



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

GORT PUBLIC REALM ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

AN COIMISIUN PLEANALA CASE NO. 323066-25

**GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL RESPONSE TO
OBSERVATION BY:**

KAREN HARTE



Existing condition with shoppers at the Friday Market walking in the carriageway at Market Square, Gort.

Preamble

Galway County Council submit the following response to the Karen Harte's observation in respect of the Gort Public Realm Enhancement Project Part 10 Planning Application.

Galway County Council wishes to thank Karen Harte for her observations regarding the Gort Public Realm Enhancement Project (Part 10 Planning Application). We note and appreciate the points raised in the submission and recognise the importance of ensuring that any proposed changes serve the best interests of the entire community.

Proposed public realm design to foster economic activity, and support the viability of the Friday Market

The proposed public realm enhancement works shall embody the strategic aims and objectives outlined in Galway County Council Development Plan 2022 – 2028 in particular Chapter 3. Placemaking, Regeneration & Urban Living: *'...to enhance the attractiveness and improve the vibrancy and vitality for individuals and businesses alike.'* These aims and objectives are reiterated in the Gort Local Area Plan 2025 – 2031 and in the community led Town Centre First Plan.

At present the Friday Market is not safe for pedestrians as they have to walk in the vehicle carriageway to access the market stalls. The accessibility issues have led to the decline of the historic market which once was the focal point of community life. The proposed enhancement of the market square will provide a dedicated, safe environment for the market and stage social events outside of market days. This important regeneration project will to be implemented in support of the aims and objectives described in the Galway Development Plan and supporting statutory and non-statutory documents such as the Town Centre First Plan.



Photo 1: The current condition at the market square forces pedestrians into the carriageway.



Photo 2: The current condition at the market square forces pedestrians into the carriageway.



Image 1: The proposed market square will provide a dedicated space for the Friday market and have the potential to stage community events.

Conclusion:

Galway County Council values the input given by all stakeholders throughout the community consultation process. This collaborative approach brought the communities priorities to the fore and these were incorporated as far as practicable into the proposed Public Realm Enhancement Project. The proposed works to the wider public realm along with the historic market square as the focal point will foster economic activity and encourage social interaction and accommodate community events.

Signed on behalf of Galway County Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liam Hanrahan'.

Liam Hanrahan

Director of Services.