

Mobile mast plan is rejected

THE provision of a mobile phone mast adjacent to a mainly residential development in Tuam has been refused after local householders came out in strength against it.

They objected on the grounds that the proposed development would have a significant negative impact on the residential amenity of the area. They said that the scale, height and in-

dustrial nature of the mast were wholly incompatible with the established character of this mature residential neighbourhood.

The planning application was submitted to Galway County Council by Eircom for a metre-high lattice telecommunication support structure together with antennas dishes and support equipment, all enclosed in security fencing in their own

property at Blackacre, Tuam.

Planning was refused on the basis applicant has not satisfactorily addressed matters with respect to feasible upgrade works and co-location options associated with the existing operating masts in the immediate vicinity.

Planners also considered the development was close to existing residential properties and tourism facilities.

Outsourced CAT scans waste of taxpayer's cash

● Party demands on-site public facility at GUH

ara Bradley

INDEPENDENT Ireland has slammed the Government for what it called a 'waste' of €5.1m in outsourcing scans at University Hospital Galway instead of delivering a PET scanner.

The party's Roscommon/Galway Dáil Deputy Michael Fitzmaurice and Galway West bye-election candidate, Councillor Noel Thomas, said that the continued outsourcing of PET scanning services by Galway University Hospital – UHG and Merlin Park – was a "clear failure of planning, investment and accountability".

A series of Parliamentary questions submitted by Deputy Fitzmaurice confirmed that outsourcing costs exceeded 1.35 million in 2025 with a total spend exceeding €5.17 million in the last five years.

Deputy Fitzmaurice said the figures expose a deeply flawed approach to healthcare infrastructure in the West.

"We are now spending almost the cost of a brand-new PET scanner every single year outsourcing scans to private providers and Dublin hospitals," he said.

"That is not value for money – it is waste caused by failure to invest properly in GUH.

"If it wasn't for private hospitals, there would not be a PET scanner anywhere in the West of Ireland. What does that say



UHG...PET scan call.

to the people of Galway and surrounding areas?"

Deputy Fitzmaurice said the replies to PQs show that the cost of a PET (Positron Emission Tomography) scanner can range from €1.6m to €2.8m.

"What that means in real terms is that up to three PET scanners could have been purchased for the money the Government have spent on outsourcing the services. That is a damning indictment and another clear example of Government mismanagement and waste of taxpayers' money," said Deputy Fitzmaurice.

Councillor Thomas said the Government needed to fast-track its masterplan for UHG as strategic healthcare infrastructure.

"The public are entitled to ask why critical healthcare projects are still bogged down in busi-

ness case processes while costs continue to rise and patients continue to suffer delays," he said.

Councillor Thomas said that Independent Ireland was calling for immediate approval and delivery of an on-site PET scanner at GUH, as well as greater accountability and faster decision-making in healthcare infrastructure delivery – and proper Government investment in regional healthcare capacity.

The UHG Infrastructure Crisis campaign has already said the absence of PET scanning at UHG underlined "a critical gap in cancer care" at the region's only Model 4 hospital.

It said that lack of diagnostics infrastructure "places an additional burden on patients and families" and "risks delays" when "timely diagnosis is crucial".



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

AN TACHT UM PLEANÁIL AGUS FORBAIRT, 2000 (ARNA LEASÚ) NA RIALACHÁIN PLEANÁIL AGUS FORBAIRT, 2001 (ARNA LEASÚ) – CUID 8

IARRATASÓIR: Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
SEOLADH AN LÁITHREÁIN: Tine, Co. na Gaillimhe
BAILE FEARAINN: Tine & Doire Beag

De réir cheanglais Chuid 8 de na Rialacháin um Pleanáil agus Forbairt, 2001 (arna leasú), tugtar fógra leis seo go bhfuil sé beartaithe ag Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe tabhairt faoi fhorbairt ag an láthair thuas a bheidh comhdhéanta de reilig nua le háis pháircéala agus bóthar rochtana a thógáil i Tine, Contae na Gaillimhe

Tugadh faoi Scagadh le haghaidh 'Measúnacht Chuí' Chéim 1 i gcomhair na forbartha beartaithe agus baineadh an tátal as sin nach gá 'Measúnacht Chuí' Chéim 2 (Ráiteas Tionchair Natura (RTN)) a dhéanamh.

Beidh pleananna agus mionsonraí na forbartha beartaithe ar fáil lena scrúdú nó lena gceannach ar chostas nach mó ná an costas réasúnta a bhainfeadh le cóip a dhéanamh, le linn gnáthuaireanta oifige (Luan go hAoine, 9.00r.n. - 4.00i.n., gan Laethanta Saoire Bainc agus Laethanta Saoire Poiblí san áireamh) ó

Dé hAoine 15 Bealtaine 2026 go Luain 15 Meitheamh 2026, ag na láithreacha seo a leanas:

- Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe, An Rannóg Pleanála (Cuntar Poiblí), Áras an Chontae, Cnoc na Radharc, Gaillimh, H91 H6KX.
- Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe, Oifig Ceantair Bhaile Locha Riach, Sráid na Beairice, Baile Locha Riach, Co. na Gaillimhe, H62 K065
- Tairseach Chomhairliúcháin Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe ag <https://consult.galway.ie/ga>

Is féidir aighneachtaí nó tuairimí maidir leis an bhforbairt beartaithe, a bhaineann le pleanáil chuí agus forbairt inbhuanaithe an limistéir ina mbeadh an fhorbairt lonnaithe, a dhéanamh i scríbhinn chuig an Rannóg Pleanála, Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe, Áras an Chontae, Cnoc na Radharc, Gaillimh, H91 H6KX; nó i bhform leictreonach tríd an suíomh gréasáin speisialta ag <https://planning.local.gov.ie/ga/search/application> (Tairseach ar líne na GBRA) le bheith istigh tráth nach déanai ná Luain 29 Meitheamh 2026.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS 2000 (AS AMENDED)

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (AS AMENDED) – PART 8

APPLICANT: Galway County Council
SITE ADDRESS: Tynagh, Co. Galway
TOWNLAND: Tynagh and Derrybeg

In accordance with the requirements of Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), notice is hereby given that Galway County Council intend to carry out a development at the above location comprising an extension to the existing Burial Ground at Tynagh, Co. Galway

A Stage 1 'Appropriate Assessment' screening was carried out for the proposed development and has concluded that a Stage 2 'Appropriate Assessment' [Natura Impact Statement (NIS)] is not required.

Plans and particulars of the proposed development will be available for inspection or for purchase for 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) from Friday 15th May 2026 until Monday 15th June 2026 at the following location:

- Galway County Council, Planning Department (Public Counter), Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway, H91 H6KX
- Galway County Council, Loughrea Area Office, Barrack Street, Loughrea, Co. Galway, H62 K065
- Galway County Council's Consultation Portal at <https://consult.galway.ie/>

Submissions or observations in relation 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 in writing to the Planning Department, Galway County Council, Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway, H91 H6KX; or in electronic format via the special website at <https://planning.local.gov.ie/en/search/application> (LGMA online portal) to arrive not later than Monday 29th June 2026.

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

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

J. Brann, Rúnaí Contae

GAA fans feel paywall strain

ALWAY GAA supporters are the second-hardest hit in the country when it comes to a league table of whose championship matches have only been viewed behind the GAA+ paywall – with only Mayo worse hit.

That's according to a new layout Index commissioned by Casino.org Ireland to identify where the GAA+ era appears to be landing hardest on supporters. The findings suggest that the counties feeling the biggest burden are not simply the ones with games behind a paywall.

Instead, the Blackout Index was built to answer a more human question: once a major championship match goes behind GAA+, where in Ireland is



Fans...Shane Walsh.

that most likely to create a real supporter headache?

The overall score was then built around four main layers - paywall exposure; digital access friction; audience vulnerability, and workaround burden.

The model factored in broadband coverage to reflect how reliable streaming access is likely to be in each county and to identify places where patchy connectivity is part of a wider built-in disadvantage.

It also used age profiling to capture where a streaming-first shift is more likely to create extra friction for the average supporter; population scale to reflect how widely repeat paywall frustration is likely to be felt, and settlement spread to measure how awkward it may be for supporters to rely on the usual workarounds, whether that means heading to a pub, calling on relatives, or travelling into a better-connected town.