



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

Monday, 30 March 2009

## "LETS DO IT GALWAY" - Galway Ablaze Proposal

### Guidelines in respect of 'Bonfires'

The proposal from Let's Do it Galway to seek communities to participate in the Galway Ablaze proposal, as part of the extended Volvo Ocean Race Programme in May-June 2009, involves 'communities' preparing welcome fires or bonfires for the boats participating in the race.

Galway County Council has responsibility for the Galway County area excluding Galway City and this document refers only to the Galway County Council functional area. The Galway Bay Area being considered by Lets Do it Galway also extends into the Authority area of Clare and Galway City. It is recommended that Lets Do it Galway make contact with other Local Authorities in respect of their specific guidelines.

### Current Policy

Galway County Council current policies relates to farmers or large garden owners who wish to burn natural vegetation in a controlled environment. We first suggest that they compost it but, if there is too much they, are allowed to burn it in a controlled and safe manner. In relation to bonfire night (St. John's Night) an exception is made. This is in accordance with regulations overseen by the Environment Unit of Galway County Council.

### Recommended Guidelines

Galway County Council recommends that 'Let's Do it Galway', in its management and co-ordination of this initiative, sets out clear guidelines to communities participating in this initiative and asks the Lets Do it Team to issue the following guidelines;



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- Each bonfire must be registered with "Let's Do it Galway" in advance of the event with a clear indication of location;
- There must be a contact name and telephone number available for each bonfire;
- Each bonfire must be supervised at all times for safety and anti-social behaviour reasons;
- Groups should consider as a first priority fire or bonfire within a suitable container e.g.: a barrel
- Only timber/straw products can be used. No waste material such as plastic, metal, upholstered furniture, mattresses, general waste, tyres etc. can be used;
- The bonfire must not be on restricted land such as Special Areas of Conservation, Special protected areas, or protected Coastline;
- All bonfire sites must be cleaned up afterwards by the supervising committee. There must be no clean up costs to the Local Authority and no liability;
- Galway County Council Environment Section to be informed and updated on registration of bonfires in advance, in order to advise Local Area Offices and relevant staff and to deal with any queries that may arise from the public as a result of the initiative;

**For queries in relation to these Guidelines only:**

Galway County Council Environment Section - Mark Molloy, Assistant  
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All other queries are directed to the Lets Do it Galway Team -