

**Tuairisc/Reporting Template for Galway City  
Community Network (GCCN) Reps**

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**Galway City Community Network**  
Lionra Pobail Chathair Na Gaillimhe

<b>Cruinniú /Name of Meeting</b>	Transport SPC
<b>Ionadaí FPCG (glacadóir - nótaí) Name of GCCF Rep (note-taker)</b>	Derrick Hambleton
<b>Dáta &amp; Suite Date &amp; Location of Meeting:</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> October 2015
<b>I láthair/ Attendance</b>	F Fahy, Anna Marley, chair John Walsh Joe O'Neill, Sharon Connolly, Helena Martin – Galway Transport Unit, and self.
<b>Príomhphointí pléite / Key Issues Discussed:</b> # Parking Control # Road Safety # ITMP # Climate Change # Connectivity in estates.  This was yet another SPC that had less than a satisfactory level of attendance with just 3 councillors and no show from the Business or Trade Union sector. Richard Manton is away in Germany but is in touch via email.  Therefore, no key decisions are being made at these committees, which have become little more than talking shops.  This will not change until we organise a Linkage Group, take direction from members on our needing to take charge, getting our issues on the agenda. Also by gaining support from friendly councillors before meetings, to set our own agenda which at the moment is being set by the Director!  After first raising a question about the length of the <b>'No Right Turn'</b> trial at the Taylors Hill – Threadneedle Road junction (3 months) and the arrangements for cyclists turning, and Frank Fahy asking a question about moving the bus stop at Tirellan, we went on to discuss the issues as listed on the agenda above.	

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**Socruithe déanta/ Key Decisions Made:**

- In discussing Parking Control within the City Core area, we were informed that they were a total of 899 residents Parking Permits on issue. This is causing the Transport Unit to consider tightening up to try and reduce the numbers, as this has impacts for business owners who are complaining about customers not having enough space to park. Carers and people with Blue (Disability) stickers excepted. It is being proposed that separate zones for permit holders only are to be looked at.
- There are over 2000 marked on-road pay parking spaces in the city and in Salthill.
- Variable Messaging (electronic) signs are still being rolled out to inform motorists which car parks have spaces available.
- Discussion over speed controls in estates and on which method of car speed limitation is most effective eg, signs, limiting road width, speed bumps etc. I asked about the situation at Threadneedle Road, with the recent 'improvements' outside of the schools. I brought up the obvious situation with buses and cars parking on crossings and suggested that discussion on removing buses to load inside of St Endas, which is being pursued with school management, I was told. There is a reluctance to deal with such questions as it is considered to be an enforcement issue for the guards!
- Long discussion on the ITMP, which is being prepared and readied for publication after Christmas. It is being assumed that the N6 By pass will be passed for planning. The officials are all adamant that the road will be required as part of the need for reducing the amount of traffic needing to drive through/into the centre. When I referred to the possibility that the road will not be built (there is considerable and well organised opposition) and no government funding allocated. This news was not well received with the Director and other officials insisting that it must be built, or, as Joe O'Neill puts it "there must be another river crossing" which is slightly different to saying there will be a by-pass. There does not seem to be much realism when it comes down to considering if 600m to provide an expressway for just 3% of cars that would traverse the whole of its length, whether the new road represents good Value for Money. It was said that unless a road is built there would not be enough road width on existing roads for any effective public transport improvements. Time will tell.
- The discussion on Climate Change was short, and towards the end of the meeting. I suggested that without any real change in planning that flooding could be worse than people seem to be realising. That with consultants drawing up plans for Flood Prevention in the form of barriers, that all this would be very expensive on the city. It was revealed that there is no budget for the cleaning of Gullies in the city. That though they still have a vehicle for cleaning drains, that there are many drains in the older parts of town that are liable to become blocked again.

There is limited option for the GCCN to make specific impact on influencing many of these issues, which the officials regard as operational. The Draft Development Plan is out now for Councillors to consider and make alterations to. It will come out for Public display and further comment after Christmas.

We can only now make representations as such, through canvassing councillors I think.

It is noted that the road through Merlin Woods is still in the plan. But that this can be voted out by councillors, it was said. Whether this is deliberate, hoping that no one will notice is a question!

**Dáta don chéad chruinniú eile**  
**Date of next meeting :**

Moltaí breise /Any Other Comments: