste growth per person over the life of the Plan with an emphasis on non-household wastes including waste from commercial activities and the construction and demolition sector. This ambition is underpinned with a comprehensive series of targets, policies, actions and a suite of key deliverables. Each of these Plan provisions has been devised to support achievement of the Plan ambition, respond to current and future challenges, and support the transition to a more circular economy with reduced climate impact.

The Circular Economy Act 2022 is supported by a wider circular policy base which establishes the framework for the national transition to a circular economy. This Plan has been prepared to support and supplement the wider policy base and includes specific targets, policies and actions to enable the waste and resource sector to meet the circularity challenge and accelerate the transition to a circular economy.

The role of the waste and resource sector is central to this national transition and the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy (the 'Plan') provides a framework to support this strategy. This Plan recognises Climate Change as a key driver for both behavioural change and improved waste management practices. The Plan will be evaluated annually for climate impact and annual work plans will be adapted to respond to the climate challenge.

The transition to a circular economy requires a collaborative national response across all sectors of the economy through the lifecycle of products and materials. The content of this Plan has been created through extensive collaboration with key partners, stakeholders and the wider waste audience and the principle of co-ownership has been embedded into the responses to the challenges identified.

6. Financial Report

The Local Government Auditor has commenced some preliminary Audit work on the unaudited Financial Statements for 2022 and this work continued during May 2023.

Capital Expenditure of €15m has been incurred in so far in 2023 and has been across the following areas:

- Housing Construction and Acquisitions,
- Housing Adaption Grants
- Capital Advance Leasing Facility
- Road traffic Improvements
- Transport Planning

Approval for an overdraft limit of €8m was sanctioned by the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government for 2023 and Galway City Council did not require the use of this facility during May 2023.

Commercial Rates

2023 rate demands totaling €39,297,819 were issued on the 19th January to 3,762 customers in Galway City. Receipts to end May amount to €15.51 which is favorable 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 a significant increase in customers opting to pay by Direct Debit.

Commercial Rates Revaluation 2023

Proposed Valuation Certificates were issued by the Valuation Office now Tailte Éireann on 19th and 25th May 2023 to 545 no. customers in Galway City, this is the

final tranche of PVCs to issue before Final Certs are issued to all Commercial Rates Customers in September 2023.

Ratepayers can make a representation to the Valuation Division within 40 days of receiving their PVCs.

Walk in clinics will be held by Talite Éireann for Rate Customers who recently received their PVC in May and may wish to speak to a valuer from Talite Éireann regarding their proposed valuation.

The Walk-in clinic will be held in the offices of Galway City Council for one day on **Thursday 8th June 2023 from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm.**

Housing Rents & Loans

Our collection on Housing Rents to end of May was €3.889 m and €640,524 in Loans which is line with same period last year. Increased interest rates together with an increase in cost of living may have an impact on repayment capacity for our Local Authority home loan borrowers, however the Debt Management Unit will work with any customer who faces difficulties in meeting their loan repayments.

7. Other Issues

7.1 Director of Service assignments from 6th June 2023

Arising from Brendan McGrath's retirement as Chief Executive, the following Director of Services assignments have been confirmed and took effect on the 6th of June 2023

Patricia Philbin, Interim Chief Executive (including Human Resources)

Patrick Greene, Director of Service – Roads & Transport (Operations), Water Services (Operations), Recreation & Amenity, Sports Capital, Environment

Helen Kilroy – Head of Finance & ICT

Brian Barrett, A/Director of Service – Corporate Governance & Services, Community and Climate Change

Uinsinn Finn, A/Director of Service – Infrastructure Development and Planning

Elizabeth Fanning, A/Director of Service – Housing, Economic Development & Culture

7.2 Date Set for European Elections

Next year's European elections will take place between Thursday 6 and Sunday 9 June, in which Ireland will elect a total of 14 Members of European Parliament. Each country can choose which day to hold their own elections within that time frame. They will be held at the same time as local elections, which were originally set to take place in May 2024. Ireland will vote for an additional MEP due to the increase in the country's population since last elections.

7.3 Update on Water Services Industrial Action

Water Services staff who are SIPTU and SIPTU LAPO members stated their intention to withdraw their labour and place pickets for 48 hours, commencing on 0.00 hrs Wednesday 7th June until 24.00 hrs on Thursday, 8th June.

On the 7th June, a letter addressed to the Chief Executive was received from SIPTU, in which they noted the Minister's confirmation that all aspects of the water services Framework, including the protection of earnings for staff, will be fully adhered to. They also noted that at the Irish Water Consultative Group, on the 6th June, Local

Authority management representatives confirmed acceptance of the Minister's correspondence on behalf of all Local Authorities.

Accordingly, SIPTU members are lifting the dispute with immediate effect and full co-operation to the Framework will resume.

7.4 Update on Retained Fire Services Industrial Action

Retained fire fighters who are SIPTU members commenced industrial action on the 6th June as follows;

- 6th June – Industrial Action entailing non co-operation outside of responding to emergency calls. This will include non-cooperation with training/drills and radio calls to be replaced by mobile phones to the RSFO, rather than through the ERCC/MRCC etc.
- 13th June –Rolling Strikes will be commenced across all Retained Fire Services.
- 20th June –All Out Strikes will be commenced across all Retained Fire Services

During the industrial action pickets are placed at entrances to a number of Council buildings. In this regard all services and staff who are not directly engaged in the industrial action (SIPTU & SIPTU LAPO members in Water Services & SIPTU Retained fire fighters) will be required to attend work as usual. Normal attendance management provisions will apply for these dates. Rosters for blended working will apply as normal where applicable.

7.5 Mayoral Reception in Honour of Foster Carers



Mayor of Galway City, Councillor Clodagh Higgins, this week hosted a Mayoral Reception in honour of foster carers who have given over 20 years of dedication, care and support of children in Galway. Over 30 foster carers and their families were honoured at an event in City Hall.

Speaking at the event, Mayor Higgins commented paid tribute to the foster parents, saying, “For parents or families under stress, foster parents are the invisible Meitheal they never knew they had. They are the people who sweep in silently and unobtrusively with breakfast cereals and toothbrushes, bags with school books, a lift to football, shoes that fit, a calm quiet place to do homework, and a book and warm hug in a safe place at bedtime. They are the people who gently support a child in a time of need, and in turn support their family to put their heads above water and breathe again. Foster parents provide practical supports and solutions – and they provide stability and consistency and routine – in a normal family home, with all of the rough and tumble that any of us might experience.”

Speaking at the event, Kate Duggan, CEO (Interim), Tusla said, “Today, we extend our thanks to these foster carers who have opened their homes and their hearts to

care for children and young people for more than twenty years. Their care and dedication has ensured that so many children, from Galway and further afield, could build important connections with their friends, sports, school, and community, and reach their full potential. To have spent over twenty years fostering is a remarkable achievement, and we want to express our sincere gratitude to them. Their commitment, and the commitment of all foster carers in Ireland, makes a positive difference to the lives of so many children, young people, and families in our communities. We would encourage anyone who is inspired by their stories to get in touch with us to find out more about fostering.”

Mayor Higgins thanked the foster parents for their service and encouraged those considering fostering to make contact with Tusla, or speak to some of the remarkable families present. See www.tusla.ie/services/alternative-care/foster-care/

7.6 Connacht Hockey Facilities Group Honoured with Mayoral Reception

The Connacht Hockey Facilities Group were honoured by the Mayor of the City of Galway, Cllr Clodagh Higgins, at a Mayoral Reception in City Hall on Friday 2nd June 2023, in recognition of their work to develop hockey in the Connacht region by securing facilities for their players and working for equality of opportunity.

7.7 Bríd Ní Chonghóile agus foireann Gaillimh le Gaeilge Honoured with Mayoral Reception

Bríd Ní Chonghóile and the team in Gaillimh le Gaeilge were honoured by the Mayor of the City of Galway, Cllr Clodagh Higgins, at a Mayoral Reception in City Hall on Tuesday 6th June 2023, in recognition of their work to keep the Irish language alive in Galway.

Galway City has a special designation, as a ‘Gaeltacht Service Town’, meaning that the city has a close relationship with our neighbouring Gaeltacht communities, and the Irish language, as a bilingual city.

7.8 Galway Cup

Mr Brendan McGrath, former Chief Executive, met with the promoters of this event some time ago regarding additional one-off support for the Galway Cup. The Galway Cup has been a very successful feature of the summer sporting and tourism product in Galway over the last decade. Covid badly hampered the event and strong efforts are now being made by the organising committee to build back the event. Mr.

McGrath has recommended an additional one-off grant of €10,000 (ten thousand euro) to support the event in rebuilding efforts to be made.

7.9 Public consultation on the Draft Code of Practice for Accessible Public Buildings

The public consultation on the Draft Code of Practice for Accessible Public Buildings is now open and will close at 5pm on 26th June 2023.

Feedback is sought from Disabled Persons Organisations (DPO's), persons with disabilities, their families and advocates, organisations who represent persons with disabilities, and all members of the public who have an interest in the accessibility of public buildings.

As this Code of Practice will apply to all public buildings owned, managed or controlled by a public body, feedback is also sought from public bodies. Thoughts of those staff members who have a role in planning, design, construction, management or maintenance of public buildings and those who are responsible for ensuring and reporting on corporate compliance is especially sought.

You can find consultation information and feedback methods at:

<https://nda.ie/news/public-consultation-draft-code-of-practice-for-accessible-public-buildings>

7.10 European Union (Construction Products) (Amendment) Regulations 2023

On the 15th May 2023, correspondence was received from the Department of Housing indicating that the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage signed the European Union (Construction Products) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 (S.I. No. 217 of 2023) on 4 May 2023.

These Regulations:

- give further effect in Irish law to Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on market surveillance and compliance of products and amending Directive 2004/42/EC and Regulations (EC) No 765/2008 and (EU) No. 305/2011 (known as the Market Surveillance Regulation or “the MSR”), in so far as it relates to construction products,

- give further effect in Irish law to Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2011 laying down harmonised conditions for the marketing of construction products and repealing Council Directive 89/106/EEC (known as the Construction Products Regulation or “the CPR”), and
- amend the European Union (Construction Products) Regulations 2013 (S.I. No. 225 of 2013).

7.11 Circular Letter PL 04/2023:

Galway City Council received a Circular Letter from the Department of Housing on the 28th of April 2023. The aim of the waiver on development contributions is to boost housing supply in order for the annual Housing for All completion targets to be met. A few details on the waiver below.

- The waiver on development contributions is for **residential developments only**.
- The conditions that must be fulfilled for a residential development to be eligible for the waiver are as follows;
 - Development will commence on site between 25 April 2023 (the date of the Government Decision approving the measure) and 24 April 2024, and
 - Development must be fully completed not later than 31 December 2025’.

The waiver also applies to the following.

- “commencement notices” which were submitted to the local authority within the 28-day period prior to 25 April 2023 i.e., on or after 28 March 2023; or
- “7 day notices” were submitted to the local authority on or after 4 April 2023.

A clawback/refund can be applied if the development does not adhere to the above conditions and applicants are asked to sign a declaration acknowledging same before availing of the waiver. Local Authorities will be compensated by the Department for development contributions that would normally be paid by developers who avail themselves of the waiver.

Galway City Council have written to the Department requesting further guidance on the administration of the scheme and are awaiting a response.

For full copies of the circular and regulations, please email corporateservices@galwaycity.ie

7.12 Circular Letter: PL 05/2023: New Planning Exemptions

On 1st June 2023, a circular letter was received from the Department of Housing indicating that Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to advise that he has signed the following three new sets of regulations which have come into effect as follows:

1. Planning and Development (Exempted Development) Regulations 2023 (S.I. No. 250 of 2023) – effective from 19 May 2023;
2. Planning and Development Act 2000 (Exempted Development) (No. 2) Regulations 2023 (S.I. No. 269 of 2023) – effective from 22 May 2023;
3. Planning and Development Act 2000 (Exempted Development) (No. 3) Regulations 2023 (S.I. No. 246 of 2023) – effective from 22 May 2023.

For full copies of the circular and regulations, please email corporateservices@galwaycity.ie

For any queries in relation to this Circular letter should be emailed to planning@housing.gov.ie.

7.13 Circular Letter PL 07/2023: Planning and Development (Street Furniture Fees) Regulations

On the 8th June, 2023, Circular letter PL 07/2023 was received from the Department of Housing, advising the Minister signed a new set of regulations which amend the fees chargeable for street furniture licences under section 254 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, in order to assist in reducing the cost burden for hotels, restaurants, public houses and other establishments where food is sold for consumption on their premises outdoors. In this regard, the street furniture licence fee for tables and chairs to facilitate the consumption of food outside such premises is reduced from €125 per table to €0 per table. This reduced fee arrangement, which extends the waiver introduced in 2021 and 2022, will apply for the remainder of the

current year. Where licence fees have already been paid by establishments in respect of the current year, these should now be refunded.

For a full copy of this circular letter and the regulations, contact corporateservices@galwaycity.ie

Any queries in relation to this Circular letter should be emailed to: planning@housing.gov.ie

8. Notable Dates

Date	Time – Meeting
12/06/2023	15:00 – 18:30 Ordinary Council Meeting
16/06/2023	11:30 – 13:00 Northern & Western Regional Assembly
19/06/2023	11:00 – 14:00 Joint Policing Committee
20/06/2023	09:30 – 12:30 Lough Corrib Navigation Trustees
07/07/2023	10:00 – 12:00 Corporate Policy Group Meeting

Signed: _____

Patricia Philbin,
Interim Chief Executive

9th June 2023