



FINE GAEL 

Newsletter

# Cllr. Clodagh Higgins

SUMMER 2020

## WELCOME | FÁILTE

A Chara,

Now that a year has passed since I was elected to Galway City Council, I felt it was important to mark it with an update on my activities for the community since then. While it's been a busy year with lots of challenges like the cancellation of Galway2020 and the Covid19 pandemic there have also been some very positive developments with consideration been given to a new Arts Centre at the An Post site in the City Centre and increased funding granted to Salthill and Knocknacarra for a variety of initiatives.

However, as I face into the second year of my mandate I am fully aware of the acute difficulties facing businesses, sports clubs, community groups, childcare providers, charities, workers, and families as we try to get the economy back on track. Communicating with your local representative is important to help you through this time and I am determined to be as accessible as possible for the people I represent. All matters will be treated in the strictest of confidence and will be raised with the appropriate decision-maker so you can be assured that every effort will be made by me to get the result that you seek. You can contact me in the regular way by phone, email, through my social media channels and website. I also hold regular advice clinics. However, due to Covid-19 I have not been able to hold my clinics in the traditional way but, I have adapted, and I am now conducting meetings via Zoom and Skype.

Please contact me to arrange an appointment.

Regardless of whether you voted for me or not, I will work for you and represent our community to the best of my ability because I am here to serve our area and make it the best place to live, work and raise a family in.

Sláinte chugat,

*Clodagh.*



*Celebrating my Election  
- May 2019*



*Supporting  
Galway Parkinsons Association*



*Pictured at the launch of  
Knocknacarra FC's partnership with  
the Sick Kids Foundation*

# Since my election to Galway City Council, I have been working hard to deliver my objectives.

## BUSINESS



- Demanded Galway City Council establish a business forum without delay to tackle the huge challenges businesses are facing due to Covid-19
- Set down a motion calling on Galway City Council to designate public areas specifically for the use of the hospitality industry while adhering to social distancing guidelines and best practice
- Set down a motion calling on Galway City Council to organise a designated member of staff to act as a liaison officer with the traders committee on market issues at St. Nicholas Market
- Requested that Galway City Council provide a grant to the hospitality sector to assist in purchasing street furniture
- Supporting the efforts of SME Recovery Ireland
- Offered all businesses free membership of a digital representative body to assist with their online marketing and selling
- Compiled a Covid-19 Guide for Galway Businesses.
- Called on the a Council to provide extra parking facilities in Salthill to facilitate growth



*Pictured with HSE Suicide Prevention Officer Mary O' Sullivan*

## MENTAL HEALTH



**As a practicing Psychologist, mental health and suicide prevention are my core priorities. Among the initiatives I have taken include:**

- Brought forward a motion demanding Galway City Council implement a plan to combat the loss of life on the River Corrib
- Co-ordinated, facilitated and covered the costs of SafeTalk suicide prevention training for twenty people with the HSE
- Co-ordinated a two-day training in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training
- Ran a programme of continuous outreach to many elderly and vulnerable groups in the community and offered assistance during the Covid-19 pandemic
- Worked with a local arts group to secure funding for Art and Mental Health initiative



## Digital Advice Clinics

**In order to assist people, I hold regular advice clinics. However, due to Covid-19 I have not been able to hold my clinics in the traditional way. Like many, I have had to adapt and I am now conducting clinics via Zoom and Skype. Please contact me to arrange an appointment.**



# COMMUNITY & SAFETY



- Called on Government to provide a sports support fund to be put in place to assist local clubs post Covid-19.
- Successfully called on the CEOs of the national banks to freeze student loan repayments over Covid-19
- Elected a member of the Council's Economic, Community and Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee.
- Delivered a resurfacing programme of footpaths at Oaklands, Salthill
- Organised the resurfacing of Toft Car Park, Salthill
- Assisted Salthill/Knocknacarra GAA Club secure extra financial support from the Council.
- Campaigned for Knocknacarra FC in relation to Cappagh 3G pitch and secured a commitment for permanent floodlighting for the Club.
- Worked to ensure servicing and maintenance of the outdoor gym equipment in Salthill.
- Set down a motion calling for Galway City Council to commit to exploring the possibility of a feasibility study to provide for a Changing Places Accessible facility in the City which received unanimous support.
- Restored the basketball board and hoop at Carragh Hill. Currently working to ensure new line markings and the court's extension.
- Working with Estates in Knocknacarra to resolve issues in order to facilitate their handover to the Council for maintenance etc.
- Called for a Safety Audit on the roadway at Taylors Hill.
- Working to improve road safety at the pedestrian crossing at Sheridan's in Knocknacarra.
- Worked with Minister Sean Kyne to deliver €820,000 for a Naíonra and Language Centre at Gaelscoil Mhic Amhlaigh, Knocknacarra.
- Hosting a Zoom meeting with Leaving Certificate students on Tuesday 23rd of June on "Planning Your Future" where topics of discussion include; PLC and CAO courses and tips on building a profile while in college – all welcome!



## PLANNING

- Elected a member of the the Council's Planning Strategic Policy Committee
- Working with the Planning Department of GCC to ensure planning compliance at Bailey Point development in Salthill so that extra parking spaces will be made available to the community



**VISIT MY  
NEW WEBSITE**

[WWW.CLODAGHHIGGINS.IE](http://WWW.CLODAGHHIGGINS.IE)



*With employees of Galway City Council replacing footpaths at Oaklands*

# ARTS & CULTURE



- Elected as a member of the Council's Economic, Community and Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee
- Successful in my campaign with Galway City Council to get the Executive to recognise the need for a visual arts space for the City and to engage with An Post and other relevant stakeholders to deliver funding to develop the An Post site on William Street for such cultural purposes.
- Worked with a local arts group to secure funding for Art and Mental Health initiative



*Pictured with CEO of An Post David McRedmond*



*Pictured with Salthill Knocknacarra GAA Club members.*



*Taking part in Darkness into Light 2019 in Aid of Pieta House*



*with Ellen Wiseman, Assistant Director of Nursing of Cancer Services, accepting over 150 meals for front line workers.*

# TRANSPORT



- Set down a Motion asking City Council that in the interests of developing sustainable transport solutions to consider the appointment of a cycling officer who would promote cycling in the city, provide information and safety awareness, audit school cycling routes and develop 'walking bus routes'
- Sought Council support for the establishment of a Cycle Forum which would be responsible for overseeing the formulation and delivery of the local cycling policy for the City
- Sought and received commitments for the provision of bike parking facilities in Salthill and Knocknacarra. Currently awaiting confirmation of locations.
- Lobbied the NTA for an extension of the Coca-Cola bike scheme to Salthill & Knocknacarra and demanded a full maintenance schedule of existing bicycles
- Organised a cycle of the proposed Greenway with my fellow Councillors and the Urban Greenway Alliance Group (postponed due to inclement weather)
- Organised for additional road safety signage (Children at Play and Cul de Sac) to be placed in estates (e.g. Lenaboy Gardens)
- Currently working with the Council to deliver a bus parking facility adjacent to Leisureland
- Called for a provision to be made in the Budget for line markings on the prom to differentiate between pedestrians and cyclists
- Supporting the Barna Greenway initiative, attending monthly awareness cycles and gained support for the group's activities from my Fine Gael colleagues.

# CONTACT ME:



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working with Deputy Hildegard Naughton & Senator Seán Kyne



**FINE GAEL**

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