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na Gaillimhe  
Galway City Council

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IRISH PLANNING  
INSTITUTE 1975-2025  
Institiúid Pleanála Na hÉireann



# ANNUAL PLANNING CONFERENCE 2025

Planning's Past Achievements & Future Opportunities  
Irish Planning Institute 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference

## Comhdháil phleanála bhliantúil

Éachtaí Pleanála agus Deiseanna Amach Anseo Comhdháil  
Cheiliúrtha 50 bliain Institiúid Pleanála na hÉireann

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Salthill Hotel, Salthill, Co. Galway | Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> & Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025 | Welcome reception 9<sup>th</sup> April | CPD credits 15

Óstán Bhóthar na Trá, Bóthar na Trá, Co. na Gaillimhe | Déardaoin an 10 agus Dé hAoine an 11 Aibreán 2025 | Fáiltiú ar an 9 Aibreán agus dinnéar na comhdhála ar an 10 Aibreán | Creidiúintí don fhorbairt ghairmiúil leanúnach: 15

# PROGRAMME

2025 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Irish Planning Institute and this year's annual planning conference in Galway will look back at 50 years of best practice while considering the role of planning and professional planners into the future.

The conference programme is regularly updated with sessions and speakers. Please check back at [www.ipi.ie](http://www.ipi.ie) regularly for the latest updates.

In 2025, beidh 50 bliain imithe tharainn ó bunaíodh Institiúid Pleanála na hÉireann agus breathnófar siar ar 50 bliain den dea-chleachtas ag comhdháil phleanála na bliana seo i nGaillimh. Pléifear freisin an ról a bheidh ag an bpleanáil agus ag pleanálaithe gairmiúla san am atá le teacht.

Cuirfear seisiúin agus cainteoirí breise le clár na comhdhála de réir a chéile. Caith súil ar [www.ipi.ie](http://www.ipi.ie) ó am go chéile i gcomhair an eolais is déanaí.

## Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April

13:30-16:30	Seniors Forums	Invitation only
19:00	<p><b>Welcome Reception and Irish Planning Awards 2025 Launch</b></p> <p>The Orangery, Salthill Hotel Kindly sponsored by John Spain Associates</p>	<p>We offer early registration at the Salthill Hotel from <b>18:30</b> on <b>Wednesday</b> ahead of the welcome reception. The Institute's 2025 Irish Planning Awards will be launched at this event.</p>

## Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April – Salthill Hotel

08:30	<b>Registration: Tea/Coffee and visit exhibition stands</b>	
09:30- 11:00	<p><b>Session 1 – Welcome and opening keynote</b> <b>Conference Chair:</b> Sarah Carey</p>	<p><b>President's Welcome</b> - Gavin Lawlor MIPI, IPI President</p> <p><b>Developments in Galway City</b> - Leonard Cleary, Chief Executive, Galway City Council</p> <p><b>The past and the future of planning</b> – Ciarán Cuffe MIPI, Former MEP, TD and Minister of State for Climate Action and Planning</p> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
11:00-11:30	<b>Refreshment break, visit exhibitors or drop in to a side event</b>	

## Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April – Salthill Hotel

11:30-13:00	<b>Session 2 – Policy update; Placemaking and Regional Development</b>	<p><b>Policy update</b> - Claragh Mulhern MIPI, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage</p> <p><b>Effective regional development</b> - Conall McGettigan, Senior Planner, Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA)</p> <p><b>PropTech, participation and placemaking</b> - Carol Tallon, CEO, Property District</p> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
13:00-14:00	<b>Lunch, visit exhibitors or drop in to a side event</b>	
14:00- 15:00	<b>Session 3 – Placemaking and Regional Development continued</b>	<p><b>Developments in Galway County TBC</b> – Speaker TBC, Galway County Council</p> <p><b>Regional housing delivery</b> – Emer O’Callaghan MIPI, Planning Lead – Development Projects, Land Development Agency</p> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
15:00-16:05	<b>Session 4 – Reform</b>	<p><b>An Coimisiún Pleanála and its future role in the planning system</b> - Peter Mullan, Chairperson, An Bord Pleanála</p> <p><b>Interactive panel discussion on planning reform in comparative perspective</b> – Peter Mullan, Alistair Macdonald (Director, Allies and Morrison Urban Practitioners), Lisa Walshe MIPI (Principal Planner, Belfast City Council)</p>
16:05-16:15	<b>Day 1 Rapporteur’s Report</b>	<b>Eoghan Lynch</b> MIPI, Senior Planner, Galway City Council
16:15	<b>Day 1 Close – Explore Salthill or drop in to a side event</b>	
19:00	<b>Prosecco Drinks Reception</b> Kindly sponsored by John Spain Associates	
	<b>Gala Dinner</b> Including the presentation of the Irish Planning Institute Student Awards sponsored by the OPR by Gavin Lawlor and Niall Cussen FIPI, Planning Regulator	



## Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April – Salthill Hotel

<b>08:45 Drop in to a side event</b>		
<b>09:30- 11:00</b>	<b>Session 5 – 50 Years of Best Practice and Lessons for the Future</b>	<p><b>Day 2 Welcome</b> - Gavin Lawlor MIPI, IPI President</p> <p><b>Minister’s Address (invited)</b></p> <p><b>Interactive panel discussion on the role of the planner</b> - <b>Joanna Kelly</b> FIPI (Senior Planner, Louth County Council and Past President), <b>Colm Ryan</b> MIPI (Planning Director, MKO), <b>Henk van der Kamp</b> FIPI (Secretary General, ECTP-CEU and Past President); <b>Deirdre O’Connor</b> MIPI (Divisional Manager, Strategic Property and Regional Enterprise Development, IDA), <b>Michael Lynch</b> MIPI, Divisional Manager, Cork County Council</p>
<b>11:00-11:30 Refreshment break, visit exhibitors or drop in to a side event</b>		
<b>11:30-13:00</b>	<b>Session 6 – The State of the Environment</b>	<p><b>Planning and ecology, MKO</b></p> <p><b>Emerging trends in Biodiversity Net Gain across Ireland and the UK</b> - Luke Atherton, Principal Biodiversity Net Gain Consultant, AECOM</p> <p><b>Coastal communities: what is their role in terrestrial and marine planning in Ireland?</b> – Dr Eugene Farrell, Senior Lecturer, University of Galway</p> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
<b>13:00-13:15</b>	<b>Day 2 Rapporteur’s Report and Conference Close</b>	Eoghan Lynch MIPI Gavin Lawlor MIPI, IPI President
<b>13:15-14:00 Lunch and visit exhibitors</b>		
<b>14:00-16:30</b>	<p><b>Tours</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Bus Tour:</b> Rural pressures and opportunities with Galway County Council</li> <li><b>Walking Tour:</b> Salthill and City Centre</li> </ul> <p>Further information will be provided to registered delegates ahead of the conference where delegates can indicate their preference of tour</p>	

## SIDE EVENTS

These are optional informal, expert led forums and discussion sessions on topical issues or with leading organisations introducing their work

Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> April		
11:05-11:25	Technology and Planning with lightning talks from PropTech Ireland and RealSim	Promenade Suite, Fourth Floor
13:30-13:50	MKO's offshore RE work - Title TBC	Promenade Suite, Fourth Floor
16:25-17:15	Public Consultation and Planning – lessons from Salthill and Galway with scene setting presentation from Julia Dorrington, Allies and Morrison	Promenade Suite, Fourth Floor
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April		
8:45-9:25	Planning and the Irish Language - Pleanáil agus an Ghaeilge	Promenade Suite, Fourth Floor
11:05-11:25	Introducing Allies and Morrison	Promenade Suite, Fourth Floor

## REGISTRATION

Book online at [www.ipi.ie](http://www.ipi.ie), [✉ info@ipi.ie](mailto:info@ipi.ie) [📞 +353 \(0\)1-8788630](tel:+353018788630)

<b>In person</b>	Member	€395
	Non-Member	€635
	TD/MLA/Senator/Councillor/RTPI Member	€515
<b>Online</b>	Member	€200
	Non-Member	€250
	TD/MLA/Senator/Councillor/RTPI Member	€225

A 10% discount for in-person group bookings of 5 or more is available, contact the Institute for details.

Member rates are only available to paid up members at time of booking.

All bookings are subject to our terms and conditions available on [www.ipi.ie](http://www.ipi.ie). In particular please refer to the section on Cancellations, Substitutions and No-Shows.



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