

NEWSLETTER

HEADFORD GALWAY EAST AUTUMN 2019

Welcome to my Headford Newsletter.

This is a good opportunity to update you on all the recent initiatives for Headford and its surroundings. The town is going from strength to strength. Through the summer it has been a hive of activity with Headfest, which is now firmly established as a major event in County Galway, the County Fleadh Cheoil and the Gymkhana and Dog Show among the highlights.

Tourism continues to be hugely important for the local economy with angling on the Corrib and Black Water, Ross Errilly Friary and new heritage initiatives like the Headford Lace Project attracting increasing numbers of visitors.

They are complemented by so many great businesses and enterprises in the town and by community initiatives like the Community Garden and the Men's Shed.

Headford stands at the crossroads of Connemara, Mayo, Galway and Tuam but it continues to go in only one direction - upwards!

However, there is always more to do so if you need assistance or if there are any issues you wish to raise, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best Wishes.

Seán Canney TD
Minister for Rural Affairs,
Natural Resources and Digital Development



INDEPENDENT

SEÁN CANNEY

ONWARDS AND UPWARDS FOR HEADFORD

I am delighted to see Headford going through so many changes for the better. Here are some of the initiatives I have been working on.

- **Headford** received funding of €100,000 under the **Town and Village Renewal Scheme** for a range of improvements, including upgrading and redesigning public lighting, enhanced amenities and infrastructural changes to encourage young families and retirees to settle in the town.



Office of Public Works, Headford

- An application to the **Outdoor Recreation Scheme** to complete the pathway from the town to **Corner Chapel** is pending.

- I have been working with Councillor Andrew Reddington to secure funding for a stone wall at **Killursa Cemetery**. We also met the committee for **Cargin Cemetery** along with officials from **Galway County Council** to discuss how we can source funding to complete the car park.

- I am consulting with the **Office of Public Works** to explore ways to enhance the visitor experience at **Ross Errilly Friary**. The ruins feature in **Tourism Ireland's** brand, **The Wild Atlantic Way**.

- The refurbishment of the **Office of Public Works** regional offices in **Headford** is being progressed. Planning permission has been obtained and I expect the project to be going to tender shortly.

GALWAY EAST

Seán Canney,
Independent TD
Minister of State

St. David's, The Mall, Tuam, Co. Galway H54 P526
Tel. (093) 26476 Mob. (086) 2513639
Email: sean.canney@oireachtas.ie
www.seancanney.com

ON THE ROAD

R333 HEADFORD TO TUAM

The completion of the **M17-M18** link from **Tuam to Gort** brings Headford into closer proximity to the main routes to Limerick and Dublin.

The increased significance of the R333 from **Headford to Tuam** makes it imperative that this road is realigned at key points to make it safer for increased traffic flows and minimise the risk of accidents.

I am urging **Galway County Council** to apply for funding from the **Department of Transport** for this to be done.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

The **Local Improvement Scheme (LIS)** is available to service and resurface roads that are not under the control of **Galway County Council**.

Under the scheme residents have to fund a fraction of the cost of the improvements.

The scheme was reintroduced by my department, the **Department for Rural and Community Development**, and I want to compliment my ministerial colleague, **Minister Michael Ring**, for doing so.

Under round one of the 2019 scheme, **Galway County Council** received €856,959 to fund 37 road projects.

I am urging people living on these roads to get in contact with my office for information on how to apply.



TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Improved traffic management in the centre of Headford is urgently required to allow the town to develop and reach its full potential.

Additional parking is essential between **The Square** and the crossroads to ease the daily bottleneck.

I am asking **Galway County Council** to identify suitable parking sites off the main street as soon as possible.

N84 ALIGNMENT

The completion of the alignment of the **N84 at Luimnagh** has vastly improved safety on the route from **Headford to Galway**.

However, remedial alignment work is urgently needed on the road between **Headford and Shrule** at **Knockroon** and also at **Holleran's Corner** entering Shrule.

These sections of road have seen many incidents over the years and I have urged **Galway Council Council** to make a funding application to the **Department of Transport** in order to take the necessary action.

I am also calling on the **Department of Transport** to find the funding necessary to carry out the work because the road is dangerous.

GETTING CONNECTED IN HEADFORD

The **Headford Hub** at **Moyne Villa FC** has provided an excellent business facility for local entrepreneurs and has served as a springboard for start-ups and remote working.

It is also a base for a range of other activities, including education and training.

The hub is a professional office space that can be rented on an hourly, daily, weekly or monthly basis

I want to compliment Moyne Villa and the Hub Committee for setting up this facility that offers such great service to the community.



NATIONAL BROADBAND PLAN

There is a serious lack of high-speed broadband in rural areas around Headford. Broadband is essential in modern society and without it lives are impeded and disadvantaged.

I have been instrumental in ensuring the National Broadband Plan is delivered. Over the next 25 years, we will be investing **€152 million** in broadband for **County Galway**.

This will ensure that we have fibre to the home for all our citizens. Nobody can be left behind in the digital age.

My Department, the **Department for Rural and Community Development**, is also supporting initiatives to train and upskill people in the use of digital. I recently presented certificates to people from Headford and the surrounding areas who carried out this training at the **Solas** offices in the town.

ON THE FARM

Beef farming is in crisis with Brexit uncertainty causing currency fluctuations that have already had a devastating effect on the industry.

I have been working with farming organisations, the **Minister for Agriculture Michael Creed** and the **Taoiseach** to ensure our farmers are protected.

I very much welcome the agreement recently reached between the processors and the producers. It is an opportunity for further engagement so that farmers get a fair base price for their product.

Our farmers produce a world class top quality product and it is vital that we support them.



SUPPORTING ANGLERS

In my remit as **Minister for Natural Resources**, I have been working closely with angling groups in north and east Galway to provide means for developing the sport, which is so important for local anglers and for the tourists who boost the local economy.

The **Corrib** and **Black Water** are great attractions in the Headford area and I look forward to progressing the interests of our anglers in the months to come.



SILT AT LUIMNAGH

I am concerned about the build-up of silt and sediment at the outfall of the treatment plant at **Luimnagh**.

This poses a potential risk to people in the **Caherlistrane and Kilcoona Group Water Scheme** and also concerns anglers in the area who fear any deterioration in water quality will have a detrimental effect on this important amenity.

I have been in contact with **Galway County Council**, the **Environment Protection Agency** and **Inland Fisheries Ireland** to ask them to ensure this issue is dealt with prior to any of these risks becoming a reality.



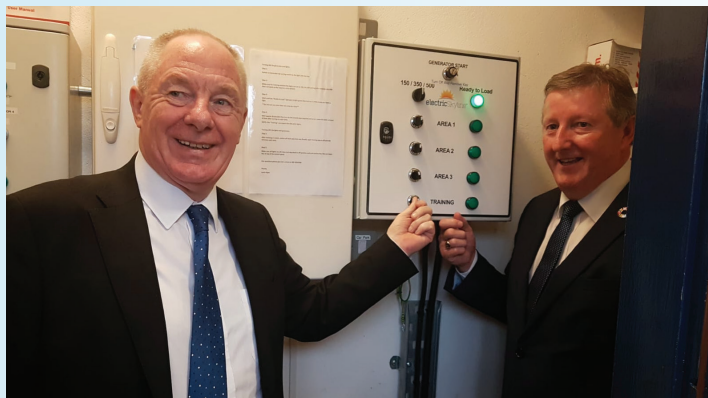
Tourism potential for Ross Errilly Friary

SPORT FOR ALL

Headford is a great sporting area and I am delighted to see the improvements being made to its sports facilities. I will continue to support all measures needed to upgrade our clubs and associations.

Recent improvements include:

- **Headford GAA** received an €80,000 **Sports Capital Grant**. It was great to meet all the officials, including representatives from **St Fursey's Ladies Football**, when I had the honour of switching on the new floodlights with **Minister Michael Ring TD**.
- **Corrib Rugby Club** secured a €53,000 **Sports Capital Grant** for floodlights. The work has been completed and the floodlights will be officially turned on shortly.
- **Moyne Villa FC** has been upgrading its facilities with a new all-weather astroturf pitch planned to replace its current natural surface. The club is also carrying out an extension to its premises which is nearing completion.



Switching on the new floodlights at Headford GAA with Minister Michael Ring TD



Meeting St Fursey's Ladies Football Committee



Headford Men's Shed visiting Leinster House

SUPPORTING MEN'S SHEDS

I was delighted that my Department, the **Department for Rural and Community Development**, allocated €500,000 from the Dormant Accounts Fund to the **400 Men's Sheds** around the country. Men's Sheds were set up to address social isolation among our older men.

They also make a great contribution to the community in general.

Headford Men's Shed is thriving and I was very pleased to host them when they visited **Leinster House** earlier this year.

CLINICS

I hold regular Clinics in Headford.

Please check local newspapers for details.

If you have any urgent issues please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Constituency Office.

The details are below.



INDEPENDENT

St. David's, The Mall, Tuam,
Co. Galway H54 P526
Tel. (093) 26476
Mob. (086) 2513639
Email: sean.canney@oireachtas.ie
www.seancanney.com

**SEÁN
CANNEY**

WORKING HARD FOR GALWAY EAST