

Good morning Geographers,

It looks like we are waking up to a new political dawn as the general election seems to have resulted in a historic shift away from the two dominant parties. I hope your candidate got through.

In addition to voting, there are also opportunities to have your say through 'Public Consultations'. Each new plan or policy includes a consultation phase (it is not an ideal system: as geographer we are pushing for this engagement to come when 'all options are still on the table'). See some open ones [here](#) on issues such as, the Circular Economy, Air Pollution, Communications, and *the performance of the EPA: its scope and mandate*.

RESEARCH highlights

Speaking of better ways to engage communities, Pat Collins has been working with Moycullen to develop a better future for the area. They looked at two scenarios:

- 1) A village planned under the guidance of good practice planning principles and climate resilience. *A village planned according to the will of its residents.*
- 2) A village unplanned (or to put it another way, through existing zoning and developer-led projects – my words in these brackets)

The report [Moycullen 2030](#) is a fascinating read.

Of note around Geography this week

Continuing our series in *A Day In The Life of a Geographer*, Ulf Strohmayer talks about his work as an urban Geographer – see series [here](#).

Kevin Lynch, Axel Leahy (PhD student) & Carlie Schecht (MSc Student) have just returned from a community-led project meeting looking at Bertra Strand and its surrounding landscape (Co Mayo). Carlie is interested in providing the local communities with more options in their battle against climate change impacts: maybe using *oyster reefs as coastal protection* (see an example [here](#) from NY).

Upcoming talks

Town Hall Theatre, 1:10pm to 1:50pm, Thursday (Feb 13th)

Speaker: Paul Walsh

Back to the future:

Renaissance Galway in the mid-seventeenth century

Galway is unique in possessing a large-scale pictorial map of the mid-seventeenth century city. Commonly known as the '1651 map of Galway', this talk highlights its origins, design and content.