



Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council

City News

News from Galway City Council – Spring 2007

What you can find in this document:

- City museum exhibitions
- Community matters
- City matters
- Housing Scheme
- Recycling
- Development matters
- Contact details of Galway City Council



Issue 1

Welcome

Welcome to the 1st edition of Galway City Council's Newsletter. The aim of this Newsletter is to inform the people of Galway about some of the activities of Galway City Council, from recent planning approvals to waste management to the opening of the new Galway City Council Museum.

The Newsletter will be distributed to homes in Galway City and the Council hopes that you will find the publication both informative and useful.

Any feedback would be appreciated, should you wish to fill our feedback form on page 20 and return it addressed to *Galway City Council Newsletter, City Hall, College Road, Galway.*

Also, don't forget to encourage the kids to complete the crossword on the Children's Corner in order to be in with a chance to win €20.

Galway City Museum Launches Permanent Exhibition

Galway City Museum will reopen on the 16th April with the launch of its permanent exhibition. Among the highlights on show will be a rare 17th century altar piece, the new location of the statue of Pádraig Ó Conaire and the Galway City Hooker boat, named 'Máirtín Oliver' by the public.

The museum will house three floors of exhibits and information panels, relating the story of Galway from medieval times to the modern day. The building, designed by the OPW, has won numerous architectural awards and has attracted great praise for the manner in which it incorporates the surrounding beauty of the Claddagh and the Spanish Arch into the overall design of the Museum.

The ground floor will tell the story of contemporary Galway, with special emphasis on the role that the arts play in the →



→ city. The first floor will bring medieval Galway alive in a very contemporary way, while the second floor will house an exhibition on the Claddagh village, from post famine times to the early part of the last century.

Touring exhibitions and loaned exhibitions from other galleries will also be hosted at Galway City Museum throughout the year. The first notable loan will come via the Paris Kahn Museum, with a collection of photographs of Galway and in particular the Claddagh, from the early 1900's. This exhibition will be on display from June until September 2007.

The museum will also house temporary exhibitions from local artists and from community groups. Among these, will be an exhibition from the Wood Turners Guild of Galway. They will present objects crafted from some of the trees that used to be in Eyre Square.

Another feature of Galway City Museum will be a 'living heritage' programme. Throughout the year the Museum aims to afford people an opportunity to avail of seminars, talks, and performances. The City Council intends that the museum will interact with schools and community groups. In addition, it will

also act as a venue for certain events, such as the opening of the Cúirt Festival, which takes place on the 24th April.

The museum will be free of charge to the public. It is the City Council's desire that the people of Galway would see the building as a place with which to interact on a cultural level. The building affords historical societies, community groups, arts groups, and others an opportunity of holding talks, workshops, and book launches or any such event that highlights local history, heritage or tradition. Groups considering the building for this purpose can contact the museum at 091 536464.

An ideal location for lunch or coffee after your visit is the museum's restaurant. Open throughout the week it enjoys a wonderful setting in the Spanish Arch Courtyard. The museum's restaurant will hold books on donation from the public. Books to be donated can be left at the reception of the museum, and must include a special inscription on the inside cover.

Summer opening hours are Monday-Sunday 10.00am - 5.00pm from 1st June-30th September.

Winter opening hours are Tuesday-Saturday 10.00am-5.00pm from 1st October-31st May.



Galway City Delegates to Dáil na nÓg held recently in Croke Park Dublin left to right Adam Davis Chris Maloney Fíodhna Horan Murphy Martin Cleary and Ross Rooney

Community and Enterprise

One of the newer departments within Galway City Council is Community & Enterprise which was established in 1999. Among its functions is to support Galway City Development Board and is also involved in the wider area of community development and social inclusion. One of the areas in which the department is involved is to support the involvement of children and young people in decision-making in the city. In conjunction with City of Galway VEC, Galway City Partnership and Galway Voluntary Youth Council, Galway City Council has been engaging teenagers from across the city in Comhairle na nÓg Cathrach na Gaillimhe - The Forum for Young People in Galway City since 2001. As well as organising three or four meetings annually and supporting the organising group of young people themselves, Comhairle na nÓg nominates delegates to Dáil na nÓg annually and has run European projects. The Comhairle members are currently preparing for the second Mayor's Youth Conference to be held on 24th April in the Galway Bay Hotel, Salthill.

One of the young people who is a member of Comhairle na nÓg is Fíodhna Horan-Murphy from Coláiste na Coiribe and she recounts below her experience of Comhairle na nÓg.

"Have you ever thrown a filthy look at a gang of teenagers 'up to no good'?"

Were they doing anything illegal or did you just presume?

Teenagers are known as loud, selfish, hormonal beings. Some of those traits may be true occasionally but come on, we can hardly be horrible 24/7! Some adults have given us "moan-ey" teens a chance and we are now giving something back to our community.

Comhairle na nÓg is one such venture. The purpose of Comhairle na nÓg is to create genuine and inclusive participation of young people in decision making and local democracy. The Galway City Comhairle na nÓg also facilitates representatives to attend the Dáil na nÓg annually. But that's just a definition. C na nÓg is where you can go to speak your mind and, 'actually' be heard. With meetings once a month or so, our Comhairle committee has had a strong hand in organising youth events across the city.

A few years ago a troop of skater dudes showed up demanding a skate park, when they finally received a gift in the form of Millennium Park they left the Comhairle decidedly happy. That is just one example of how Comhairle can make a difference. It's about attitude and determination and believe me - there's plenty of both at our meetings!!

Generally we have a good gang at our meetings with a few newcomers every time, and the buzz in City Hall of a Saturday morning is something else. The fact of the matter is - teenagers like helping others, however they just get frustrated when nothing gets done despite their hardest efforts.

Last year I had the honour of being a member of the Mayor's Youth Conference organising committee and it was a real experience. Grainne O'Byrne was our fabulous head-organiser and the amount of work we all did was incredible; things as simple as booking the Radisson and deciding on the colour scheme to organising the evening's entertainment, finding DJs and venues and arranging parental permission slips. All our hard work payed off though and the conference was a huge success. And ladies and gentlemen we're doing it all again this year - with a green theme for Mayor O'Brolchain! I get a real sense of satisfaction seeing all my hard work pay off in the end."

For more information on Comhairle na nÓg contact the Community & Enterprise Department of Galway City Council at 091 536 543.

GALWAY HEALTHY CITIES: March 2007



Healthy Ageing Conference held on the 14th November 2006 in the Clybaun Hotel attended by over 90 participants.

Healthy Ageing

Galway Healthy Cities project hosted a one-day conference in November 2006 to facilitate the development of an action plan for Healthy Ageing in Galway City.

This conference was an 'open space format' focusing on the theme "How can we enhance the health and well-being of older people in Galway City?"

There were 90 participants from statutory, community and voluntary agencies as well as individuals with an interest in the issue of enhancing the health and well-being of older people in Galway City.

The work plan for Galway Healthy Cities in 2007 is to support the working groups, set up following the conference and progress the issues identified from the conference.



Healthy Urban Planning

Working with the Galway Creative City Development Group, there is a proposal to organise a Healthy Urban Planning conference and workshop in September 2007. This will contribute to the City's Strategic plan on the proposed development of the City docklands which aims to "face the city to the sea".



Communication

The role of the communication task group is to (a) establish and (b) raise the profile of the Galway Healthy Cities project. The group is currently developing information tools including

leaflets, brochures, posters and the website. Key target audiences have been identified and methods to engage them have been discussed.



Health Impact Assessment:

An inter-sectoral group, consisting of National University of Ireland Galway, HSE West, Galway City Council and Galway County Council, are planning to undertake a HIA in relation to transport and congestion in Galway City and County. Further meetings are scheduled to identify specific projects. A seminar on HIA is planned for May 2007.

For further information, please contact Fiona O Donovan, HSE West
Tel: 091 - 548518

Cryptosporidium in the Galway Water Supply

Since the outbreak of cryptosporidium in the city's water supply and the issue of a 'boil water' notice on the 15th March, 2007, Galway City Council has been working with both Galway County Council and HSE West to identify a solution. Our immediate and ongoing concern is to ensure that your health is protected. This is why the decision was taken to issue the 'boil water' notice as a precaution before the presence of cryptosporidium was positively identified in the water supply.

Our focus now is on solving this problem. A solution has been identified and will be delivered.

We will immediately increase the amount of water to the city from Galway County Council's water treatment plant at Luimnagh. This will replace the supply from Galway City Council's old waterworks at Terryland. The combination of supplies from Luimnagh and our newer treatment plant at Terryland will ensure that safe quality water is supplied to your house as soon as practically feasible. We will need to put some water conservation measures in place at this time to assure continuity of the supply over the busy summer period when demand for drinking water is at its highest. By year end, we will provide a package treatment plant at the old waterworks in Terryland which will enhance the treatment processes there and in the long term, we will replace this treatment

plant with an entirely new scheme. So our focus is not just on getting a safe quality water supply through your tap. We are also acting now to prevent this situation occurring again and ensuring that we have a sufficient capacity of safe drinking water for the fastest growing city in the country.

Cryptosporidium has occurred in other parts of the country in recent times including Clare and Westmeath. There have been three outbreaks in Belfast. Unfortunately, it is a feature of water systems and can be extremely difficult to identify. We are circulating a leaflet to your houses giving you more details. For now, we are asking you to boil any water that is intended for consumption and to continue doing that until the 'boil water' notice is lifted. You can be absolutely assured that boiling the water kills the bug and makes the water safe for drinking.

A crisis of this nature highlights the extent to which we depend on drinking water. I am very much aware and acknowledge that this outbreak of cryptosporidium has caused much inconvenience to you and I am particularly conscious of the imposition on our young people and the elderly. I want to thank you most sincerely for bearing with us, for your patience and for heeding the public health notices.

Joe MacGrath - City Manager

Active Living

Organic Garden Ballybane

In 2006 participants developed and worked in a garden, learning about the organic gardening processes in a supportive environment. Advice and information were given on each stage from growing through to harvesting. Examples of foods grown include potatoes, corn, lettuce, tomatoes, scallions, coriander and runner beans. In addition, the Community Nutrition Department (HSE) and Home Management Department (HSE) provided nutritional education and cooking skills as part of the overall learning process of the project. Other partners involved include the Community Development Project, City Council, RAPID and NUIG.

The project is currently recruiting new participants for this year's organic garden project. The gardener and CDP representatives are currently working on the garden every second week preparing the area. This will shortly be increased to weekly, with the possibility of another time slot being offered to accommodate more people. A local school within the Westside are also developing an organic garden, based on the Ballybane model for the school children and the community in that area.

Playground Marking Project

The playground markings project aims to provide all primary schools in Galway City (27) and other relevant areas in the City with the opportunity to paint playground markings through the use of stencils. The aims of the project include to increase physical activity, enhance the environment and engage children, parents, the community and school teachers.

To date two schools have been identified and selected to run a pilot project in Galway City. The pilot will aim to review and address logistics, selection methods for games, time to paint and key people to involve. Following the pilot phase (May 2007), the Childhood Healthy Living Group will assess the findings and make recommendations for the role out to all schools and other relevant areas.



Participants in the Ballybane Organic garden project preparing the polytunnel



Open day of the Organic Garden in September 2006 to celebrate the work of the participants and display the vegetables grown

Research

A requirement of cities within the healthy cities network by the World Health Organisation is to develop a health profile and a health plan. This year, 2007, is allocated to collect data required for the health profile to develop the health plan. This profile consists of 3 strands;

- Health and well-being survey (1,052).
- Community consultation with key population groups and RAPID areas.
- Collation of secondary data on all the determinants of health specific to Galway City.

The questionnaire and methodology for the survey are in the final stages with the field work planned for May/June 2007. This will be undertaken by the Department of Health Promotion, National University of Ireland. Participatory Action Learning is being examined for the community consultation.

The data collected will be specific for Galway City and will be available to all statutory and voluntary agencies and the other 12 coordinating mechanisms of the Galway City Development Board (GCDB).

Affordable Housing Scheme

There are 2 affordable housing schemes in Galway City.

The Affordable Housing Scheme was first introduced in 1999. It provides for the building of new houses on land owned by Galway City Council in areas where house prices have created an affordability gap for lower income house purchasers. The houses are offered for sale to eligible purchasers at cost price, and accordingly at a significant discount for the market value of comparable houses in the area. The 2nd scheme was introduced in 2002 under Part V of the Planning Act.

These are affordable houses built in private estates by a private developer. Galway City Council enters an agreement to buy 20% of the units from the developer, which in turn are offered to affordable purchasers at cost price.

An affordable home is yours to live in for as long as you want, however the house must be occupied by the purchaser as their main residence for 20 years from the date of purchase. If you sell the property within 20 years you have to pay a percentage of the sale price to the local authority.

Qualification Criteria:

To qualify for an affordable home, you should:

- Be a first-time buyer - there are some exceptions e.g. if you are divorced/separated.
- Be living or working in Galway for a period of 12 months prior to application.
- In need of housing and your income satisfies the income test below.

To qualify for affordable housing under:

- Affordable Housing Scheme 1999, your gross income in the previous tax year should be less than €10,000 as a single person and less than €15,000 as joint applicants.
- Part V Affordable Housing – A person will meet the income criteria for part V Affordable Housing if their income is such that they would be unable to meet the mortgage repayments on the property at market value but are able to meet the repayments at the sale value.

Types of Affordable Homes:

A range of different properties are available to buy, including two and three- bedroom apartments and two, three and four-bedroom houses/duplexes.

Since the introduction of the scheme in 1999, Galway City Council has provided in excess of 530 local authority affordable houses. In 2006 the Council provided 52 Part V Affordable units.

Affordable Houses are built on both the West and East sides of the City. Over the next eighteen months Galway City Council will be providing a number of affordable units. In addition, there will be affordable houses available under Part V of the Planning and Development Act.

The scheme is run on a points based system as per the Scheme of Allocation Priorities. Application forms and particulars are available on Galway City Council's website: www.galwaycity.ie or alternatively you can call to the offices of Galway City Council, City Hall, College Road, Galway, Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm.



Sruthán Mhuirinne Affordable Housing

The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) is a new nation-wide scheme for people who are receiving rent supplement long-term, which is currently being rolled out in Galway City.

There are a number of benefits for those eligible for RAS. These include the provision of **long-term housing security** and access to a range of housing supports. The RAS will also lead to **improvements in the quality and standards** of housing accommodation. Finally **if you get a job you can stay in RAS** and City Council will still continue to pay rent to your Landlord but you will have to make an increased contribution towards the rent.

Under the terms of the Scheme, Galway City Council will enter into a contract with a Landlord and a recipient of Rent Supplement for an agreed number of years, during which time Galway City Council will guarantee the payment of the agreed rent to the Landlord on behalf of the tenant, subject to the terms of the contract. The tenant will then make a rent contribution to the City Council which over time is calculated in the same way as if they were in a local authority house.

If the current accommodation of a RAS applicant is not suitable for their needs, or is not of a good enough standard or if their current landlord is not interested in participating in the Scheme, Galway City Council will look for new accommodation for eligible applicants.

Please note that under the terms of the Rental Accommodation Scheme, the normal Landlord-Tenant relationship applies.

If you are receiving Rent Supplement:

In order to qualify for RAS, a person should have a long-term housing need, be currently receiving Rent Supplement, and normally should have been receiving it for a continuous period of 18 months. The RAS does not apply to people who are on certain schemes such as "Back to Work" Scheme. Nor does it apply to people who do not have leave to remain in the State permanently.

Galway City Council is in the process of sending out application forms and information leaflets to all people who are receiving rent supplement for at least 18 months. If you are eligible for RAS, we will transfer you to the Scheme in your current accommodation, or where this is not possible, in suitable alternative accommodation.

Please note this Scheme will not affect your application for a local authority house.

If you are a Landlord, Agent or Developer:

If you currently have tenants who are on Rent Supplement or if you have available property, you may be interested in including it in the RAS. Galway City Council are interested in entering into contractual arrangements for medium to long-term availability of private rented accommodation for the RAS.

Benefits for the Landlord include **not having to collect rents from tenants** for the duration of the contract. Guaranteed **prompt payment of rent monthly** in advance.

The Landlord **not having to fill vacancies** during the RAS contract and the very **bankable asset** that a guaranteed fixed-term RAS rent payment represents.

In order to participate, a landlord must be tax compliant, the tenancy should be registered with the Private Residential Tenancies Board (PRTB) and the property must pass an inspection under the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations, 1993.

For further information on the Scheme, please contact the RAS unit in Galway City Council on (091) 536 852 or 536 405.

Paying your bills made easy at Galway City Council...

Parking Fines , Bin Charges, Water Charges?

- In Cash by going to the Cash Office in City Hall (Mon - Fri, from 9.00am - 4.00pm)
- By Cheque made payable to Galway City Council quoting the Refuse Account Number.
- Postal Order made payable to Galway City Council
- By Credit/Laser cards by phoning 091 536437 or 536439 (Mon - Fri, from 9.00am to 5.00pm)
- By Bank Giro payable at any bank
- Pay Online



Mayor, Niall Ó Brolcháin raising a green flag in March 2007 outside Grianach House School



Galway City Council leads the way with recycling

Our impressive recycling rates are largely due to the successful introduction of a Segregated Waste Collection System in 2001, where each customer received a brown bin for compostable waste, a green bin for recyclable waste and a grey bin for landfill waste. This was a significant step forward for household waste management in the city, as prior to this all household waste was sent to landfill, even though it is estimated that two thirds of the average rubbish bin can be recycled or composted.

Galway City

- Highest level of glass recycling in the country
- Bottle banks at Western Distributor Road were named the busiest bottle banks in the country in 2006
- 25 green flags are flying high outside our city schools
- St. Michael's Boys National School, Mervue was named Recycling School of the Year 2006

It is very important though that, now we are top of the class, we maintain our position there. In addition to recycling, it is essential that, in Galway, we now attempt to minimise the amount of waste generated in the city. Far too much waste is produced in Ireland each year, with every person, on average, producing their body weight in rubbish every 7 weeks. Each individual in the city should try to 'slim their bin' by implementing simple waste reduction measures, such as buying goods with less packaging and using reusable shopping bags. *Remember small changes can make a big difference.*

Waste, rubbish, garbage, trash... call it what you like, but the truth of the matter is that most people don't think about the things they throw in their bin.

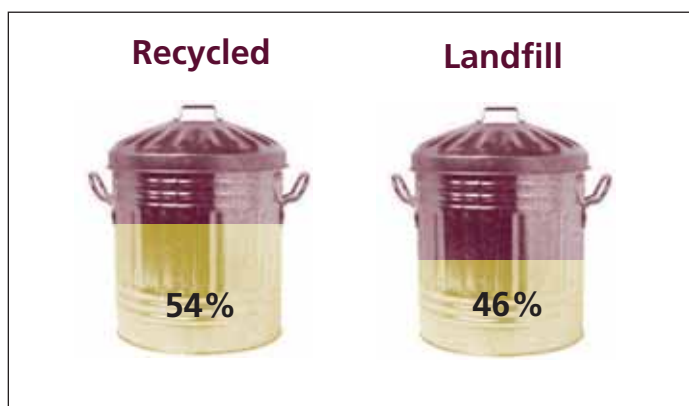
For example, did you know that...

- The average dustbin contains enough unrealised energy for 500 baths, 3500 showers or 5000 hours of television?
- That the energy saved from recycling one aluminium beverage can operate a TV for 3 hours?

- Recycling just one plastic bottle saves enough energy to power a 60 watt bulb for 6 hours and recycling one glass bottle will light a 100 watt bulb for 1 hour?
- Each tonne of recycled paper can save 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, three cubic yards of landfill space, 7000 gallons of water and enough energy to power a computer for one year?!

The good news is that in Galway City, we are top of the class when it comes to recycling. In the most recent Local Government Management Services Board report, published last June, Galway City Council was named as the number one local authority in the country for recycling, with over 54% of all household waste in the city currently being recycled. This is the highest recycling rate in the country and is significantly higher than the national average of 21%. It means that less than 46% of all waste generated in the city is sent to landfill, an impressive figure considering some local authorities are still landfilling up to 98% of their household waste.

Galway City Council Recycling Rates



Meet the crew.....



Pat Philbin &
Peter Condon
of Galway
City Council's
litter crew

Meet Pat McPhilbin and Peter Condon. When most of us are tucked away in our warm cosy beds, these two men are working hard to ensure that Galway's city streets are clean and ready for the day ahead. They are part of Galway City Council's Litter Management Crew, a team of 25 people that work from 5 in the morning until late at night every night, 364 days a year, to keep Galway City litter free.

Pat has worked for the Litter Management Crew for 17 years, Peter has been a member of the team for 7 years. "When I first joined the litter crew" explains Pat "I was based in the Bowling Green area of the city and used a brush, a shovel and a wheelbarrow for picking up litter". Much has changed since then and, nowadays, Pat can be seen, blower in hand, walking alongside the sweeper truck driven by Peter. Both men have seen many changes in Galway over the years, not least in the amount of litter and the type of litter on the city streets. Both feel that modern lifestyles have contributed significantly to these changes. "These days, there are a lot of plastic bottles, fast food wrappers and cigarette butts" says Pat "whereas years ago, the litter was mainly just scraps of paper. There is also a lot of broken glass recently" adds Peter "which, of course, can be dangerous for the litter crew".

So do Pat and Peter enjoy their jobs? "Yes, definitely" both agree. "Galway is a great city, full of life and energy. There is always a great buzz around the town" says Peter. "When we start work in the morning, we have the whole city to ourselves and there is great freedom in that. Then as the morning goes on, the city gets busier and busier. It's a wonderful place to watch in the mornings as it wakes up". "And you meet some fantastic characters" adds Pat. "The people of Galway are brilliant, they really make the city". In saying that, both men are, unfortunately, subject to regular harassment from members of the public. "If the litter crew were to stop work for one day" both men feel "the public might realise how essential a service we provide". The job is physically more demanding than you might think, with Pat estimating that he walks 13-14 miles a day, come hail, rain or shine. "The job is a real challenge" says Pat "but that's the reason I enjoy it". When the pair finish work, Galway City is clean and litter-free. It doesn't take long, however, for litter to appear on the streets again. As Pat says "the battle is won at 9 o'clock every morning and lost again by 6 o'clock".

Do they not find this disheartening? "No" they both agree. "Galway has improved greatly as a city over the last few years and now looks better than ever. It is a pity that certain people still throw litter, but our job is to clean up the city every morning and we do that to the best of our ability". Both men are proud of their roles in Galway City's litter crew and rightly so. Last year, Galway City maintained its litter free status for the second year running and was named as the 6th cleanest town in Ireland. In addition, Eyre Square was awarded Best City Street and Best City Neighbourhood in the country. A litter-free city encourages tourism, promotes industry and jobs and gives a better quality of life. We should all play our part in helping Pat and Peter keep Galway litter free.

Do not litter and do not tolerate those that do.



Galway Coach Station & Enterprise House

Galway Coach Station and Enterprise House

Galway City will soon be home to the country's largest and most modern private bus station servicing private intercity and tourist bus operators.

The new development will include a Coach Station, underground car parking, office space and residential units. Forty apartments are to be provided. This is a multi-million euro McNamara development, designed by OKM Architects and it will be situated at Fairgreen, Galway just a stones throw away from the current Ceannt Station.

This development is a public-private partnership between Galway City Council, Enterprise Ireland and Michael McNamara & Company who were successful bidders in the competition, run by Galway City Council and Enterprise Ireland, to provide a state of the art bus station for the City's private bus operators and a state of the art Webworks technology hub to foster the development of regional ITS companies. Webworks will provide office facilities along with a management and support structure for ITS (International Traded Service), start up and expansions so that regional clusters of these companies emerge and develop in a self-sustaining mutually reinforcing way. The Webworks will also provide a focal point for the development of new businesses in a range of technology sectors in the region.

The building will act as a gateway to the City of Galway as it will be the first real contact or point of entry for many visitors and tourists.

Building began in May 2006 and it is hoped that the new state of the art private bus station will be completed and in operation by June 2008.

Those commuting to and from Galway City can now do so without the hassle of immersing themselves in an already busy Ceannt Station.

The buses would enter the station through College Road and exit the station through Bóthar Pháirc an Aonaigh.

Mutton Island

Mutton Island Wastewater Treatment Plant was officially opened in May 2004 at a cost of €70m. The plant is the largest element of the €12m Galway Main Drainage Scheme, which has put a modern wastewater collection and treatment system in place for the city and environs, including Oranmore.

Completion of the Mutton Island plant ends the daily discharge of millions of gallons of raw sewage into Galway Bay and adds Galway to the growing list of Irish cities and towns that now comply with the stringent standards of the EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. The end of sewage pollution from the city will also mean permanent restoration of Blue Flag standards for bathers in Salthill.

The completion of the Wastewater Treatment Plant has restored Galway Bay to pristine condition and there has been a dramatic improvement in the water quality of Galway Bay as a consequence of which a Blue Flag was awarded to Silverstrand Beach in 2005 and retained in 2006 and a Blue Flag was awarded to Salthill Beach in 2006.

The pedestrian access Causeway gives wonderful uninterrupted views of Galway City. Grey seals, tern and puffins are some of the wildlife that now inhabits the island.



Mutton Island Wastewater Treatment Plant

The wastewater flows from your home in Galway City to the Mutton Island Treatment Plant, where it is treated to remove suspended solids, organic matter, nutrients and disease-causing organisms, leaving effluent that is suitable for discharge back into the environment.

The type of items you put down your sink or flush down your toilet can have a major effect on the costs of treating the sewage, and consequently, can make it far more expensive to treat sewage to an acceptable standard.

Keeping plastics, oils, chemicals, paints and pesticides out of the sewerage system is a must. The bacteria that break down the rest of the waste cannot treat such non-biodegradable products and flushing these products down the toilet or sink makes the treatment process more difficult and more costly.

N6 Galway City to East Ballinasloe

The development of a high quality dual carriageway/motorway link between Galway and Dublin was a specific objective of the National Development Plan 2000-2006 and the N6 Galway City to East Ballinasloe represents a part of this proposed network. The Scheme will cater for the increasing volumes of traffic on the existing highway network within Galway City and its environs. The completion of the link between Galway and Dublin has again been highlighted in the National Development Plan 2007-2013. In addition, the designation of Galway as a national “gateway” under the National Spatial Strategy further highlights the need for the Scheme.

Scheme Description & Progress to date

The proposed N6 Galway City to East Ballinasloe Scheme is 56km long of predominantly high quality dual carriageway. The length of the proposed N6 mainline within the city boundary is 1.8km. Preliminary works have commenced which include three elements i.e. site clearance, Archaeology studies and final report. The site clearance works and Archaeology studies are completed. Work on the final report is nearing completion. Land acquisition negotiations are in progress and the main works are due to commence in the coming months.

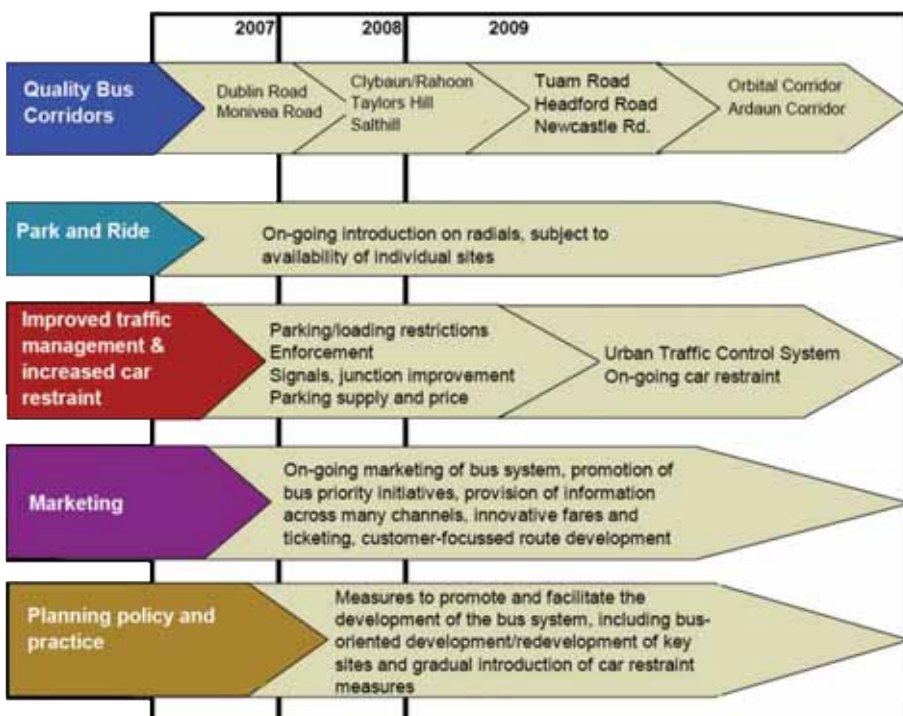
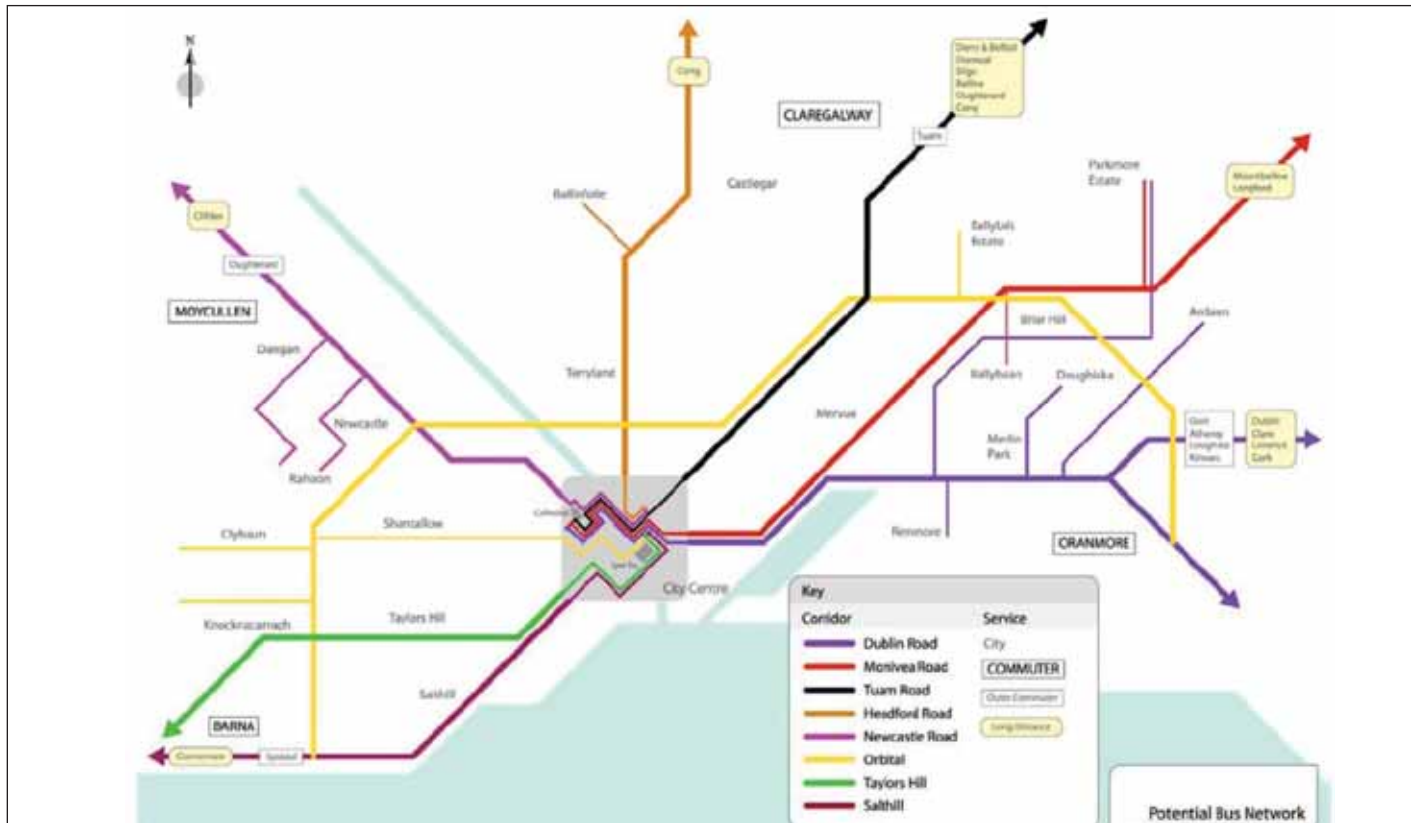


Strategic Bus Study

Galway is a young, vibrant and fast-growing city region. It is characterised by an attractive medieval city centre, dispersed suburbs and a large residential hinterland. There has been great success in attracting inward investment, and Galway is the major employment centre for the region, with several large business parks located within the City Council's boundaries and in the adjacent County Council area. A number of regional hospitals, the National University of Ireland Galway (NUIG) and the Galway and Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT) mean that Galway is the regional centre for health and education. The City is also a major tourist attraction, and acts as a tourist gateway to other areas in the region.

The result of such activity, which has now been sustained over a number of years, is that Galway now is in need of an expanded public transport system.

To begin to address the matters of traffic congestion, inadequate public transport and car dependency in Galway City and its environs, the City Council and the Department of Transport came together to commission a study that would identify a framework for the development of a bus network. The Strategic Bus Study has been finalized and adopted by the City Council. Vision of the easy to use bus system is outlined hereunder.



The Strategy:

- Includes various ways in which the bus system can be improved to make it more user friendly and to provide high frequency, fast and reliable services.
- Takes into account future needs and opportunities of this rapidly growing City for the provision of infrastructure and traffic management measures.
- Outlines measures to restrain the use of the private car.
- Provides a clear plan, which will promote and allow better control and enhanced conditions for pedestrians and cyclists.

The indicated programme for implementing the strategy over the next six years is outlined here.

Park and Ride Project

Continuing the success of the previous year, Galway City Council again provided a pilot project, Park and Ride facility, at the Galway Racecourse, Ballybrit for the month of December prior to Christmas 2006. It proved successful and included 14,600 individual bus journeys; approximately 3,500 cars used the facility. Galway City Council is in the process of developing permanent Park & Ride facilities for the City.

The Park & Ride service made a significant difference to traffic congestion reducing journey times on the East of the City during the period of its operation.

Customer satisfaction was again very positive with 94% of those reporting that they found Park & Ride to be a "Very Good service".



Restoring Mutton Island Lighthouse

Work on the conservation and restoration of Mutton Island Lighthouse, a property owned by Galway City Council, is continuing apace. Work on this exciting project has been ongoing for several years now with a FAS team lead by Michael Davis carrying out extensive conservation works. In 2000 Galway City Council sought and obtained a substantial grant from DoEHLG and put forward a plan to restore the Lighthouse and its ancillary buildings. Galway Civic Trust, Dúchas na Gaillimhe, was then invited to participate in the project and they have had teams of workers on the Island since then. The project is being carried out to the highest conservation standards and we are lucky to have Mr. Bill Scanlon, a former resident of the lighthouse, to advise us on the original appearance of the features of the buildings. The Commissioners of Irish Lights have also been very helpful in supplying advice, fixtures and fittings and copies of original drawings of the lighthouse. The buildings are both Recorded Monuments and Protected Structures and have legal protection under the National Monuments, Heritage and Planning and Development Acts. The City Council project is being directed by the Heritage Office of Galway City Council and we are most thankful to Pat Bergen of FAS and Deirdre O'Neill, Manager of Galway Civic Trust, our partners in the project for their continued co-operation.



By now all the buildings which required re-roofing have been re-slatted apart from one shed. Internal works, re-flooring and rebuilding of the walls of the 'Parks' (as the fields around the lighthouse were known) is continuing. The re-glazing of the lighthouse and its ancillary buildings are the next items to be tackled. Mr. Noel Grealish TD is sponsoring the re-glazing of the building complex. Generous grants from the Heritage Council have allowed us to re-roof one roof of the domestic buildings. Another Heritage Council grant has paid in part for replacement doors made to conservation standards and in replication of the original doors. This work has been carried out by John Higgins Ltd. of Eyre Street. The majority of funding for material and the provision of services is provided by the DoEHLG and Galway City Council respectively. As ever we are delighted to thank Earth Tech, the Management Company at Mutton Island Sewerage Treatment Plant, for their help and co-operation.

For further information, please contact Jim Higgins, Heritage Officer



City News

Have you registered to vote????

So have you? Each year all local authorities prepare the Register of Electors. The 2007/2008 Register of Electors is in place since the 15th February 2007, will remain in place until 14th February 2008 and will be used for all elections taking place in that period including the forthcoming General Election.

The Register of Electors for Galway City contains the names and addresses of all persons registered to vote with Galway City Council, up until the 14th February 2007. Any applications for registration received after 15th February 2007 will be included in a Supplement to the Register. Should you find that for any reason you are not included on this Register you may, at any time up to 14 days prior to any election apply to Galway City Council to be included in a Supplement to the 2007/2008 Register of Electors. If any General Election or Referendum is called, the Register of Electors and the published Supplement are the documents used to issue Polling Cards (i.e. Voting Cards). These cards will advise you where to vote on Polling Day (i.e. Election Day) but you do not require one to vote.

If you need to be included in the Supplement to the Register, you should complete a RFA2 form (green form). If you need to update your address on the Register you should complete a RFA3 form (pink form). Both forms are available from City Hall or from any location where the Register is on display i.e. Garda Stations, Public Libraries and Post Offices. Either of these forms must be countersigned by a member of the Garda Síochána.

To check if you are on the Register or to obtain the RFA2 or RFA3 forms, you may log on to the website www.checktheregister.ie or call Maura or Una on 091-536453.

contact details

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Roads & Water Services	536589
Community Wardens	53544
Service Charges	536593
Corporate Services	536597
Traffic Fines	53594
Environment	536595
Galway Energy Agency	536496
Finance	536592
Parks & Culture	536548
Housing	536590
Planning	536599
Housing Maintenance	536591
Rates	536593
Human Resources	536596
Register of Electors	536597
Mayors Sectary	53446