



The Toilets at the bottom of St Michaels Square Ballinasloe. PIC GERRY STRONGE

Appeal to free up funds to spend a penny

Councillor urges local authority to sort out state of town's public toilets

BY STEPHEN CORRIGAN

SPENDING a penny on Ballinasloe's public toilets is long overdue, a meeting of area councillors was told.

Cllr Evelyn Parson (Ind) described the state of the toilet block at St Michael's carpark in the town as "totally unsatisfactory" and reiterated previous calls for investment in an upgrade - and to make the toilets accessible to people with disabilities.

"This has been a bugbear of mine since it came into the Council.

"I know there has been funding sought from the Community Recognition Fund. If it doesn't get funding from that, we might get something from the Town and Village Renewal Scheme," said Cllr Parsons.

Ballinasloe had one of the largest populations of older people in the county, she said, and a significant number of people living with varying levels of disability. For these rea-

sons alone, there should be an accessible public toilet in the town.

"At 32.6 per cent, Ballinasloe has one of the highest numbers of old-age in the county - there is a significant number of older people living in Ballinasloe. We have a disability rate that is higher than the average in the State.

"We have more reason than any other place to have a public toilet," said Cllr Parsons, adding that the condition of the existing toilets was appalling.

An upgraded toilet block should be fully accessible for wheelchair users, she said.

"We are a hospital town," said Cllr Parsons referring to the number of patients visiting Ballinasloe to go to Portlinculla.

"We need to have fit-for-purpose public toilets.

"There is already a toilet block there. We have the site; it has planning; it has the services. This should be a straightforward project," she said.

Cllr Dermot Connolly (SF) said councillors had received correspondence from visitors to the town lamenting the state of the current facility.

"We got representations from a husband and wife who had used both sides of [the toilet block].

"It is highly outdated - it needs to be at least retiled and replumbed. We're not looking for the bicycle shed but we do want people to be able to use the toilets," said Cllr Connolly, referring to the €335,000 Dail bicycle shed.

Cllr Alan Harney (FG) said it was "clear for all to see" that the current toilets were not fit for purpose.

Senior Executive Engineer Derek Troy said every effort was being made to secure the money required to upgrade the toilets.

"I have taken up every opportunity possible to apply for funding and I am hopeful that we may be successful in this," he said of the Community Recognition Fund application.

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DÁTA	ÁBHAR PLÉ	AM	ÁIT
29/05/2025	Tacaíochtaí do Chúramóirí	6pm	Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua

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Tá an tSeirbhís Faisnéis do Shaoránaigh agus na Coimisiúnairí Ioncaim ag tabhairt eolais agus comhairle snar in aice luid an t-ionathair ar MS Teams sa leabharlann. Ní mór áirithiú a dhéanamh roimhe.

Tá an tseirbhís seo saor in aisce ach ní mór comra a dhéanamh

Is féidir fead comra a dhéanamh tríd na leabharlannaí. Ní d'ean tuagmháil le d'ionad Faisnéis do Shaoránaigh áirit. Telesfon 0918 07 7600. R-phost: galway@citinfo.ie

An tAon Chomhairle Fhíorúil Shíochánaíoch Párlaiminte agus Aithechtaíochtaí
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PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS 2000 (AS AMENDED)

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (AS AMENDED)

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 179 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	The Development
St. Joseph's Road, Portumna, Co. Galway.	Construction of a 38no. unit housing development comprising of: 6no. single storey two-bed dwellings, 1no. single storey three-bed dwelling, 25no. two-storey three-bed dwellings, 4No. two-storey two-bed dwellings, 2No. two storey four-bed dwellings, car parking, connections to existing services and all ancillary site development 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, for a period of four weeks from the 23rd of May 2025 to the 24th of June 2025 at the following offices of Galway County Council:

- Galway County Council, Planning Department, Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway, H91 H6KX;
- Galway County Council, Portumna Area Office, Castle Avenue, Portumna, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, H53 WN23 and
- Galway County Council, Loughrea Municipal District Office, Civic Offices, Barrack Street, Loughrea, Co. Galway, H62 K065.

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://consult.galway.ie/>, planning@galwaycoco.ie or in writing to the Senior Planner, Planning Section, Planning Department, Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway, H91 H6KX to arrive not later than 8th July 2025.

Signed: Damien Mitchell,
A/Director of Services - Housing.

Tá míle fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras agus ghnó i nGaeilge: gaeilge@cocogaillimh.ie www.gaillimh.ie

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J. Brann, Rúnaí Contae