



Galway City Development Board NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to the 30th issue of the Galway City Development Board's Newsletter

**G A I L L I M H
B E O A G U S B R Í O M H A R I !**

Mayor's Awards Mayor's Awards Mayor's Awards

The winners of the Mayor's Awards 2008 were announced on the 20th of January 2009 in Black Box Theatre. Mayor of Galway City Cllr. Pádraig Conneely presented certificates to over 80 individuals who were nominated for their voluntary activity around the City. Each of the winners received a Galway Crystal trophy and a cheque for €700.

Mr. James P. Cunningham, President of Our Lady's Boys Club was announced as Galway City Credit Union's Volunteer of the Year at the sixth Annual Mayor's Awards for Galway City.

Mayor of Galway City, Cllr. Pádraig Conneely presented the top award to James Cunningham in recognition of his work over the years on behalf of OLBC and in particular for his work in recent years in securing funding for a new club house in Sea Road.

Mr. James Casserly,
Arts, Culture, Heritage & Cursaí Gaeilge -for his contribution to the local and social history of Galway City;

Mr. Martin "Motch" Daly,
Local Environment, Neighbourhood & Residents' Groups -for his work in the Mervue Area;

Galway Hospice Foundation Volunteer Group,
Social & Community Support - for their support and service to the patients of Galway Hospice;

Merlin Park Walkers & Friends Group,
Social & Community Support - for their fundraising activities;

Ms. Phil Carey,
Positive Ageing - for her many years of support to the residents of St Francis' Home, Newcastle;

Mr. Pat Regan, Mr. John Ruane & Mr. Peter Curran,
Sports, Recreation, Children and Youth - for their work as the management team of St. Michael's Senior Football Team;

The Volunteer Youth Leaders of shOUT!
Young Volunteers of the Year - for their work in developing a support group for young lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth in Galway;



*Winners in the individual category,
Back Row, from left: Mr. Pat Regan, Ms. Maebhdh Sullivan,
Mr. James Casserly, Mr. Sean Healy, Mr. Martin Daly.
Front Row: Mr. Gerry O'Neill, Ms. Phil Carey, Mayor of Galway City Cllr.
Pádraig Conneely, Mr. James Cunningham.*



*Winner of the Galway City Credit Unions Volunteer of the Year,
Mr. James Cunningham, Our Lady's Boys Club.*

Pictured recently...



Pictured recently at a reception at City Hall for recipients of a Galway City Sports Partnership grant aimed at increasing participation in physical activity. Back row (from left): Pat Minogue, Corrib Rangers, Sean Diviney, Galway Rowing Club, Sinead Allen, SPARK Youth Project, Ronan Scully, Galway World Cup, Sadhbh Baxter, West Coast Wheelers, Rob Fuller, Renmore Gymnastics Club, Deirdre Hassett, Galway Triathlon Club, Matt Deane, Fr. Griffin-Éire Óg GAA Club, Niall Elwood, Liam Mellows Juvenile Club, Mr. Tony Regan representing Titans Basketball Club. Front Row: Paul Donovan, Olympian, Mayor of the City of Galway Cllr. Pádraig Conneely, Jason Craughwell, Co-ordinator, Galway City Sports Partnership.



Cycling to Work

Heritage Officer says cycling much quicker than car!

As Galway City Council's Transportation Unit gears up to take advantage of the new transport opportunities for Galway City stemming from the recently released Government Transport Policy Smarter Travel, a spokesperson for Galway Transportation Unit highlighted that the replication of Galway City Council's Staff Cycle Scheme is just one initiative, which could help to reduce traffic congestion, particularly in the City Centre.

At the moment, Galway City Council has four bicycles available for staff use during the course of their work. Staff simply sign for the bicycles as needed to undertake for example survey work, a site visit, to meet with customers or conduct Community Warden work. The Galway Transportation Unit spokesperson

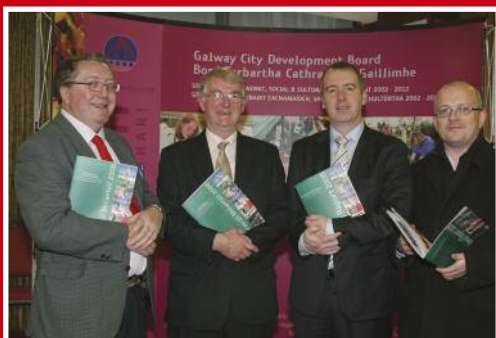
added that the level of interest in the scheme is significantly greater than anticipated with staff eager to cycle rather than drive primarily because it's quicker.

Commenting on Galway City Council's Staff Cycle Scheme, Jim Higgins Heritage Officer spoke very positively stating that the scheme " is very handy. I am quicker on the bicycle than by car, especially around the Centre of the City, where I have to undertake site visits very frequently..... In the coming months, Galway City Council will be commencing a bio-diversity plan of Merlin Park Woods and I will definitely be using the bicycle a lot as part of this project as it will only take me about 15 minutes to get there from City Hall."

Galway Transportation Unit highlight that all that is required to rollout the scheme are the bicycles, reflector belts, bicycle locks, cycle helmets and a bicycle storage area. Organisations interested in replicating this scheme for their staff can contact Galway Transportation Unit for more information by email at: gtu@galwaycity.ie or by telephone at: (091) 894328.



The launch of the Galway City Development Board Annual Report 2008 took place on the 12th of December 2008 in the Clayton Hotel, Ballybrit.



Mr. Jim Cotter, Galway Council of Trade Unions representative on the Galway City Development Board, Mr. Adrew D'Arcy, Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology representative on the Galway City Development Board, Cllr. Brian Walsh, Galway City Council, Cllr. Daniel Callanan, Chairperson of the Community Development Group of the Galway City Development Board.



Mr. Joe MacGrath, City Manager, Cllr. Colette Connolly, Chairperson of the Galway City Development Board, Mr. Thomas Connell, Director of Services, Planning, Economic Development, Community & Enterprise.



Galway Transportation Unit Outlines Its Targets for 2009

On Friday January 30, 2009 Galway Transportation Unit (GTU), outlined its plans, expected results and targets, which it aims to achieve prior to the end of December 2009. The programme of work presents a comprehensive range of proposals in relation to infrastructural works, transport initiatives, plans underway and policy developments combined with measures to assess progress over time. Analysis of this programme highlights areas requiring significant catch up, due to the lack of transportation investment in recent years, coupled with the accelerated pace of development in Galway City and the County towns such as Athenry, Oranmore, Tuam, Gort and Loughrea.

Commenting on this years programme, Head of Galway Transportation Unit, Joe Tansey stated that: "with our team of transport planning and traffic management specialists, Galway City Council has an excellent opportunity to address critical areas, which over time will reduce traffic congestion in the City." Joe Tansey added that at this time of economic uncertainty, Galway City Council will be liaising with key decision-makers aimed at ensuring that funding which is essential to the long term sustainable development of Galway is secured in order to achieve the objectives set for this new unit.

What GTU aims to achieve before December 31, 2009

The following actions present a snapshot of some of the key actions, which the GTU team aims to achieve by December 2009 in order to ensure that Galway has the necessary transport infrastructure and services to support it's continued growth and development given its designated regional gateway status.

Progressing Galway City Outer Bypass (GCOB)

To progress the GCOB, Galway Transportation Unit will: (i) advance measures, aimed at contributing to the delivery of the GCOB, which will link the approved section of the GCOB with the Barna/Furbo coast on the R336 (ii) assess if N6 signage scheme is appropriate for directing traffic, (iii) develop a traffic management plan to facilitate the rollout of phase 1 of the GCOB and (iv) develop a strategy for the future use of roads i.e. declassified National Roads following the construction of the GCOB.

Park and Ride Initiatives

Building on the success of the Christmas 2008 Park and Ride which carried more than 18,000 passengers return to the City Centre over a three week period, Galway Transportation Unit aims to organise a

Park and Ride service for the period of the Volvo Race and pilot a Park and Ride service catering for commuters travelling to Galway City from the N17 in September 2009. In addition, the GTU team will conduct a pre-Christmas Park and Ride service in December 2009 and will work to fastrack the design, planning and provision of Park and Ride schemes at strategic locations on approach roads to the city, in line with the recommendations of the Public Transport Feasibility Study.

Implementing Galway Strategic Bus Study

Some of the numerous actions, which the GTU team aim to complete by December 31, 2009 include progressing the rollout of the Dublin Road Quality Bus Corridor (QBC), completing the design of the Monivea Road QBC and the upgrading works proposed for the Monivea Road/Joyce's Road Junction. Whilst, also completing the design of the City Centre QBC.

Additional actions include the preparation, design and commencement of the development of a new public transport corridor from the Dublin Road to Doughiska and Ardaun, through HSE lands at Merlin Park and progression of the design proposed for the Public Transport Corridor along the railway line between the City Centre and Doughiska / Roscam on foot of the recommendations of the Public Transport Feasibility Study. In addition, staff in the Galway Transportation Unit will progress recommendations proposed for Galway Cathedral terminus stemming from Galway Strategic Bus Study and Public Transportation Feasibility Study. Critically, the GTU team project that work on the upgrading of the Seamus Quirke Road will commence this year, which in total will involve an investment of €14million.

This year will also see the rollout of a pilot Urban Traffic Control System for the Dublin Road and the provision of bus shelters capable of incorporating future integrated ticketing and future real-time scheduling on one East and one West route in 2009.

Public Transport Feasibility Study

The findings of the Public Transport Feasibility Study addressing Light Rail and Bus Rapid Transit will be completed by May 2009 and the GTU team aim to progress its recommendations this year subject to funding availability.

Other Key Actions for 2009

The GTU team will be working to support the Integrated Transportation

Coordinating Group, Galway City Development Board to deliver integrated transport services for Galway such as the rollout of Mobility Management Plans amongst key employers in the City.

The GTU team will undertake a strategy for the development and promotion of cycling and walking in the City, which will be timely given the current preparations underway in relation to the new City Development Plan. In addition, GTU will be working to improve cycling infrastructure in the City through the use of bus lanes, cycle schemes, provision of cycle lanes and rollout of cycle parking facilities.

To strengthen communication with the public a new Galway Transportation Unit website is currently underdevelopment, which will detail all information relevant to transportation to from and within Galway City. In addition, staff from the GTU will be collaborating with relevant stakeholders to promote the provision of improved timetable information on all bus stops, develop attractive ticket packages, brand corridors, provide telephone, internet and mobile phone information services and conduct marketing campaigns in targeted areas so as to promote improved customer service.

Significantly, in order to assess its progress over time, this year will see commencement of the first annual survey of transport and traffic indicators for Galway City, which GTU staff have scheduled to take place in November 2009.

*For further information please contact:
: (091) 894328 or by email at
gtu@galwaycity.ie*



'Mr. Joe Tansey, Head of Galway Transportation Unit (Galway City Council) and Cllr. Michael Crowe, Chair of the Integrated Transportation Coordinating Group, Galway City Development Board assessing the current status of the outbound Dublin Road Bus Lane, which is scheduled for completion in March 2009.'



RAPID - Update

Scrap Heap Challenge – Bohermore RAPID Area

After the success of a Pilot Project of ‘Scrap Heap Challenge’ last year, facilitated by Galway City Council’s Tenant Liaison Officer and Ballinfoyle Family Services, this is now to become an annual event with the additional aid of the Mechanical & Biomedical Engineering School of NUI Galway.



Through a service learning module, NUIG students will guide young participants, teamed with their dads, from the Ballinfoyle More RAPID Area to construct vehicles from scrap metal using engineering principles to assist the process. The project aims to show promote social interaction between young participants and their fathers,

link practical skills development with education - particularly encouraging young people to understand the skills that they could gain by going to third level. The project will also promote recycling at an estate level.



The provision of skips full of scrap, and under the guidance and mentoring of engineering students, participants will learn the endless possibilities of craft and ingenuity in a constructive recycling project. A series of Saturday workshops will produce manual vehicles, which will be judged for their design, innovativeness and ultimately sustainability in a race.



Galway City Council, Galway City RAPID and the HSE are funding the project.

Galway City Atlas Galway City Atlas Galway City Atlas

The Galway City Atlas is a publication, which was initiated by the Community and Enterprise Department within Galway City Council. The Galway City Atlas was first produced in 2001 and then updated again in 2004. The Galway City Atlas aims to depict a general profile of Galway City at a given point, based on statistical information derived from the Census and other sources of locally available data. The Community and Enterprise Department have now completed an update of The Galway City Atlas 2008/2009 and it is anticipated that this will be available in Spring 2009.

