

Michael D back on familiar ground to dig deep into his cultural roots

● Former President headlines Galway Festival conversation on climate, culture and hope

Tribune Reporter

FORMER Michael D. Higgins is the star turn at this year's Galway Climate Inspirations Festival in a special public conversation exploring the intersection of climate action, culture, creativity and hope.

Presented in partnership with IDEA, the Irish Development Education Association, the free event, titled "Climate, Culture & Hope: A Conversation with Michael D. Higgins," will take place on Sunday week, June 28, from 3:30pm to 4:45pm in the Festival Tent at Father Burke Park.

In this unique festival appearance, Michael D. Higgins will be joined by author and social innovator Ruairi McKiernan, CEO of IDEA, for a wide-ranging conversation on imagination, global citizenship, and the role of cre-



Star attraction...former President Michael D Higgins.



Interviewer...author and social innovator Ruairi McKiernan.

ativity and civic partnership in shaping a more sustainable and just world.

The event will also feature a special performance from ac-

claimed Galway-based musician Áine Tyrell and youth poet Princess Mimi Chukwudi, bringing together music, poetry and public dialogue in a powerful cele-

bration of creativity and community action.

Speaking in advance, Ruairi McKiernan described Michael D. Higgins as 'one of Ireland's most consistent and inspiring voices for justice, peace, human dignity and global solidarity'.

"He has long spoken about the need to live in greater harmony with each other and with the natural world, recognising that climate and environmental action is ultimately about relationships, responsibility and care for each other and our planet," he said.

"At a time when it's easy to feel overwhelmed by global turbulence, this conversation offers an opportunity to reflect on how culture, community, creativity and active citizenship can help us respond with courage, imagination, practical action and hope," he added.

The five-day festival will feature more than thirty events, including interactive exhibitions, climate art installations, live music, a community fair, a melting potluck, sustainability workshops, and keynote talks and panels from sustainability leaders.

The programme is designed to spark public imagination and empower communities to take meaningful climate action.

The line-up will also include the Climate Cocktail Club on Friday week, June 26, in Fr. Burke Park with its theme 'Wild Atlantic Impact', bringing together the cutting edge in sustainability and positive climate action in the West.

There will also be many talks including 'Communication as a climate action solution' with Professor John Sweeney and Roisin Murphy; the Walking and Cycling Index, Active Travel and Behaviour Change

with national and local experts and RTE's Harrison Gardner will give a talk on 'The Great Unbuilding: Using What We Have to Build What We Need', which challenges conventional ideas of progress and construction, arguing for a more restorative and resourceful approach to our built environment.

The Climate Inspirations Fes-

tival has been recognised nationally, winning Festival of the Year at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards in 2025.

Tiarnan McCusker, Galway City Council's Community Climate Action Officer, said that Galway had long been a city where culture, community and innovation come together.

"The Climate Inspirations Festival reflects that spirit, bringing people of all ages together to explore climate action in creative and accessible ways," he said.

The conversation forms part of the Galway Climate Inspirations Festival 2026, taking place from June 24 to 28 at Fr. Burke Park, the Museum and Eyre Square.

This year's festival features over 30 events, with inspiring talks and conversations, live performances.

For more information on this year's Climate Inspirations Festival event and for details on how to register or buy tickets, visit: <https://galwayclimatefestival.ie>.

Páirc Ghaoithe na Gaillimhe Galway Wind Park



Galway Wind Park Community Fund SSE Renewables and Greencoat Renewables

Empowering Local Communities

Funding is available for community led projects within 20km of Galway Wind Park, creating meaningful social and environmental benefits that will support your journey towards a cleaner, more sustainable net zero future.

The closing date for online applications is 5pm on the 8th July 2026.

To find out more about how to apply, please visit: sserenewables.com/GalwayFund or Email: GWP.communityfund@sse.com

Riadas na hÉireann Government of Ireland

Comhairle Contae na Gaillimhe Galway County Council

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL -
Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended)
Planning and Development Regulations 2001(as amended) - Part 8

Pursuant to the requirements of the Planning and Development Acts, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001(as amended), notice is hereby given that Galway County Council proposes to carry out a development, particulars of which are set out hereunder.

Location	Development
Donaghpatrick, Headford Co. Galway	The proposed development consists of the construction of 1 no. 4 bedroom, single-storey detached residential unit, treatment septic tank system and all associated site works.

Galway County Council, as the competent authority, has carried out an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report and has determined that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required in respect of this proposed development.

Plans and particulars of the proposed development, will be available for inspection or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, during normal office hours (Monday to Friday, 9.00am - 4.00pm), excluding Bank Holidays and Public Holidays for a period of 4 weeks from Friday 19th June 2026 until Friday 17th July 2026, at the following offices of Galway County Council:

- Galway County Council, Planning Department, Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway, H91 H6KX; and
- Galway County Council, Tuam Area Office, High Street, Tuam, Co. Galway, H54 F627

Plans and particulars of the above proposed development are also available for viewing on our online consultation portal at <https://consult.galway.ie>.

Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, may be made:

Online at <https://planning.localgov.ie/en/search/application> (LGMA online portal), planning@galwaycoco.ie or in writing to the Senior Planner, Planning Section, Planning Department, Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway, H91 H6KX not later than the 31st of July 2026.

Date: 19/06/2026

Signed: Damien Mitchell, Director of Services - Housing