

Getting to grips with big issues

CONAMARA broadcaster and podcaster Síle Seoige has a new television series that specifically explores three of the major challenges we face as a society today - namely, bullying, parenting and the anxiety epidemic.

Síle Seoige: An Saol Mar Atá, is a three-part series that starts on TG4 on February 11 at 9.45pm, where the broadcaster brings compassion and journalistic integrity to this honest and moving exploration.

The opening episode focuses on

parenting, looking at the significant challenges that come with being a parent.

Síle visits journalist and new mother Siún Ní Dhuinn to talk about the highs and the lows - and she sees an effective childcare system in action in Norway when she visits Niamh Ní Bhroin who is raising a family in Oslo.

Síle also sits down for a moving and emotional interview with journalist, Senator and mother Evanne Ní Chuilinn.

The second episode focuses on the prevalence of anxiety in Ireland today - and the final part sees Síle attempt to understand the dark world of bullying.

She talks with screenwriter Antóin Beag Ó Colla about the devastating impact bullying had on him as a young man.

After speaking to Deirdre Donnelly about her reasons for exiting politics, Síle goes to Galway University where Dr. Tom Felle gives her a sobering insight into the bullying

our public representatives in Ireland endure today and Labour Party leader Ivana Bacik explains that she is hopeful that things can improve.

As a public figure, Síle herself has first-hand experience with bullying and her fellow presenters Aisling Ní Dhonnabháin and Síle Ní Chonghaile also share their own experiences and a few useful tips.

New series...Síle Seoige.



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

PUBLICATION OF RESIDENTIAL ZONED LAND TAX ANNUAL DRAFT MAP FOR 2027 AND OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE REZONING REQUESTS ON FINAL MAP FOR 2026.

An annual draft map, prepared in accordance with Section 653C, as modified by Section 653M of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997, has been published on <https://consult.galway.ie> and is available for inspection at the Planning Offices of Galway County Council, Prospect Hill Galway.

The annual draft map for 2027 has been prepared for the purposes of identifying land that satisfies the relevant criteria and is to be subject to the residential zoned land tax.

Residential properties, notwithstanding that they may be included on the annual draft map, shall not be chargeable to the residential zoned land tax.

Land which satisfies the relevant criteria is a reference to land that—

- (a) is included in a development plan, in accordance with section 10(2) (a) of the Act of 2000 or Section 43(6) of the Act of 2024, or local area plan, in accordance with section 19(2)(a) of the Act of 2000, zoned—
 - (i) solely or primarily for residential use, or
 - (ii) for a mixture of uses, including residential use,
- (b) it is reasonable to consider may have access, or be connected, to public infrastructure and facilities, including roads and footpaths, public lighting, foul sewer drainage, surface water drainage and water supply, necessary for dwellings to be developed and with sufficient service capacity available for such development, and
- (c) it is reasonable to consider is not affected, in terms of its physical condition, by matters to a sufficient extent to preclude the provision of dwellings, including contamination or the presence of known archaeological or historic remains, but which is not land—
 - (i) that is referred to in paragraph (a)(i) and, having regard only to development (within the meaning of the Act of 2000 or, on and from the commencement of Part 4 of the Act of 2024) which is not unauthorised development (within the meaning of the Act of 2000 or, on and from the commencement of Part 4 of the Act of 2024), is in use as premises, in which a trade or profession is being carried on, that is liable to commercial rates, that it is reasonable to consider is being used to provides services to residents of adjacent residential areas,
 - (ii) that is referred to in paragraph (a)(ii), unless it is reasonable to consider that the land is vacant or idle,
 - (iii) the development of which would not conform with—
 - (I) in a case in which the land is zoned in a development plan under the Act of 2000, the phased basis in accordance with which development of land is to take place under the plan, as detailed in the core strategy included in that plan in accordance with section 10(2A)(d) of the Act of 2000, or
 - (II) in a case in which the land is zoned in a local area plan, the objective, consistent with the objectives and core strategy of the development plan for the area in respect of which the local area plan is prepared, of development of land on a phased basis, included in the local area plan in accordance with section 19(2) of the Act of 2000, or
 - (III) in a case in which the land is zoned in a development plan under the Act of 2024, the order of priority or phasing (where such order of priority or phasing is based on the timing of the provision of any public infrastructure and facilities, as referred to in paragraph (b)), if any, for development indicated in the development plan or an urban area plan, priority area plan or coordinated area plan (in each case within the meaning of the Act of 2024) for an area within which the land is situated.

on the date on which satisfaction of the criteria in this section is being assessed,

(iii) that it is reasonable to consider is required for, or is integral to, occupation by—

- (I) social, community or governmental infrastructure and facilities, including infrastructure and facilities used for the purposes of public administration or the provision of education or healthcare,
- (II) transport facilities and infrastructure,
- (III) energy infrastructure and facilities,
- (IV) telecommunications infrastructure and facilities,

- (V) water and wastewater infrastructure and facilities,
- (VI) waste management and disposal infrastructure, or
- (VII) recreational infrastructure, including sports facilities and playgrounds,
- (iv) that is subject to a statutory designation that may preclude development, or
- (v) on which the derelict sites levy is payable in accordance with the Derelict Sites Act 1990.

Submissions on the annual draft map 2027 may be made as follows:

- In writing and addressed to: "RZLT", The Planning Department, Galway County Council, Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway, H91H6KX

OR

- By email to: rzlt@galwaycoco.ie;

OR

- Online by visiting: <https://consult.galway.ie>;

not later than 1 April 2026, regarding—

- (I) either the inclusion in or exclusion from the final map of specific sites, or
- (II) the date on which a site first satisfied the relevant criteria.

Submissions should include a name and address, reasons for inclusion or exclusion of lands, along with a map of scale 1:1,000 (urban area) or 1:2,500 (rural area) where the submission is made by a landowner, clearly identifying the area of land subject of the submission.

Any such written submissions received by 1 April 2026 other than such elements of a submission which may constitute personal data, shall be published on the Galway County Council website not later than 11 April 2026.

The proposed inclusions and proposed exclusions on the annual draft map are subject to submissions received. Any landowners who supports the exclusion of their land should make a submission in support of such exclusion.

Rezoning Requests

Where land is identified on the final map for 2026, published on 31 January 2026, as being subject to the residential zoned land tax, a person may from 1 February 2026 to 1 April 2026, in respect of aforementioned land that such a person owns, make a submission to Galway County Council requesting a variation of the zoning of that land. Any such submission should include evidence of ownership, detailed reasons for any rezoning request, which may include continuation of an ongoing economic activity, along with a map to a scale of 1:1,000 (urban) or 1:2,500 (rural) clearly identifying the relevant plot of land.

Submissions for rezoning requests on the final map for 2026 may be made as follows:

- In writing and addressed to: "RZLT", The Planning Department, Galway County Council, Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway, H91H6KX

OR

- By email to: rzlt@galwaycoco.ie;

OR

- Online by visiting: <https://consult.galway.ie>;

not later than 1 April 2026.

Any such written rezoning requests received by 1 April 2026 other than such elements of a submission which may constitute personal data, shall be published on the Galway County Council website within the relevant statutory period. A rezoning request acknowledgement letter containing details of the recent planning history of the land will be issued by 30 April 2026 from Galway County Council to the landowner. This acknowledgement letter can be used to support a claim to an exemption from the tax arising in respect of the land which is the subject of the request for 2026. This claim must be made in the 2026 annual residential zoned land tax return, which must be made to the Revenue Commissioners on or before 23 May 2026. Please see www.revenue.ie for details

All rezoning requests made will be considered by Galway County Council having regard to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Tá míle fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras agus ghnó i nGaeilge: gaelge@cocogallimh.ie www.gallimh.ie

✉ customerservices@galwaycoco.ie www.galway.ie X @GalwayCoCo

J. Brann, Rúnaí Contae