

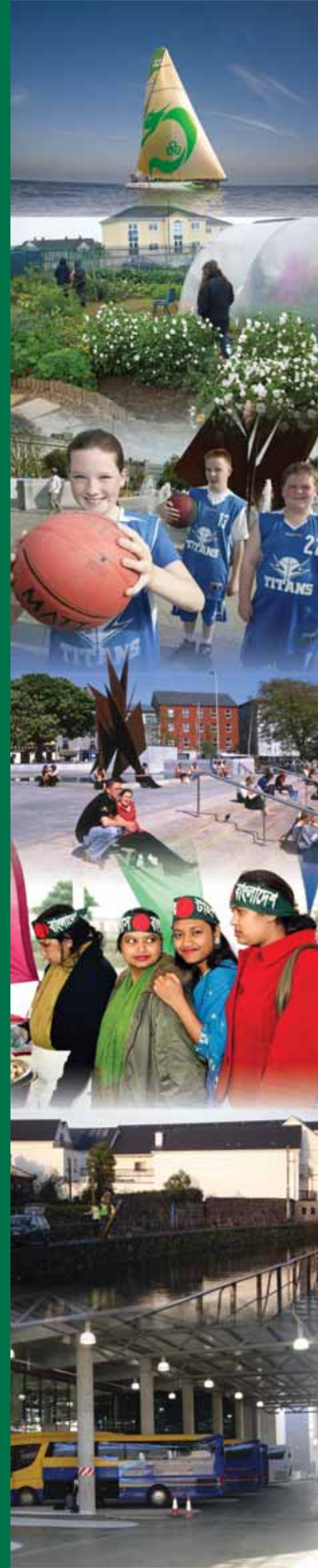
GAILLIMH
BEO AGUS BRÍOMHAR!

Galway City Development Board
Strategy for Economic, Social
and Cultural Development 2002-2012



Galway City Development Board
Bord Forbartha Cathrach na Gaillimhe

Annual Report 2008



“Gaillimh! Beo agus Bríomhar!
A City that people are proud to be part of, to work in, to live in and which is attractive to visitors and investors alike”.

These are the values which shape our vision:

- An Historic, Progressive, Creative City
- An Inclusive and People-centred City
- A City with a Sustainable Economy, Community and Environment
- An Accessible, Equitable City



As Chairperson of the Galway City Development Board (GCDB) I am pleased to present the sixth Annual Report of the Board.

The Annual Report outlines the implementation of the overall 10-year strategy “*Gaillimh Beo agus Bríomhar: Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development 2002 - 2012!*” In particular, the Annual Report for 2008 informs on the delivery of the Priority Action Plan 2006-2008. The Priority Actions are delivered through the Board, the 13 Co-ordinating Mechanisms, the member agencies and the sectors who have worked together to develop, promote, implement and review these actions.

A key aspect of the work of the City Development Board this year has been the review of the 2006-2008 Priority Actions and the development of the Priority Action Plan 2009-2012 - a plan that will see the Board through the final stage of the 10-year strategy.

As Chairperson, I am pleased to have overseen the ongoing work by the subgroups culminate in a two day review and planning session by the City Development Board in September 2008. This review allowed the Board to reflect on achievements and decide on a course of action for work outstanding, including re-structuring of the Co-ordinating Mechanisms and setting out the Priority Actions for the next three years.

With this in mind the Board have tasked the subgroups with developing Priority Actions and Tasks for 2009-2012 that are “Achievable, Measurable and Timed”.

I would like again to pay tribute to my fellow Board members for their continuing commitment to Galway City Development Board. I commend also the work that is being done by more than 120 members of the various subgroups.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to the staff of the Community & Enterprise Department of Galway City Council and the Director of Services, Mr Thomas Connell, for their continued support in facilitating the work of Galway City Development Board.

As we work towards the final stage of the 10-year strategy I would like to take this opportunity to remind the Board, subgroups and all interested participants of our shared vision of Galway City:

“A city that people are proud to be part of, to work in, to live in and which is attractive to visitors and investors alike.”

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colette Connolly".

Cllr. Colette Connolly

Chairperson, Galway City Development Board

The Galway City Development Board

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT



MS. MARY BENNETT Galway County and City Enterprise Board, **MR. DECLAN BRASSIL** Galway City Partnership, **MS. MARY GIBLIN** Galway City & County Childcare Committee, **MS. MARGARET Ó RIADA** Galway City Partnership, **MR. CHARLES LYNCH** Galway County & City Enterprise Board, **MS. MARIAN MALONEY** Galway City Partnership, **MR. STAN SJOTHUN** Galway City Partnership

LOCAL GOVERNMENT



CLLR. CATHERINE CONNOLLY Galway City Council, **CLLR. COLETTE CONNOLLY** Galway City Council (Chairperson), **CLLR. PADRAIG CONNEELY** Galway City Council (Mayor), **CLLR. MICHAEL CROWE** Galway City Council, **CLLR. DONAL LYONS** Galway City Council, **MR. JOE MacGRATH** Galway City Manager, **CLLR. JOHN MULHOLLAND** Galway City Council

SOCIAL PARTNERS



BRÍD NÍ CHONGHÓILE, UASAL Galway City Community Forum Representative, **MR. JIM COTTER** Trade Union Sector, **MR. NIALL KILLILEA** Business Sector Representative, **MS. EVELYN MORAN** Galway City Community Forum Representative, **MR. DENIS O'BRIEN** Galway City Community Forum Representative

STATE AGENCIES



MR. SEAMUS BREE Enterprise Ireland, **MS. GILLIAN BUCKLEY** Western Development Commission, **MR. ANDREW D'ARCY** Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, **MS. ANNE FEERICK** Department of Education & Science, **MR. IVAN HOULIHAN** IDA Ireland, **MR. DAVE MCGINN** Department of Social & Family Affairs, **MS. ANNETTE MURPHY FÁS**, **AN tUASAL BREANDÁN Ó CALLARÁIN** City of Galway VEC, **CHIEF SUPT. DONAL Ó CUALÁIN** An Garda Síochána, **MR. JJ O'KANE** Health Services Executive Western Area, **MR. BRIAN QUINN** Fáilte Ireland West

The Co-ordination Mechanisms

NAME

1. **Community Development Group**
2. **Creative City Group**
3. **Economic Development Group**
4. **Galway Healthy Cities Forum**
5. **Integrated Transportation Co-ordinating Group**
6. **Regional Group**
7. **Social Inclusion Group**

8. **Spatial Planning Group**
9. **Galway City Sports Partnership**
10. **Strategic Learning Network**
11. **The Natural Environment and Waterways Group**
12. **Galway City and County Childcare Committee**

13. **Galway Tourism Forum**

LEAD PARTNER

Galway City Council
Galway City Council
Enterprise Ireland
Health Service Executive
Galway City Council
West Regional Authority
Galway City Partnership/
Galway City Council
Galway City Council
City of Galway VEC
City of Galway VEC
Galway City Council
Galway City and County
Childcare Committee
Ireland West Tourism

Staffing

Management, Administrative and Technical Support to the Board, its Co-Ordination Mechanisms, the Area Implementation Team RAPID and the Galway City Community Forum is provided by the Office of the Director of Community and Enterprise, Galway City Council.

Mr. Thomas Connell
Director of Services

Mr. Peter Salmon
Administrative Officer

Mr. Gary McMahon
Administrative Officer, Community & Enterprise

Mr. Liam Hanrahan
*Administrative Officer/RAPID Co-ordinator
Community & Enterprise*

Mr. Jason Craughwell
Co-ordinator, Galway City Sports Partnership

Ms. Jean Kennedy
Assistant Staff Officer

Claire Ní Fhlaithearta, Uasal
Clerical Officer

Mr. Poul Walsh Olesen
Galway City Community Forum Co-ordinator

Former Staff 2007/08:

Ms. Bríd Dooley
Administrative Officer

Ms. Cathy Joyce
Administrative Officer, Community & Enterprise

Ms. Olivia Murphy
Clerical Officer

Mr. Oisín Kenny
Galway City Community Forum Co-ordinator

Ms. Bronwyn Shields
Student Placement

Ms. Alexandra Revez
Intercultural Forum Support Worker

Funding Arrangements

The work of the Galway City Development Board is supported by the budget of the Community and Enterprise Department of Galway City Council.

The members of Galway City Council adopt an annual budget, part of which is used to support the work programme and the administration of the Galway City Development Board through the provision of management and technical personnel.

Specific actions included in "Gaillimh Beo agus Briomhar! 2002 – 2012" are supported where appropriate through funding and in-kind contributions by member organisations of the Galway City Development Board and its support sub-structures.

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government provides financial support for the administration of the Galway City Community Forum. The RAPID Programme is funded through the Dept. of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and additional Leverage funding has been provided by match funding from Galway City Council, the Dept. of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Health Services Executive. The Irish Sports Council provides financial support to Galway City Sports Partnership. A number of projects in RAPID areas have received financial support from the Sports Capital Programme; the Dormant Accounts Funds and the Equal Opportunities and Childcare Fund.

Acknowledgements

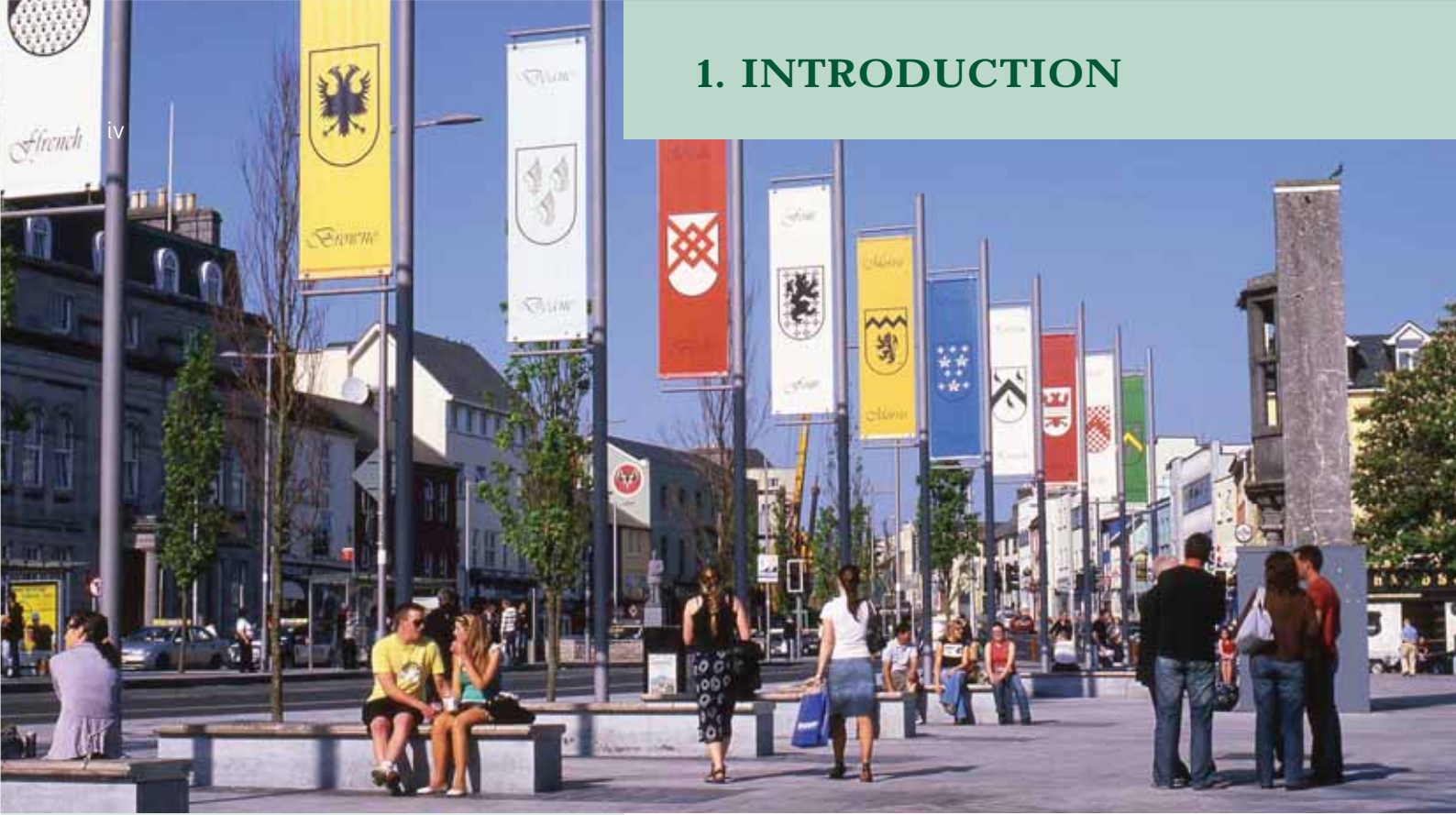
Galway City Development Board acknowledges the assistance of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Galway City Development Board extends sincere thanks to all those individuals, groups and agencies who contributed to the completion of the Galway City Development Board Annual Report 2008.

Designed by A&D

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1. INTRODUCTION



Review of the City Development Board's Current Objectives and Future Priorities

In September 2008, members of Galway City Development Board met for a two-day meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to undertake a review of its current objectives and identify a list of Priority Actions for 2009-2012.

Based on the City Development Board's Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development 2002-2012 a review of objectives and priorities is carried out every three years.

The review of the current Priority Actions for 2006-2008 showed that although not all objectives have been fully met, considerable work has been undertaken over the past three years.

There was an agreement among the members of Galway City Development Board to identify a limited set of Priority Actions for the next three years, which are achievable, measurable and timed. All members of the Board renewed their commitment to collaborate and resource the implementation of these priorities.

A comprehensive consultation process involving the 13 Co-ordinating Mechanisms of the City Development Board will take place before the Board decides on a final version of the Strategy Review and Priority Actions 2009-2012. This Priority Action Plan will be published in 2009.

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Background

"What makes a city? Is it the physical development, the economic profile or the attitude of its inhabitants?"

Every city is multi layered and the art of bringing people together to decide collectively on how best to grow, regenerate and provide for residents and visitors is a huge challenge."

Charles Landry, Author, Director of Comedia UK,
Speaker at Galway City Imagine Event, March 2008

Galway City Development Board was established in 2000 as part of a national process to create a coherent, collaborative framework within which public sector organisations operating at a local level and local development actors would come together to work out an agreed vision for their city or county and to devise a City Strategy. "Gaillimh Beo agus Bríomhar! Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development 2002 - 2012" was reviewed in 2005 and a Priority Action Plan covering the years from 2006 to 2008 was agreed by Galway City Development Board.

This annual report outlines the work of Galway City Development Board over the last year and in particular enumerates the achievements under each of the goals of the CDB Strategy. The report this year lists the proposed priority actions to be worked on by the Co-ordination Mechanisms for the period 2009-2012. The CDB and Co-ordination Mechanisms will be developing tasks under each priority action in early 2009.

The report also illustrates the work, which has been achieved under the RAPID II programme, as it is rolled out in the five designated areas of Galway City and by Galway City Community Forum within the CDB process. During 2008, a number of significant developments have occurred within the ambit of the City Development Board:

"How we think"
a question posed by
Charles Landry
to the CDB



IMAGINE Seminar

Through the support of the Creative Cities group and the Healthy Cities project, Galway City Development Board was delighted to host a seminar featuring Charles Landry, one of the world's leading authorities on creativity and its use as a driver of sustainable and ethical urban development.

A range of elected representatives, policy makers, planners, community, business and agency leaders were in attendance in the Town Hall Theatre to hear the seminar and to pose questions on the future of Galway City.

The focus of the seminar followed Charles Landry's book "The Art of City Making" (Sept. 2006) on how cities can be more "creative for the world" so that the energies of individuals and companies can be brought

into alignment with their global responsibilities and the follow up publication *"The Intercultural City (2007)"* which looks at ways of creatively marrying the diversity of urban spaces with the particular needs of the individual communities who make up our cities.

An informative questions and answers session was held where reflections included the need for Galway City to explore its own identity, its own niche and its own priorities for an extended thirty-year period.

RAPID/HSE Older People Funding

Galway City RAPID in conjunction with the HSE-West has secured €100,000 funding for small-scale health and community projects in RAPID areas.

Projects identified and endorsed by the RAPID Area Implementation Team (AIT) will be co-funded on a 50/50 basis by the RAPID Leverage Fund and the Health Service Executive.

The funding will support older people to play an active role in a range of local projects such as community gardening in Bohermore and Ballybane, while also supporting projects such as COPE Galway and Westside Age Inclusion to offer home supports to older people. The 7 projects are spread across all 5 RAPID areas of the city and range from providing home support services, transport support to organic gardening and community kitchen facilities.

At the launch held in Eyre Square on Monday the 13th of October Cllr. Terry O'Flaherty, Chair of the AIT, welcomed the funding as showing the RAPID programme's commitment to older people and the community groups that they are involved in.

RAPID/HSE Older
People Fund Recipients
and Themes



Bangladesh and South African Teams at the Intercultural Barbecue Competition

Galway City Intercultural Forum

Galway City Intercultural Forum was established by Galway City Community Forum and Galway City Partnership as part of the Galway City's Anti-Racism Strategy *"Towards A City of Equals"*.

The aim of the Intercultural Forum is to act as a representative voice for the many diverse cultures now living in the city, to provide a formal platform for intercultural dialogue and to increase the participation of immigrants and ethnic minorities in local development processes. In the past year the Intercultural Forum has held a series of meetings, developed a constitution, elected a Steering Group and elected a representative to the City Development Board's Community Development Group.

More than 25 organisations from the Intercultural Community in Galway City have already joined the Intercultural Forum, which organised a highly successful Intercultural Barbecue Competition on 28 June 2008 at the Spanish Arch. Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, John Gormley, TD, and Mayor of Galway City, Cllr. Pádraig Conneely officially opened the competition that saw the Spanish Arch transformed into a vibrant and colourful festival of cooking, music, entertainment and culture.

The event was very well received within the Intercultural Community and it is the Intercultural Forum's ambition to develop the event into an annual tradition like many of the other great cultural events in Galway.

Conclusion

Galway City Development Board is a body made up of representatives from local government, local development, the state sector operating locally and the social partners. Its work is defined by the Strategy and by its Priority Actions to be carried out by the Co-ordination Mechanisms comprised of representatives of various agencies and sectors.

As David Strauss emphasises, *"Collaboration offers a way for our democratic societies to move beyond the win-lose mechanisms of majority voting to develop more inclusive, win-win ways of solving problems and making decisions."*

Galway City Development Board and its Co-ordination Mechanisms is committed to working collaboratively towards achieving its vision: *"A city that people are proud to be part of, to work in, to live in and which is attractive to visitors and investors alike."*

2.1 Economic, Social and Cultural Goals

A City of enterprise, entrepreneurship, innovation, work and social partnership.

GOAL

Achievements since September 2007



- The WebWorks landmark building on Forster Street was opened and operational in 2008. The high spec building developed through a partnership of Galway City Council and Enterprise Ireland aims to provide a technology driven workspace to support innovation, creativity, networking and collaboration.
- Look West Media Campaign spearheaded by the Western Development Commission continued in 2008 aimed at supporting people to look to Galway and the West for employment and enterprise opportunities.
- The Ballybane Enterprise Centre has had a successful first year in operation with 13 units filled, 4 meeting room spaces in constant use and a 'hot-desk' facility to be launched.

Dr Chris Coughlan launching new www.egalway.biz website



Mayor Conneely with City Manager Joe MacGrath & ICT staff at launch of website



- E-Galway Sub-group update: The Mayor of Galway City, Cllr. Pádraig Conneely officially launched Galway City Council's new www.egalway.biz web portal in City Hall on Tuesday 8th July 2008. The aim of this web portal is to encourage the people and businesses of Galway to get online and embrace all that broadband and the Internet have to offer.

Some of the features of the new site include:

- Access to online services in Galway through the map-based search or the Quick Links section.
- Personalisable homepage allowing the user to tailor the page according to their preferences.
- Customisable web-parts including: a multiengine search feature, RSS feeds and various online services from one convenient location.
- Free three-page website offered to Galway businesses and services that do not already have an existing website.



• A free wifi service was launched in Eyre Square in July.

Mayor Conneely and the actor Diarmuid de Faoite playing famous Galway Writer Pádraic Ó Conaire launching WiFi access in Eyre Square.

- Forthcoming "Exhibition of History of Computing" in Galway City Museum.

Proposed Priority Actions for 2009-2012

- Prioritise redevelopment of the Economic Development Group as recommended under the Indecon Report.
- Task the Group with developing a series of actions/tasks relating to the economic issues facing Galway.
- Prioritise the importance of the E-Galway Sub-group and its tasks.

A City with employment opportunities for all.

GOAL

Achievements since September 2007

- Disability was highlighted as a priority by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government at the start of 2008 for all CDBs. Galway CDB requested that the Social Inclusion Group would build on their experience to ensure that disability was reflected in all sections of the CDB work.



Emerge Participant Starts a DVD Business

- Support to Ethnic Minorities in accessing employment/self employment: "Emerge - Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurs", a course for ethnic minority individuals who wish to

open their own business was run by Galway City Partnership from 2005 to 2007. Eight rotations were run throughout the period and 43 graduated, 20% opened businesses. This course is now mainstreamed into "Start Your Own Business" course run by Galway City Partnership.

A business course for Travellers was organised in July 2008 for six weeks. There were seven participants who completed the course.

The Local Employment Services Network (LESN) of Galway City Partnership also provides support to ethnic minorities including Travellers looking for jobs.

- The Social Inclusion Unit staff of Galway City Council were recruited in 2008. A Social Inclusion Officer and Research Analyst are in place within the general Community & Enterprise Office. The Unit will work to develop the capacity of Galway City Council to lead the initiative for assessing and promoting policies, projects and developing awareness designed to tackle the cause and effect of social exclusion and disadvantage across the range of their activities in a focused and cohesive manner, including working with other bodies, agencies and sectors.
- An employment day was held in the Eyre Square shopping centre where a range of local

employment support service providers offered information and guidance to people seeking employment or training.

- The Galway City Traveller Interagency Plan was developed and presented to the Social Inclusion Group and the City Development Board. The plan includes a list of actions to support employment opportunities and training for members of the Traveller Community. The Interagency Committee will continue to provide reports to the CDB.

- Galway City Intercultural Toolkit: The toolkit was launched in November 2006. It is implemented from one of the actions of Galway City Anti-Racism Strategy "Towards A City of Equals". It offers a concise guide to employers who wish to take advantages of the benefits of diversity in the workplace. In conjunction with Galway Chamber, copies were distributed to over 700 of the Chamber's members. A further 350 copies were distributed to other organisations and businesses.

Galway Chamber and Galway City Partnership are currently working on modalities to support businesses and organisations in the use of the toolkit.

Proposed Priority Actions for 2009-2012

- Galway City and County Childcare Committee: To endorse and monitor the implementation of Childcare Action Plans.
- Social Inclusion Group: Co-relate data and develop specific actions in response to current employment issues faced by marginalised groups in Galway.

Continue to develop Social Inclusion Research Catalogue & Galway City Atlas.

Monitor and measure outcomes in relation to Social Inclusion.

The Galway Bay Hotel and Claregalway Hotel used the toolkit to ensure their operations are diversity-friendly. Managers and staff underwent intercultural training and are required to use the intercultural symbol pin during working hours.

A centre of regional, sustainable tourism.

GOAL



Ireland's Yacht Green Dragon competing in Volvo Ocean Race

Galway is the number one domestic tourism destination in Ireland. It presents an attractive lively image, which motivate domestic visitors across the seasons. Events, lively night-life and access to the islands and country side provide the spur. The domestic market provides a lively scene for overseas visitors to share. Galway City is a wonderful weekend getaway, known affectionately as the city of festivals. World travellers visit Galway for its lively arts scene, wonderful youth culture, strong Gaelic culture and internationally acclaimed theatre companies.

Achievements since September 2007

"It is a significant day, not just for Galway, but for Ireland as a whole, to be involved with one of the biggest sporting events on the Globe"

Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, Martin Cullen, T.D. speaking at the press launch of the Volvo Ocean Race Stopover

"The stretch of the race from Boston is one of the most inhospitable places in the world, but what a wonderful thing to come to a place like Galway... the warmth, friendliness, outstanding hospitality, the stunning scenery and the humour which is so renowned in Ireland, we know is going to be a fantastic stopover"

Debbie Hadwin, Volvo Ocean Racing

- During the year Galway City was confirmed as one of the Stopovers in the Volvo Ocean Race. Other than the Ryder Cup, the Volvo Ocean Race Stopover is the biggest sporting event ever to take place in Ireland. The Volvo Ocean Race, formerly the Whitbread Race, is the world's premier round the world yacht race. It started in Alicante on October 11th where a large delegation from Galway which included members of Galway City Council, Galway Harbour Board, and Fáilte Ireland West were present. The race continues on to Kochi, Qindao, Rio, Boston, Galway, Goteburg, Stockholm and finally ending in St. Petersburg. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase what Galway can do, and Fáilte Ireland West together with Galway City Council, and all of the agencies are working very closely together to make the Galway stopover a success.



Green Dragon and Crew Members pictured in Alicante

The "Rat Race" involved an eclectic mix of runners, mountaineers, bikers, tri-athletes, and extreme sport junkies. In addition, it appealed to alternative city-break tourists and adventure racers from around the world.

The event which took place this year on September 6th 2008, was co-funded by Galway City Council was so successful that it will be run next year over a weekend in September.

- The development of the region as Ireland's primary outdoor and adventure destination continued, while focusing on environmental sustainability. A new initiative by Fáilte Ireland was to organise the first ever "Rat Race" in Ireland. The Rat Race is a team based urban adventure challenge that uses the urban landscape as its playground. Part physical and part mental challenge, the event is open to pairs and teams of three and sees competitors running, biking, kayaking, abseiling and navigating their way around the city on a course that is only revealed moments before they begin.



Competitors in "The Rat Race" 2008

Proposed Priority Actions for 2009-2012

- Develop and execute communications and publicity strategy to maximize international media exposure for Galway City and County in the lead up to and during the Volvo Ocean Race stopover in Galway.
- To continue the development of the region as the Outdoor and Adventure Capital of Ireland.
- Complete the Looped Walks initiative in Co. Galway.

A City with infrastructure to facilitate continuing economic development.

GOAL

Achievements since September 2007

- Galway Transport Unit commenced operations in early 2008. It is expected that this dedicated Unit will facilitate greater coordination of activities and will lead to optimum use of the infrastructure in the Galway City area.
- Significant upgrading of the Doughiska Road commenced in September 2008. On completion this initiative will provide new bus lay-bys at all existing bus stops, numerous controlled and uncontrolled crossings, a new taxi rank and new street lighting.



Lobby and Bus Parking bays at new Coach Station



The new coach terminal provides 14 bus bays with full waiting facility capable of meeting the needs of all modern coach sizes. Passengers and coaches are segregated and passengers have controlled access to buses. Electronic information boards are available in the foyer indicating bus arrival and departure times.



Dublin Road prior to new outward bus lane

- Capital works began in October 2008 on the provision of a new outbound bus lane on the Dublin Road. This project also includes road widening, which will be beneficial for cyclists. It is expected that on completion in January 2009 these measures will significantly reduce journey times along this route.

Proposed Priority Actions 2009-2012

- Implement short, medium and long-term measures needed to alleviate congestion.
- Develop Park and Ride facilities in the vicinity of the Headford Road, Tuam Road, and Barna/Knocknacarra area and implement bus priority measures aimed at improving traffic flows within the City.
- Monitor the implementation of the Barcelona Declaration.
- Develop adequate facilities for cyclists and pedestrians.
- Develop an Integrated Transport Plan.
- Take measures to alleviate congestion caused by school traffic.

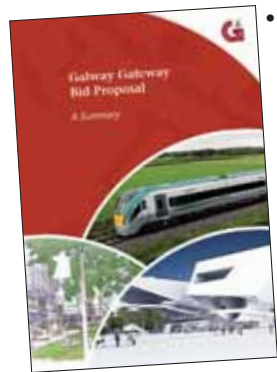
- A new state-of-the-art City Coach Station opened in Galway during 2008. This facility was very welcome, as research carried out by Galway City Council identified a specific need for coach spaces in order to accommodate inter-urban, commuter and touring coaches. In addition it is estimated that at the height of the tourist season an average of 25 coaches per day will use the new coach station.

Enhance the role of the City as a gateway for regional development.

GOAL

Achievements since September 2007

- Concept drawings and plans for the Ardaun Corridor were announced in late 2008. The current concept is that Ardaun will develop into a self-sustaining corridor, where opportunities for achieving a mix of uses will be maximised in order to contain journeys and travel and where it will be possible, owing to critical mass to have a dedicated public transport system. This will include for the facilitation of key road projects, promotion of rail options, bus priority measures, improvements for cycling and pedestrian facilities.



The Gateway Bid Proposal

- Collaboration: A Gateway Bid interagency group was formed in June 2007 comprising representation from Fáilte Ireland West, NUI, Galway, Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, Galway County Council, Galway City Council, Galway Chamber, Iarnród Éireann, Galway County and City Enterprise Board, West Regional Authority and Galway Mayo Institute of Technology. Meetings have been held aimed at developing collaboratively based decisions in relation to the Galway Gateway Bid Proposal. Applications were made for the following projects:

- Ardaun Town Centre, Urban Avenue and Bus/Cycle Carriageway
- City Centre Concert Hall/Conference Centre
- Double Rail Tracking Galway to Athenry

- The Western Development Commission throughout 2007/08 continued the "Look West" Programme with input from a range of local and regional agencies. The campaign included a media advertising, website, expo and seminar.

- 2008 marked the third anniversary of the LookWest.ie Expo, which was held in the Alexander Hotel, Merrion Square, Dublin. Over 500 people attended the expo with over 30 exhibitors participating at this year's event. Companies with current and future vacancies exhibited, as did a range of agencies such as the CDBs, Enterprise boards, Údarás etc.
- A new feature of the 2008 LookWest.ie Expo was the very successful seminar on "Locating your business in the Western Region". The seminar included presentations by the state agencies and local authorities that can help with business start-up i.e. WDC, Údarás na Gaeltachta, County Enterprise Boards and a presentation by one of the Region's companies that has availed of the various supports and is currently running a highly successful business in the West of Ireland.



L-R: Gillian Buckley CEO Western Development Commission, Theresa Connaire and Charles P Lynch, Galway County and City Enterprise Board, Michael D Higgins TD and Brenda Cunningham, Galway County Council

Proposed Priority Actions for 2009-2012

- To expedite the development of the Local Integrated Plan for the Ardaun Corridor.
- To ensure that social, recreational and educational facilities are included as key priorities in the development of the Ardaun Corridor.
- Implement Doughiska inter-agency plan.

A City that fosters civic pride and a sense of ownership, adopting participative decision-making models.

GOAL

Achievements since September 2007



Above: Mayor of the City of Galway, Tom Costello opening the Imagine Seminar

Right: Charles Landry addressing the Q&A section of the Imagine Seminar

The ideas, which Charles Landry generated, and the debate which he has started should stimulate Galway City Development Board and its members over the coming months as the Priority Actions for the next three years of the Board's work emerges.



- In March, Galway City Development Board was delighted to host a seminar featuring Charles Landry, one of the world's leading authorities on creativity and its use as a driver of sustainable and ethical urban development. Charles Landry looked at how city futures are shaped by paying attention to the culture of a place. In a wide ranging and stimulating illustrated talk, Landry created the opportunity to think about what sort of city we in Galway would like to see in the future. He suggested that we need to look thirty years into the future rather than at the next set of construction cranes that will populate Galway's skies. In response to questions from the packed audience he suggested Galway need not compete with Dublin (or other cities), rather the CDB should concentrate on its own 'niche' and be the best city for the world that it can be.

- The Mayor's Youth Conference 2008 - MYC'08 - took place in Galway City Museum on Saturday, 24th May. Under the patronage of Cllr. Tom Costello, Mayor of the City of Galway, the theme of this year's conference was "The Creative and Intercultural City". Young people were drawn from across the city. It involved open space technology where the young people set their own agenda for the day and worked together to express their views in a creative way. The event also hosted the first screening of a documentary on public transport, "Where Have All The Buses Gone?" made by the Comhairle na nÓg Youth Council earlier in the Spring.
- Children's Day in Galway was held in Eyre Square on the 22nd of June as part of National Play Day.
- Comhairle na nÓg Cathrach na Gaillimhe received funding to carry out an enhanced programme of activities which will expand the membership and will engage more with GCDB and its co-ordination mechanisms.

- The Doughiska Inter-Agency Group remains in place with a remit to develop structures designed to address social issues and community infrastructure in Doughiska. A successful application was made for the Doughiska Family Resource Centre.
- The Mayor's Awards 2007 were presented at the Black Box Theatre on the 22nd of January '08. More than 80 individual and groups were nominated with a sub-group of the Community Development Group and the Mayor having the task of assessing nominations and picking winners of 6 categories.



Mayor of the City of Galway, Tom Costello presents James Harris with overall Volunteer of the Year Award '07

Proposed Priority Actions for 2009-2012

- Develop a centralised database on the level of Community and Voluntary Supports.
- Social Inclusion Unit to undertake an audit of the Community and Voluntary Sector to establish range of activities and funding streams.
- Facilitate local involvement in the management of Community and Recreational Activities.
- Establish a working group to look at management needs and opportunities for Community Buildings.
- Annual Reports of agencies and organisations to include advances made in supporting participative decision making.
- An explicit request to each member and sector on CDB to include number and type of consultation events in their Annual Reports.

The Community Festivals Grants Scheme was organised for the third time. A range of community groups and residents associations were successful in seeking funding to develop their initiatives. These included - Mervue Festival Committee, Westside Arts Festival, Tirellan Residents' Association, Ballybane Community Forum, Sif Búrca Voluntary Mgmt Committee, Ard Álainn Residents' Association, Ballinfolle Family Services, Ballybane Intercultural Festival Committee.

A Learning City – where all people have opportunities to learn new skills, and participate in educational and personal development activities throughout their life.

GOAL

Incredible Years Puppets



Achievements since September 2007

- Galway City Partnership, in conjunction with local pre-school and schools, co-ordinates the Incredible Years Programme in Galway City. The Incredible Years Programme is a Community Response to Young People with Emotional & Behavioural Difficulties which works with the Child, Parent, Pre-School, School and Community involved. The programme began in Galway City in 2006 and is now operating in four pre-schools and three schools.
- Buntús - Galway City Sports Partnership trained three tutors to deliver the Buntús Play and Buntús Spóirt programme to schools throughout the city.

- Six schools have so far taken on the Buntús Play and Buntús Spóirt programmes. To date over 100 teachers have received the training catering for nearly 2000 children in the City's primary schools. In addition to the training the schools received approximately €6,000 worth of child centred equipment.
- The Eastside and Westside School Completion Programmes (SCP) continue to bring together schools, parents and agencies to work together to target students who may be in danger of leaving school early. The SCPs have continued to work closely with the Galway City Partnership to link in the development of the Incredible Years Programme.

Proposed Priority Actions for 2009-2012

- To explore issues relating to Early School Leaving.
- Ongoing work of Galway City Partnership Incredible Years Programme to be supported.

Caroline Murray, Camoige Development Officer giving skills tips to young FunxFour participants



A City that is accessible to all.

GOAL

Achievements since September 2007

- Since the Barcelona Declaration was adopted in 2002 and the Disability Act was introduced in 2005 Galway City Council has been working to provide a statutory framework for the delivery of its objectives.
- Development of a Disability Act Implementation Plan has been achieved in 2008 for the implementation of the objectives.
- Actions under the Implementation plan are ongoing including improvement works in tactile paving junction crossings, accessibility to buildings, car parking etc.
- A seminar was held on "Promoting Accessible Sport in Galway". It was well attended and will ensure that the issues of people with disabilities are taken on board in the preparation of the Galway City Sport Partnership's Sports Strategy.
- A Social Inclusion Networking Event was held in Dec '07 in the Menlo Park Hotel. The event was part exhibition, part seminar to allow for organisations and individuals in the disability sector to share information.

- Galway City Council developed a communications strategy. It was agreed at the Social Inclusion Group that this strategy would be used as a starting point to developing common communication policies for all agencies on the CDB.
- Access for All has been working on an Audit of Bus Éireann Services in Galway City in 2008. The work will be completed in & complement the development of the Galway City Access Map.

Proposed Priority Actions 2009-2012

- Co-relate data and develop specific actions in response to current employment issues faced by marginalised groups in Galway.
- Monitor and measure outcomes in relation to Social Inclusion.
- To meet the needs of the disabled and improve accessibility for all in Galway City.

L-R: Mr. Jack Callanan, Galway Centre for Independent Living, Ms. Rebecca Leavy, Galway Advocacy Service, Ms. Eithne Barrett, Access Project Officer, Galway City Council, Mr. David Barry, Changing Minds Project, Cllr. Colette Connolly, Chairperson of the Galway City Development Board at the Social Inclusion Networking Event



Evelyn Conroy signing at Networking Event

A healthy and safe City.

GOAL



Above: Sean Silke, Chairperson, and Jason Craughwell, Co-ordinator, Galway City Sports Partnership pictured at the launch of the Partnership in Eyre Square

Middle: A talent for the future demonstrating his soccer skills at the launch

Right: In the hunt for the ball

Achievements since September 2007

- Galway City Sports Partnership (GCSP) held its official launch on 26th May 2008 in Eyre Square. Activity and sports groups were given the opportunity to provide information about themselves, their activities and upcoming events. Many of these groups attended the launch, displaying the skills of their sport, from a fun and relaxed mat bowling to the strength and flexibility of gymnastics all sorts of sports were on show.
- 3 Code of Ethics and Good Practice in Children's Sport tutors trained. 10 Code of Ethics courses provided throughout the year. A wide variety of sporting organisations and individuals participated in the training. In 2008 over 150 people received this training.



Nuala Ní Chadhain, Connacht Rugby, Aoibheann Daly, Galway Ladies Gaelic Football, Caroline Murray, Galway Camogie and Sinead McCormack, FAI at the launch of Fun X Four programme.

- Fun X Four was a new GCSP initiative has seen girls from the ages of 9 to 14 years given the chance to experience four different sports (Gaelic football, Rugby, Soccer and Camogie) in a fun way. The course was run in Westside, Ballinfoile, Ballybane and Renmore. IRFU Connacht Branch, Ladies Gaelic Football Association and Cumann Camógaíochta na hÉireann were GCSP partners in this programme. Over 80 girls took part in the programme with more than 40 attending the grand final in Renmore Community Centre on Saturday 26th July.

- Galway City Sports Partnership trained three tutors to deliver the Buntús Play and Buntús Spóirt programme to schools throughout the city. Six schools have so far taken on the Buntús Play & Buntús Spóirt programmes. To date over 100 teachers have received the training catering for nearly 2000 children in the City's primary schools. In addition to the training the schools received approximately €6,000 worth of child centred equipment.
- Support Summer Hoops Programme run by Titans Basketball Club, which catered for over 360 young people over the summer months. 78% of participants were from disadvantaged areas.
- Teamed up with Galway United in supporting "Many Voices, One Goal" initiative and "Show Racism the Red Card" to promote interculturalism through sport.
- Co-operated with the FAI Intercultural Officer, Des Tomlinson and FAI Community Development Officer, Jim Noone in organising and running a Club Open Day (young children) and Intercultural blitz (older teenagers) in Mervue Football Club.
- Supported FAI Intercultural volunteer programme. 14 volunteers were trained as coaches and linked to community groups and clubs in order to promote participation in soccer among ethnic minorities.
- Promotion and development of Galway as an Age Friendly City including participation in positive ageing week.



Representatives from each Galway stadia receiving a plaque to recognise their commitment to the European Healthy Stadia programme

- Galway Healthy Cities project have taken a lead role in the pilot "European Healthy Stadia" programme representing Ireland along with seven other countries. The Galway City stadia involved are Pearse Stadium Galway; Connacht Rugby; Galway Greyhound Stadium; Salthill Devon FC; Galway United FC; Mervue United FC and Galway Bay Sailing Club.
- Support and funding of organic gardens in Ballybane and Westside. Also, organised cookery lessons for participants which were provided by Home Management, HSE West and hosted by GMIT.



Joe Sice, HSE West, Inspector Ernie White and Fiona Donovan, Galway Healthy Cities Coordinator promote the use of day time running lights for safety

- Promotion of safety in partnership with An Garda Síochána, HSE West and Galway City Council through the distribution of over 4,500 flashing lights during Mobility Week 2008. A campaign raising awareness of using day time running lights for cars was ran.
- Inclusion of Health Impact Assessment on the Headford Road Framework Plan.
- Completion of comprehensive Galway Health & Well-being survey with responses from 587 people in Galway City on various social, lifestyle and environmental issues.
- Ongoing communication with the public and agencies through distribution of monthly Galway Healthy Cities eNews and eCalendar, development and promotion of Healthy Cities website www.galwayhealthycities.ie and the use of local and national media.



Deirdre and Liz taking part in healthy eating cookery courses

Proposed Priority Actions 2009-2012

- Develop and implement Healthy Cities plan based on the findings of the Galway City Health & Well-Being Survey.
- Continue to support the Ballybane and Westside Organic Gardens and contribute to the expansion of the organic garden to other city areas.
- Promote awareness of the Galway Healthy Cities project and develop key partnerships.
- Develop and promote safety initiatives throughout the city.
- Undertake Health Impact Assessment (HIA) project and develop HIA capacity.
- Continue to be innovative and creative in developing projects aimed at enhancing all the determinants of health.
- Create innovative actions for health that emphasises the interaction between people, environment, lifestyles and health.
- Promote healthy urban environment and design.
- Increase access and participation opportunities in physical activity.
- Support sports clubs and recreational groups through locally based training and education.
- Promote a sustainable strategic approach to the development, access and usage of amenity infrastructure in Galway City.
- Sustain an effective Galway City Sports Partnership.

Playground markings were completed in 17 schools throughout Galway City. The playground markings aim to encourage children to increase physical activity by engaging in traditional style games like Hopscotch.

A City which provides a range of high quality housing and accommodation in an attractive environment at affordable levels.

GOAL



Sif Burca Housing Estate

Achievements since September 2007

- Two housing schemes were completed incorporating 146 units on the Eastside of Galway City.
- The refurbishment works on Carrowbrowne Transient Halting Site are proceeding on schedule. It is expected that they will be completed by December 2008.
- Continued improvement to existing housing stock through our refurbishment works, central heating, window replacement and planned maintenance programmes.
- The Homeless Action Plan 2007-2010 was finalised and approved by Galway City Development Board and Galway City Council.
- The Homeless Day Centre in Westside House, Galway was opened on a pilot basis in 2007 and has proven to be very successful. The facility is well utilised and well accepted by the community as a whole. The project is currently being reviewed to determine the need for a permanent day centre.

Na Blátha Craige Housing Estate



- A conference entitled "First Contact" was held in Galway in April 2008 and was attended by over ninety delegates. The conference explored the subject of how the first contact the homeless person has with any agency can be a key determinant on their pathway out of homelessness.
- The Estate Management Strategy was progressed to council during the year. The Strategy was developed through the involvement of the Estate Management Liaison team, RAPID and various residents associations throughout the city.
- The Estate Management team continued to create links, provide training and support to Residents' Associations. The Liaison Officers were involved in various RAPID committees and in the delivery of a number of community festivals and events supported by the CDB.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Implement the recommendations of the Homelessness Action Plan 2007-2010.
- Complete the planned refurbishment of Carrowbrowne Transient Halting Site.
- Finalise the review of the Homeless Day Centre.
- Implement the provisions of the new government strategy "The Way Home, a strategy to address adult homelessness in Ireland 2008-2013".
- Continue the advancement of the Housing Capital Programme.
- Adopt a new Traveller Accommodation Plan for 2009 – 2013.
- Implementation of Estate Management Strategy.

Be a vibrant friendly City which is a stronghold of Gaelic and Celtic culture while embracing other cultures.

GOAL

Achievements since September 2007

- Galway City Intercultural Forum was established by Galway City Community Forum and Galway City Partnership as part of Galway City's Anti-Racism Strategy "Towards A City of Equals".
- 8 Intercultural Forum meetings have been held in the past year. More than 25 groups and organisations from the Intercultural Community in Galway City have joined the Intercultural Forum. The Intercultural Forum has developed a constitution, and elected a Steering Group and a representative to Galway City Development Board's Community Development Group. The Intercultural Forum is in the process of completing an operational plan, outlining the priorities for the coming year.
- An Intercultural Barbecue Competition was held on 28 June 2008 at the Spanish Arch, which was the first major event to be organised by the Intercultural Forum.

Mayor of the City of Galway, Cllr. Pádraig Conneely with Sergio Cofferati, Mayor of Bologna, at the Annual Conference of the European Coalition of Cities against Racism



- The annual conference of the European Coalition of Cities against Racism was held in Bologna in September 2008 and was attended by the Mayor of Galway, Cllr. Pádraig Conneely, and representatives from Galway City Council and Galway City Partnership. A joint presentation was given on the implementation of the 10-point plan.

- Galway City Partnership and The Equality Authority launched the "Breaking Stereotypes" exhibition at the Town Hall Theatre, as part of the EU information campaign "For Diversity, Against Discrimination".
- The "Show Racism The Red Card" initiative was taken to a number of City Schools by Galway United in collaboration with Galway City Partnership and Galway Refugee Support Group. The initiative will be continued next year.
- An Coiste Logainmneacha in association with Galway City Council named 6 new housing estates in Irish in Galway City, including An Doirín, Coillte Mhuirinne, Cúirt na Gaoithe and Tobar na mBan.



Diarmuid O'Connor and Sandra De Buittéir, The Warwick Hotel and the first Winners of Gradam Sheosaimh Uí Ógartaigh, Charles Lynch, Galway City and County Enterprise Board who developed the Séala in partnership with Gaillimh le Gaeilge, and Peter Allen, President of Galway Chamber at the launch of "Séala Sheosaimh Uí Ógartaigh" in the Galway Chamber Offices

- "Séala Sheosaimh Uí Ógartaigh" was launched, a "Q Mark" for the Irish Language in Galway City.
- Corrib Removals & Storage was awarded Gradam Sheosaimh Uí Ógartaigh. The aim of this award is to recognise companies and organisations, which have incorporated the Irish language into their daily business and by doing so, have contributed to the promotion of Galway as the Bilingual Capital of Ireland.



Prionséas Ó hÓgartaigh, Siobhán Feeney, Corrib Removals, Winner of Gradam Sheosaimh Uí Ógartaigh, An tAire Éamon Ó Cuív T.D. and Caitlín Nic an Ultaigh, Cathaoirleach Ghailimh le Gaeilge.

Be a vibrant friendly City which is a stronghold of Gaelic and Celtic culture while embracing other cultures (cont'd).

Éamon Doyle, Máire Nic Dhonnacha, Park House Hotel, Mayor of Galway, Tom Costello and Anna Farrell, Fáilte Ireland at the launch of "Gaeilge agus Fáilte"



- The 'Gaeilge agus Fáilte' scheme was launched. "Gaeilge agus Fáilte" comprises of desk pieces and window stickers, which highlight the fact there is a service available in Irish in a particular business in Galway City.
- Gaillimh le Gaeilge provided the service 'Gaeilge sa Ghnó' to 10 businesses during 2008. The service is designed to guide companies through the process of adapting some or all of their business to bilingualism.
- A meeting was held with the relevant Irish Language agencies in Galway City, Galway City Council and with the Department of Community Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs in relation to the development of an Irish Language & Cultural Centre in the City.
- A meeting was held with the Mayor of Galway, Cllr. Tom Costello, Department of Community Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs, Galway City Council and Gaillimh le Gaeilge in relation to progressing Galway's request for Official Bilingual Status for Galway City.
- A Review of Gaillimh le Gaeilge's Strategy 2006-2008 and a list of Priority Actions 2009 – 2012 for Gaillimh le Gaeilge was completed. These Priority Actions represents a new phase of development and opportunity for Galway City to take real and precise action in securing Galway's future as a bilingual city.
- The first draft of "Stádas Oifigiúil Dhátheangach - Cén Fáth Gaillimh?" was completed. The document is an audit all the advantages and opportunities that Galway City has to offer in relation to the Irish Language with a view to strengthening the city's request for Official Bilingual Status for the city.

Proposed Priority Actions 2009-2012

- Promote Interculturalism through:
 - (1) Review of the Galway "Towards A City of Equals" Anti-racism Strategy
 - (2) The development of a follow on Integration Strategy
- Include in the Integration Strategy for Galway City inputs from all relevant stakeholders, including the Intercultural Forum.
- Promote Interculturalism through a number of activities, including an Intercultural Festival and Barbecue Competition.
- Work to promote voter registration and active citizen participation among the Intercultural Community.
- Identify the vision of a bilingual Galway.
- Facilitate bilingualism through key organisations.
- Strengthen the "Bilingual Galway" brand.
- Develop a Centre for Irish language and culture.

GOAL

Protect and revitalise our built heritage, while embracing change.

Achievements since September 2007

Many of the works carried out are actions of the City Heritage Plan 2006-2011.

- The Terryland Castle Conservation works are continuing. Archaeological work has been grant aided by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. This project involves making the ruin safe to facilitate public access by 2009.
- Repairs to the gateway of Menlo Castle were carried out during the year. It is intended that the re-plastering works will continue into 2009.
- Conservation Works continue on the Doughiska Castle site and it is expected that the project will be completed by early 2009.
- The Mutton Island Conservation Works are on going at present and it is expected that they will be completed by mid 2009.

- Two Walled Towns Plaques were erected and unveiled during 2008. These plaques identify and commemorate Galway's ancient fortifications.
- In addition to the above projects, a total of twelve privately owned protected structures were grant-aided during 2008.

Proposed Priority Actions 2009-2012

- Continue the implementation of the Galway City Heritage Plan.
- Complete the Walled Towns Plaque project.



Menlo Castle

Preserve and enhance the natural environment.

GOAL

Renovated wall and new footpath along Eglinton Canal



Achievements since September 2007

- The final phase of the works on the eastern conduit i.e. waterways from Jury's to NewtownSmith were completed by the Office of Public Works in 2008. This represents the complete refurbishment of the eastern conduit including desilting, repointing and repair of stonework and general remediation of the waterway system. The works were carried out in three phases over recent years with the principal works being carried out by the Office of Public Works with assistance from Galway City Council and the Western Regional Fisheries Board.
- The Lough Corrib Navigation Trustees received a grant from Fáilte Ireland in 2007 for improvement of the Eglinton Canal. The allocation was made under the Tourism Development Fund and Galway City Council through the Lough Corrib Navigation Trustees provided matching funding. The improvement works included, upgrading of boundary stone walls, towpaths and railings. Landscaping and street lighting was also included in works.

- Members of the Natural Environment and Waterways Group submitted a number of funding applications aimed at revitalising the waterways of the City. This was in response to a call for funding proposals issued by Fáilte Ireland, which were aimed at strengthening the product base on offer to visitors. In September 2008 Fáilte Ireland confirmed funding in the region of (c. €238,000) for enhancement works on the Salmon Weir Bridge.

Proposed Priority Actions 2009-2012

- Continue the development and implementation of a Waterways Strategy incorporating a programme of maintenance works.
- Progress and complete Green Mapping.
- Create and protect Wildlife Corridors.
- Support and advance a community owned marina and other appropriate activities in the Claddagh Basin.
- Maximise the use of our waters for water-sport activities.



Left: Ongoing maintenance and cleanup of Waterways

Right: Results of cleanup of canal

Develop as a City of arts and culture – where all people can participate in and have access to artistic and cultural pursuits at affordable levels.

GOAL



The Blue Dogs sculpture by Artist Declan Breen in An Sean Bhaile, Doughiska

Achievements since September 2007

- Enhancing and developing Galway's cultural and intellectual resources the City Arts Office presented

a sequence of both time-based and permanent public art projects under the *Per Cent for Art* initiative including "The Blue Dogs" by Declan Breen in Sean Bhaile, Doughiska; "Strata" by Joy Gerrard at Galway City Museum, the celebrated community film-maker Mick Fortune in Fána Búrca and a combined artform collaboration with Macnas and Galway Film Centre in Bohermore. Award-winning visual artist Megs Morley has been appointed Public Art Officer on the Arts Office staff.

- Galway participated for the first time in the Government's "Culture Night" initiative. Working with the city's artists and culture organisations the City Arts Office programmed and co-ordinated events in 19 venues throughout the city, featuring hundreds of performers and several thousands of participants and viewers. Designed to encourage newcomers to culture the entire programme was free, friendly and interactive.
- Engaging with the major cultural potential of Galway City Museum the City Arts Office programmed innovative partnership visual arts residencies with artists Louise Manifold and Edith Pieperhoff. Through art history, folk tales and séance the first residency interrogated the concept of collections, interpretations and narratives in the context of Galway's "Daly Collection of Historic Art"; the second examined notions of memory and loss in the iconic Claddagh neighbourhood, mediated through a contemplation of the Franciscan "Book of the Dead", sanctified by time and art as a holograph record of those lost in the Great Famine in Galway.



"Heaven and Earth" artwork by Louise Manifold, Artist in Residence at Galway City Museum

- The City Arts Office engaged in an integrated programme of arts residencies, collaborations, partnerships and projects with *inter alia* the University Hospitals Arts Trust, the Galway Ensemble-in-Residence, the Galway Traveller Movement, NUI Galway, Ballybane Community Resource Centre, Galway Civic Trust, the City Library Service, the African community, the Art School of GMIT, the City's Active Retirement Associations and the Amicable Society of Galway Chamber and many more.
- The City Arts Office published "Galway, City of Strangers", as part of the writer in residence initiative. Edited by award-winning poet Michael O'Loughlin and featuring testimonies of immigrant and emigrant Galwegians it was widely acclaimed both as a major contribution to the city's literature and as a major insight into the intercultural life of this welcoming city.

- In its role as a research, development and advice resource for artists, arts organisations and the entire city, the Arts Office is engaged on a key Cultural Strategy to deliver high quality art experiences for all whilst providing meaningful support for the city's remarkable cohort of creative artists. Complementing the City Council's own capital programme and recognising the key importance of culture for the city's economy and reputation, it is intended that the development of a number of major sites in the city will feature a substantial cultural presence as envisaged in the current City Development Plan.

Proposed Priority Actions 2009-2012

- To develop actions in support of Galway as a Creative City.
- To develop a School of Music in Galway including conducting a feasibility and business plan.

Galway City Arts Office continued to enhance its comprehensive programme of artists in residence. Addressing art form and audience development through capacity building, working with the professional, amateur and community sector, dancer Tanya McCrory, writer Michael O'Loughlin, musician John Faulkner, movement specialist Bernadette Divilly and theatre artist Little John Nee facilitated innovative professional production whilst addressing creativity resources and options amongst the city neighbourhoods and communities.

2.2 Revitalising Areas Through Planning, Investment and Development (RAPID)

RAPID (Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development) is a focused Government initiative to target the 45 most disadvantaged urban areas.

RAPID aims to:

- Increase the investment made by Government departments and state agencies in the 45 communities
- Improve the delivery of public services through integration and co-ordination
- Enhance the opportunities for communities to participate in the strategic improvement of their areas

GALWAY City was awarded RAPID status under Strand II (Provincial Towns) of the programme in February 2002 and five areas within the City have been selected (Ballybane, Ballinboile, New Mervue, Westside & Bohermore). RAPID is implemented locally by a cross-sectoral Area Implementation Team (AIT) and is supported by a RAPID Co-ordinator.



Launch of Ballinboile Directory
L-R Michelle Moran, Caroline Doyle, Helen Waters, Minister Éamon Ó Cuív, T.D., Cllr Colette Connolly, Liam Hanrahan

Achievements since September 2007

2008 saw the start of a new Strategic Plan process for RAPID. 7 core themes are in the process of being rolled out with agencies appointed to oversee their areas of responsibility. The RAPID AIT, Co-ordinator and the Gardai have developed the Community Safety theme. In conjunction with the HSE the Health theme has been rolled out. Family support has been jointly developed. Education (VEC) and Physical Environment (Galway City Council) are currently being developed.

Funding

Up until October 2008 a total of 20 projects had been developed through the RAPID Project list/endorsement process. Financially this totals €555,000.

In 2008 the 18 projects across all areas targeting social and economic activities were supported to draw down their RAPID 'Additionality' funding and to begin work on their programme of activities

A number of Sports Capital Programme applications were successful from within the RAPID area and this includes a 30% RAPID top up.

Galway City RAPID and the HSE successfully supported 7 projects through the Health Fund for Older People and this funding was granted to a total of €100,000.

Economic Development/Enterprise

Ongoing work was undertaken with the Ballybane Enterprise Centre towards the development of the Centre. A total of 13 units were filled, along with the hot-desk facility and four meeting rooms. A RAPID grant towards the development of Mentoring services and a 'hot desk facility' was drawn down and support services are being developed for clients based on their needs.

The RAPID Co-ordinator also took on the role of board member of Fiontarlann Teo Enterprise Units in the Westside and has begun to develop a support and monitoring role for the Le Chéile/Westside Units also.



Ballybane Community Organic Garden Project Volunteers



Ballybane Garden in full Bloom

Examples of Community Initiatives

- The Area based forums held a meeting in September '08 to discuss cross-city issues. All forums attended and it was agreed that a cross-city forum would be held again in 2009.
- The Ballybane Organic Garden has expanded in size, doubling its area and now includes both morning and evening sessions. A variety of events and training opportunities including Fetac training are now on offer.
- Plan for a community garden in Bohermore are well on track with a site allocated, funding secured and a group working closely with the Tenant Liaison Officer and Community Development Project.
- A successful VEC adult education course was offered in Ballinboile on horticulture as part of the community gardens initiative. The training concentrated on gardening in an urban setting.
- A Graffiti Removal Project in the RAPID areas was re-launched in September '08.

Proposed Priority Actions 2009-2012

- A key target for 2009 will be the implementation of the RAPID Strategic Themes Plan. This will include ongoing work on the implementation plans and the development of the education, physical environment, employment/training and youth themes.
- Locally RAPID has committed to holding bi-annual cross-city meetings with the various area forums.
- To continue to attract funding and investment opportunities into the 5 RAPID areas. In order to achieve this RAPID is committed to using the local endorsement process to ensure quality applications & co-ordination of applications locally.
- To support the ongoing mentoring of clients in the Enterprise Centres.
- Provide ongoing support and planning to the FAI Development Officer in the RAPID areas.
- To continue to play an active role within the City Development Board & the Social Inclusion Group and to ensure that the RAPID areas are represented in actions undertaken by the CDB.
- To promote the 5 RAPID areas within the context of the overall development of Galway City through engaging with all agencies on the AIT & the CDB.

2.3 Galway City Community Forum 2007-2008

The Galway City Community Forum (GCCF) was established to act as a representative, collective voice for the community and voluntary sector in Galway. The Forum seeks to engage as an equal and independent partner within the areas of social partnership and develop policies, which feed into the work of the Galway City Development Board (GCDB). Represented on the GCDB and other local development bodies, the Forum participates in the social, economic and cultural development of the city.

This year, 24 new groups registered with the Forum bringing the total membership to 195 organisations. Groups are involved in community activities concerning a wide range of issues including anti-disadvantage; active retirement; counselling; art and culture; disability; education; enterprise; environment; heritage; housing and homelessness; migrants; residents' interests; youth; sports and recreation.

Achievements since September 2007

- Organised a series of meetings over the course of the year, including 1 Annual General meeting; 4 Quarterly meetings; 8 Steering Group meetings; 8 Intercultural Forum meetings; 2 representatives meetings and a number of sub-group meetings.
- Provided support to GCCF representatives on the City Development Board and its 13 Co-ordination Mechanisms; 5 Strategic Policy Committees; the Joint Policing Committee; the Western Alliance and the Western Regional Drugs Taskforce.
- Worked to implement the GCCF Strategy Plan 2006-2008 and initiated a review procedure, which will lead to completion of a new Strategy Plan for 2009-2011. The new Strategy Plan will be launched ahead of the local elections in 2009.
- Established and consolidated Galway City Intercultural Forum together with Galway City Partnership. The Intercultural Forum now has more than 25 registered groups from within the Intercultural Community in Galway City, a constitution, an elected Steering Group and a representative on the City Development Board's Community Development Group.
- Made a submission to Galway City Council's *Draft Arts Development Plan 2008-2011*. A number of issues and concerns are raised in the submission, most importantly the need for much improved consultation and engagement with the local arts and community sector in the development and implementation of the Arts Plan. GCCF recommends that Galway City Council secure external support from experienced arts consultants to complete the development of the draft Arts Plan and that the process for completing the Arts Plan should incorporate an open public consultation process.
- Published 4 issues of the Forum magazine "*Tribe Vibes*", which has been distributed citywide, as well as maintaining a website that gives access to newsletters, reports of Forum activities, and a database of Forum members, and provides information on meetings.

Intercultural Barbecue
Organising Committee
with the Minister for the
Environment, Heritage and
Local Government,
John Gormley, T.D.,
Mayor of Galway City,
Cllr. Pádraig Conneely, and
Cllr. Niall Ó Brolcháin

