



Galway Healthy Cities Project Gaillimh Tionscnamh na gCathracha Sláintiúla

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What is Galway Healthy Cities?

Galway Healthy Cities project is part of a World Health Organization (WHO) initiative, with over 80 cities throughout Europe involved. The aim of the WHO Healthy Cities Project is to enhance the health of the city, its environment and its people through all groups and agencies working together.

Galway Healthy Cities Forum

The Galway Healthy Cities Forum is part of the City Development Board implementing the 10 year strategy "Beo agus Briomhar"



Galway City Development Board
Bord Forbartha Cathrach na Gaillimhe

The following organisations are part of the Healthy Cities Team



galway city
community forum
Foras pobail chathair na Gaillimhe



New Shelters for Your Bicycles

This month sees the rollout of new sheltered bicycle stands in the Eyre Square and Spanish Parade areas of Galway City for a trial period of six months. This new type of bicycle stand offers distinct benefits including shelter from wet weather, protection of bicycle frames and cables from rust. In addition, each stand has an easy accessible lock system and is designed to fit any size wheel i.e. mountain bike or hybrid wheels.

Commenting on this joint project, Head of Galway Transportation Unit, Joe Tansey stated that: "the commencement of this pilot initiative signals the start of a range of cycling initiatives, which Galway Transportation Unit will be working on particularly given the anticipated launch of the government's National Cycle Policy Framework at the end of March and the plans underway for a National Bicycle Week in June".

As this is a pilot project, the Galway Transportation Unit team are eager to hear the comments of bicycle users to this new stand by email at gtu@galwaycity.ie or by telephone at: (091) 894328.





Finland to link with Galway

As part of developing Galway as Age-Friendly City, Kuopio, which is located in Finland, is linking with Galway City to exchange information and ideas. Kuopio is located in the province of Eastern Finland with a population of 92,046, making it the ninth biggest city in the Finland.

Evelyn Fanning, Health Promotion Officer, who is coordinating the Age-Friendly initiative, highlighted "it is great to link in with another European city, which has a similar size population to Galway, and share ideas and exchange information. This is a key benefit of Galway being involved in a European project". Completed questionnaires have been received from over 70 individuals and groups within Galway City and a short report will be available at the end of April. The response has been great and the Healthy Cities Team would like to thank everyone who took the time to give their opinions and comments.

For more information please contact Evelyn.Fanning@hse.ie 091 548318



President Mc Aleese Thanks Galway Volunteers

President of Ireland, Mary Mc Aleese visited Galway on March 4th to thank and congratulate all of those who volunteer locally in Galway City and County. Speaking at the 'Celebrating Volunteering' event, organised by Galway Volunteer Centre, President Mc Aleese emphasised that Ireland should be defined by the actions of volunteers who give generously of their time. Speaking to the 150 people who attended the event in the Galway Bay Hotel, she said "You see what needs to be done and don't wait around for somebody else to do it. I insist that my country is defined by your actions."

The Volunteer Centre estimates that individuals using its free service have contributed over 35,000 hours of their time in the community since the centre opened in 2006. At present one of the challenges facing the staff at the centre is to find more volunteer vacancies for all the people who are registering. Organisations can register a vacancy for free, which the centre then passes on to the almost 2,000 registered volunteers.

For more information on Galway Volunteer Centre you can visit the website on www.volunteergalway.ie, phone 091 539930 or call into the office at 17/18 Mill Street.





Health Services Fair at NUIG

The first ever Galway Health Services Information Fair was held on Wednesday, 25 March in NUIG. Organised by the Galway Refugee Support Group in conjunction with NUIG some 40 different health-related organisations were in attendance to provide information on services available to people living in Galway City and county.

Groups included AIDS West, Arthritis Ireland, Citizens' Information, COPE, Galway Rape Crisis Centre, Integrating Ireland and SpunOut.ie. Information was provided on a range of topics including mental health, sexual health and complementary health, as well as fitness, health checks and health screening.

For more information contact Suzanne McKane, suzannegrsg@eircom.net or phone 091-779083



Preparation of the new Galway City Council Development Plan 2011-2017

The start of the review and preparation process by Galway City Council of the 2011–2017 Galway City Development Plan began on the 27th February. The preparation of the new City Development Plan will take approximately two years and has to be adopted by January 2011.

The Development Plan is a blue print for the planning and development of Galway City for the next six years. For example, it sets out where roads, water supplies, sewage are to be provided and it zones land for a particular purpose (housing, shopping, schools, industry, commercial etc.) This will affect what type of buildings can be constructed and the use to which land can be put. It affects many facets of daily economic and social life - where you can live, what services are available and where developments with job opportunities are to be sited.

Public participation is an integral part of the preparation of the new City Development Plan. Information on this can be got from the City Council's website – www.galwaycity.ie. Hard copies of the issue papers are also available at the Planning Department, City Hall, College Road, Galway (9.00am – 4.00pm). The closing date for submissions and observations for this consultation period is 29th April 2009 at 4.00pm.





Upcoming Events in April

April 20-24

Skipathon - Irish Heart Foundation

01 6685001 info@irishheart.ie

May 7th

Health Impact Assessment Seminar, Galway.

Teresa.Lavin@publichealth.ie, 01 478 6306

Deadlines

6th April

Submissions for Galway City Transport Feasibility Study. Send to gtu@galwaycity.ie by 12.00 noon on 6th April 2009

29th April

Submissions for Galway City Development Plan www.galwaycity.ie

The month in photos...



St. Patrick's Day parade in the City



A warm welcome to Spring in Galway...