**Ballinasloe Masterplan**

That Galway County Council would ensure that a masterplan is drawn up to address the social, economic, cultural and environmental opportunities and challenges within Ballinasloe and its hinterland

**Joint Structure for Ballinasloe**

Galway County Council and Roscommon County Council will establish a joint structure to deal with the development and other interests of both parts of the town of Ballinasloe and its hinterland.

The joint structure will be composed of equal membership from both local authorities to consider key strategic matters such as.

This structure will a have a consultative role in spatial and economic planning and development, developing a coordinated transportation strategy, forward planning and land use designation, tourism, and retail strategy as well as any other such matters as both Galway and Roscommon Councils agree.

**Town Co-ordination Committee (TCC)**

That Galway County Council establish new Town Co-ordination Committee (TCC) for each of the key strategic towns in the County, on the basis of the Town Teams template developed by Roscommon County Council. Each Town Co-ordination Committee (TCC) would be umbrella committee of community sector, business groups, enterprise bodies and voluntary sectors that are active within our key towns, supported by the key agencies including the local authority to provide a collaborative approach to identifying the priorities within town and planning for town's future. The elected members would be ex officio members of the Town Co-ordination Committee (TCC) within their municipal district.

**Agri Tech Zone**

That Galway County Council recognise the presence of the Agri Tech business presently located in East Galway and the potential  of the Agriculture Training College based in Mountbellew, and in doing so create an Agri Tech Zone to market the region for further Agri Tech business and zone such development as Rural Enterprise under the county Development Plan. This will help in creating an Agri Tech Cluster located in East Galway in partnership with the Local Enterprise Office, Enterprise Ireland, IDA and other such job creation agencies.

**Creative Spaces**

Following Galway’s designation as a European capital of culture and Tuam Towns status as a pilot for creative places Ireland. We would like to see the following included in the CDP:

1. Facilitation of open-air creative performances and speciality events such as: Music concerts, drama performances, exhibitions, specialists events (vintage cars), other outdoor performances/creative endeavours that meet health and safety guidelines which could also be facilitated. This objective works in tandem with proposals put forward in documents such as the Tuam Master Plan to make the public realm more inclusive in its usages for creative and community means.

2. Work with arts and creative groups in facilitating co-operative use of council owned spaces where possible and which are currently underutilised. Many arts and culture groups have no dedicated spaces to create, this point was highlighted in submissions to the Tuam Master Plan and Tuam Town Area Plan. The facilitation of creative spaces would foster continued creative creation and encourage further growth of this invaluable sector making the arts and culture more accessible locally.

3. Encourage a creative arts tourism corridor in the east of the County, promoting the well-established music, drama, and artistic communities.

**Access to OPW Sites in County Galway**

At a time, when open space is regarded as an asset, we would like to include a clear commitment in the CDP, to making open spaces in the ownership of the OPW far easier for community groups, and private individuals to access for appropriate functions, that are not for profit. Focus especially on providing, not on prohibiting, these sites can be brought into vogue in a very positive way, and can be a source of inspiration for many groups, and individuals across the county.

**Amendments to Chapter 11 CDP**

Please note highlighted areas for inclusion in Chapter 11 below-

### 11.13 People with Disabilities and Universal Design

Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. For people with mobility impairments, ensuring level/ramped access to buildings, dished kerbs and the provision of appropriate parking and fully accessible toilet facilities such as Changing Places are important. For people with visual impairments, tactile paving and audible signals at pedestrian crossings are necessary.

For persons with mental, intellectual or sensory impairments, it is important to ensure facilities such as quiet rooms and sensory gardens and communication boards are incorporated into development proposals where appropriate. The Irish Wheelchair Association and Sport Ireland’s ‘Great Outdoors - A Guide for Accessibility’ (2018) provides guidance on accessible design to make specific outdoor environments more available and accessible for people with a disability.

One of the Strategic Priorities of the National Disability Authority Strategic Plan 2019-2021 is to continue to build awareness and adoption of the concept of Universal Design, maximizing independence and participation for all. The Council will promote Universal Design and Lifetime Housing in all new developments. This type of housing allows for the future adaption of units as needs present throughout the life cycle of the occupier/owner. It is a proactive step in addressing the housing needs of people with a disability, older people and the diversity of the family unit as well as increasing the value and sustainability of buildings in the long-term.

The UNCRPD implementation should be in place by 2024 in the lifetime of this plan  and we request that it is looked at in the CDP with regard to-

* Outdoor Spaces and Public Buildings
* Transportation
* Housing
* Respect and Social Inclusion
* Social Participation
* Communication and Information
* Civic Participation and Employment
* Community Support and Health Services
* Piloting an Accessibility Friendly Town as a model of excellence

Chapter 11 deals with some of these issues. How will the CDP meet the requirements of the UNCRPD under those headings within the timeframe?

11.13

11.14

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| **Policy Objectives People with Disabilities and Universal Design** |
| **PDU 1 Universal Design Approach**  It is the Council’s policy objective to promote Universal Design and ensure that all public buildings, public open spaces, recreational and amenity areas are accessible for people with disabilities.  **PDU 2 Recognised Special Needs**  (a) It is the Council’s policy objective to consider all different levels of ability, in the location, layout and design of housing developments, communal facilities, public spaces and transport services. Proposals could include the appropriate mitigation of the built environment for example, through the selection of building materials; the provision of quiet rooms and sensory gardens where appropriate; and in the design of pedestrian facilities for the visually impaired.  (b) To support the provision of public accessibility friendly toilets, maximum dependency adult changing facilities at all appropriate locations in our towns and villages and at transport connectivity nodes.  (c) To support the provision of universal access to water-based facilities (eg. marinas) recreational water-based activities for all people, especially for those with additional needs, individuals who are differently abled, those with physical or/and sensory impairments, mobility difficulties and that overall the implementation of United Nations Convention of Rights of Persons with Disabilities in this regard.  **PDU 3 Social Infrastructure Developments and Housing**  It is the Councils policy objective to ensure that new social infrastructure developments and housing are accessible and inclusive for a range of users by promoting a universal design approach and provide for an age friendly society in which people of all ages can live full active, valued and healthy lives.  PDU4 It is the Council’s policy objective to support the designation of a pilot town as an *Accessibility Friendly Town*to develop comprehensively as a model of excellence for accessibility within the county. |

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| **Policy Objectives Sports, Recreation and Amenity** |
| **SRA 2 Promote Public Access to Natural Amenities**  Recognize the role played by natural amenities as a major resource for visitors and local people and support, protect and promote public access to natural amenities that have been traditionally used for outdoor recreation (waterbased facilities, recreational activities and marinas).  **SRA 3 High-quality cycle and walking network**  Identify and seek to implement a strategic, coherent and high-quality cycle and walking network across the County that is integrated with accessible public transport where possible and interconnected with cultural, recreational, retail, educational and employment destinations, access for all toilet facilities and attractions.  **SRA 8 Swimming Facilities**  It is the policy objective of the Council to enhance the provision of swimming facilities throughout the County and ensure the quality of bathing waters is maintained and to contribute towards the achievement of the requirements of the EU Bathing Water Directive and to transposing Bathing Water Quality Regulations (SI No. 79 of 2008) and EU Mandatory Values, as a minimum and EU Guide Values, where possible.    SRA9 It is the policy objective of the Council to facilitate development of an accessible swimming area/s on the Suck River to afford balanced development of natural swimming amenities and water-based sports within the county. |

**Amendments to Chapter 8 CDP**

**8.2          Strategic Aims**

Galway County Council shall work with the appropriate agencies and state bodies to ensure that the tourism industry is promoted and supported and that our landscapes are suitably protected and will accord with the following strategic aims:

* To safeguard and augment County Galway’s extensive tourism sector;
* To maximise the potential of sustainable tourism thereby contributing to the balanced economic development of the County;
* To work in partnership with Fáilte Ireland, and other agencies to develop tourism in county Galway;
* To support the preparation and implementation of a Tourism Strategy for County Galway;
* To develop and enhance new and existing tourism products, attractions and tourism infrastructure;
* To develop and enhance access to natural swimming resources and water sports recreation within the county such as the Suck River;
* To capitalise on the distinct tourist attractions that County Galway has to offer including Destination Towns, natural, built and cultural heritage, scenic landscapes and natural amenities, Accessibility Friendly Towns
* To support and designate a pilot town*for Accessibility Friendly Tourism and Respite Tourism* within the county as an innovative pilot for Enhanced Accessibility Friendly Tourism and Respite Holiday Breaks.
* To work to improve the visitor experience and to support Visitor Experience Development Plans between neighbouring counties/ local authorities and other agencies, including consideration of phased developments planning with Cross border bodies,  to ensure that all visitors may in time enjoy the unique experience of the Aughrim to Antrim (Boyne) via Athlone Castle historic battlefields and cultural tourist trail;
* To work to improve the visitor experience and to support Visitor Experience Development Plans across the county to ensure that all visitors enjoy the unique experience of County Galway;
* To capitalise on the County’s identified nodes along the Wild Atlantic Way and Irelands Hidden Heartlands;
* To support the development of Sports Tourism within the county and capitalize on existing and developing nodes of accessible sporting infrastructure, i.e. gyms, running tracks, pitches, courts, swimming pools, natural swimming locations & watersports and greenway access
* To protect the landscape categories within the County and avoid negative impacts upon the natural environment.

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| **Policy Objectives Heritage Tourism** |
| **HT 1                       Stakeholders**  To work with the relevant stakeholders including the OPW, the Heritage Council, Fáilte Ireland, Údarás Na Gaeltachta, the Arts Council, Waterways Ireland, local communities and businesses to support the development of heritage and cultural tourism in Galway.  **HT2                        Heritage Assets**  To support and protect the heritage assets (built and natural) that are the focus for tourism development and that best practice standards in relation to the environmental management of tourism enterprises are adhered to.  **HT3                        Sustainable Tourism Industry**  To support the development of a more sustainable tourism industry which minimises adverse impacts on local communities, the built heritage, landscapes, habitats and species; leaving them undiminished as a resource for future generations, while supporting social and economic prosperity.  **HT4                         Historic Sites**  To support the development and enhancement of the historic battlefields, historic O'Kelly Clan built heritage and ecclesiastical sister abbey sites and the Aughrim Interpretive Centre as very important cultural and tourism asset |
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**8.12.2    Irelands Hidden Heartlands**

Please see insertion for inclusion in red below

Irelands Hidden Heartlands proposition; which includes east Galway; has rebranded the midlands since 2018; as a way of boosting tourism in this area.  The River Shannon is central to the proposition, the Shannon Tourism Masterplan’ is proposed to focus tourism concentration on and around the river and in surrounding towns. It will focus on the River Shannon, the development of new food networks and trails and the creation of new walking hubs are part of the campaign to attract a larger number of visitors. The plan is to entice visitors with the area’s walkways and lakes, and the campaign will promote activities like walking, cycling, fishing and boating. A walkway and trail network, the Beara Breifne Way, will have an extensive reach, with many towns along the route (including Portumna, Tiernascragh, Meelick, Eyrecourt,  Clonfert, Ballinasloe, Aughrim, Ahascragh and Ballygar in Co. Galway to be identified as “walking hubs.” The Galway section of the Beara Breifne Way is known as the Hymany Way.

The development of bathing areas and accessible water-based recreation on the River Suck should be examined further and supported as part of the tourism product within Irelands Hidden Heartlands and to spread evenly accessible recreational and sporting tourism product throughout the county.

Submission by

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