

Supermac's looks to retain its banners

Dara Bradley

SUPERMAC'S has applied for retention planning permission for promotional items erected at one of its County Galway restaurants without authorisation.

Galway County Council is pursuing an alleged breach of planning rules, regarding unauthorised flags, banners and signs at Supermac's

Loughrea.

Loughrea District Court this week heard that the company had now applied to the local authority for retention planning permission. Solicitor John Nash, for Supermac's, confirmed that a retention planning application was lodged last Friday.

The County Council issued an enforcement notice in 2024 asking Supermac's to remove the items that it alleged were not granted planning permission at Cosmona, Loughrea.

The respondents were listed as Softdrive Ltd, Ballybrit Business Park, Ballybrit. Supermac's Ireland Ltd of Ballybrit Industrial Park, Ballybrit, was also listed as a respondent; directors in both cases are Una McDonagh and Patrick McDonagh.

Council solicitor Dermot Caslin this week confirmed that signage, banners and flagpoles had been removed. Judge Michael Connellan adjourned to October to allow the planning process take its course.



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

AN TACHT UM PLEANÁIL AGUS FORBAIRT, 2000 (ARNA LEASÚ) - CUID XI NA RIALACHÁIN UM PLEANÁIL AGUS FORBAIRT, 2001 (ARNA LEASÚ) - CUID 8 SUÍOMH LÁITHREÁIN: BAILE AN GHARRÁIN THEAS, BAILE ÁTHA AN RÍ, CONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

De bhun fhorálacha Chuid XI den Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt, 2000 (arna leasú), agus de réir riachtanais Chuid 8 de na Rialacháin um Pleanáil agus Forbairt, 2001 (arna leasú), tugtar fógra leis seo go molann Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe go dtógfar Ceardlann nua um Mheicneoirí Briogáide Dóiteáin ag Baile an Gharráin Theas, Baile Átha an Rí, Contae na Gaillimhe. Áireofar sna moltaí oibreacha glanta láithreáin, tírdhreachú, páirceáil, naisc le seirbhísí atá ann cheana, agus oibreacha láithreáin gaolmhara uile.

Rinneadh réamhscrúdú ar an moladh faoin Treoir MTC 2011/92/AE arna leasú ag Treoir 2014/52/AE, (agus na forálacha ábhartha den Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt, 2000, arna leasú, agus na Rialacháin den Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt, 2001, arna leasú) agus chinn an tÚdarás Pleanála nach bhfuil Measúnú fiúrach ar an gComhshaoil mar gheall ar an bhforbairt mholta agus nach bhfuil Measúnú fiúrach ar an gComhshaoil ag teastáil.

Rinneadh Scagadh le haghaidh Measúnacht Chúil ar an moladh faoin Treoir um Ghnáthóga (92/43/CE) agus faoin Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt, 2000 (arna leasú), agus chinn an tÚdarás Pleanála nach bhfuil Ráiteas Tionchair Natura ag teastáil sa chás seo.

Beidh pleananna agus mionsonraí na forbartha molta ar fáil chun breathnú orthu nó chun ceannach ar tháille nach mó ná an costas réasúnach a ghabhann leis an gcóip a dhéanamh, le linn gnáthuaireanta oifige (Dé Luain go dtí Dé hAoine, 9.00am - 4.00pm, seachas Saoirí Bainc agus Saoirí Poiblí) ó Dé hAoine, 03 Iúil 2026 go dtí Dé hAoine, 31 Iúil 2026, ag an áit seo a leanas:

- Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe, an Roinn Pleanála (Cuntar Poiblí), Áras an Chontae, Cnoc na Radharc, Gaillimh, H91 H6KX
- Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe, Oifig Ceantair Bhaile Átha an Rí, Seansráid an Teampaill, Baile Átha an Rí, Co. na Gaillimhe, H65 C992
- Tairseach Chomhairliúcháin Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe ag <https://consult.galway.ie/>

Féadtar aighneachtaí agus tuairimí maidir leis an bhforbairt mholta, i dtaobh phleanáil chúil agus fhorbairt inbhuanaithe an limistéir ina mbeidh an fhorbairt, a dhéanamh i scríbhinn chuig: An Roinn Pleanála, Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe, P.O. Uimhir Bhosca 27, Áras an Chontae, Cnoc na Radharc, Gaillimh, H91 H6KX, nó i bhformáid leictreonach tríd an suíomh gréasáin speisialta ag <https://planning.localgov.ie/search/application> (Tairseach ar líne na GBRA). Is é an spriodháta le haghaidh aighneachtaí agus tuairimí ná Dé hAoine, an 14 Lúnasa 2026 ar 4pm.

Uinsinn Finn,

Stiúrthóir um Sheirbhísí, Forbairt Fhisiciúil, Seirbhísí Dóiteáin & Éigeandála, & Athrú Aeráide.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED) - PART XI PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (AS AMENDED) - PART 8 SITE LOCATION: BALLYGARRAUN SOUTH, ATHENRY, CO. GALWAY

Pursuant to the provisions of Part XI of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and in accordance with the requirements of Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), notice is hereby given that Galway County Council proposes the construction of a new Fire Brigade Mechanics Workshop at Ballygarraun South, Athenry, Co. Galway. Proposals to include site clearance works, landscaping, parking, connections to existing services, and all associated site works.

The proposal has undergone a preliminary examination under the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, (and the relevant provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended) and the Planning Authority has concluded that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and that an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required.

The proposed development has undergone appropriate Assessment Screening under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EC) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), and the Planning Authority has determined that a Natura Impact Statement is not required in this instance.

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 03 July 2026 until Friday 31 July 2026, at the following location:

- Galway County Council, Planning Department (Public Counter), Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway, H91 H6KX
- Galway County Council, Athenry Area Office, Old Church Street, Athenry, H65 C992
- Galway County Council's Consultation Portal at <https://consult.galway.ie/>

Submissions and observations in relation to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development will be situated, may be made in writing to: The Planning Department, Galway County Council, P.O. Box No. 27, Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway, H91 H6KX, or in electronic format via the special website at <https://planning.localgov.ie/search/application> (LGMA online portal). The closing date for submissions and observations is Friday 14 August 2026 at 4pm.

Uinsinn Finn,

Director of Services, Physical Development, Fire & Emergency Services, & Climate Change.

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

customerservices@galwaycoco.ie www.galway.ie [@GalwayCoCo](https://www.galwaycoco.ie)

J. Brann, Rúnaí Contae

Galway suffers closure of 129 pubs in 20 years

● Vintners seek sustainability scheme

Dara Bradley

RISING costs are threatening the viability of rural pubs across County Galway, industry leaders have warned.

Galway publicans have appealed to Government for targeted supports in the upcoming budget to help rural businesses that rely on turnover from draught products to stay open.

The Vintners Federation of Ireland (VFI), which represents up to 80% of rural publicans, said 2,200 pubs have closed in Ireland since 2005 – including 129 in Galway over the past 20 years.

VFI Chief Executive Pat Crotty said "unsustainable" business costs were leading to job losses for bar staff and more pub closures.

VFI has proposed a new On-Trade Sustainability Scheme aimed at protecting smaller and rural pubs.

It would operate through a targeted tax credit linked to verified purchases of draught products, with support capped at €20,000 per premises.

Joe Sheridan, chair of the Galway City and County Vintners Federation of Ireland, said up to 2,000 rural pubs could close over the next five years without supports.

Mr Sheridan, who runs Tigh Breathnach in Dunmore and whose brother Cathal and Sheridan's, a gastro-pub in Milltown, is chair of VFI in Galway which represents around 285 mostly rural pubs.

He said the rural pubs re-



Warning...Galway VFI chairman Joe Sheridan.

lying on sales of low alcohol draught pints were most under threat.

"Think of Paddy down the road, who lives alone. He's not drinking Prosecco. Paddy is drinking low alcohol, draught product at the counter.

He's seventy drawing the pension and is sitting chatting with his mate. On a Friday morning he's in at the Post Office, then doing a bit of shopping and after has two or three pints. It's what sustains small public houses," Mr Sheridan said.

The VFI's tax proposal was not for the outlets selling overpriced pints in plastic glasses in a field at events like Electric Picnic.

"This is for small family-run business at crossroads across rural Ireland – for them to cover the increased costs of opening their business," he said.

Mr Crotty revealed the

findings of a new VFI survey showing 22% of pubs reported a decrease in staffing levels over the past twelve months, with publicans citing ongoing cost pressures as the primary reason for reducing employee numbers.

Mr Sheridan, in turn, cited Fáilte Ireland surveys of overseas visitors who put 'visiting the pub and having the craic' as their number two reason for visiting this country. Without supports, the pub and the craic will be gone, he warned.

"We've famous for the highest excise tax in Europe. We're not asking the Government to give us 'soft' money. What we are saying is, we're collecting your tax, and excise and VAT. Gives us a little back of what we're collecting for you, to help the most vulnerable of our members," he said.

"If we don't, we'll lose them," he added.

Flower Show at Garden Festival

Tribune Reporter

THE Galway Flower and Garden Club Summer Flower Show will take place at the Galway Garden Festival at Claregalway Castle this Saturday and Sunday.

Floral exhibits, displayed in the Club's pavilion, have become a highlight of the annual show, with themes to include 'To the Waters and the Wild',

'Inspired by Galway Bay'; and 'Green Jewels'.

The organisers stress that exhibits from non-club members are also welcome. Prizes will be awarded in all categories, as well as a special 'Best in Show' award and 'Rose of the Show' prize.

In the horticultural section, all exhibits must be grown by the exhibitor. The category includes flowers, fruit and vegetables. Roses are at their peak at this time of year and those

with fabulous roses can compete for the Rose of the Show Perpetual Cup.

There are also children's competitions; the theme for those up to and including 13 years, is 'A Garden on a Plate' and for the 14 to 18 year olds, an exhibit titled 'Thanks to the Bees', may include flowers, foliage, leaves and fruit.

The Flower Show is open from 12 noon to 5pm on Saturday and from 11am to 5pm on Sunday.