

Galway City Community Network: Submission to Draft Heritage Plan, 2015 – 2020, Galway City Council

VISION

Heritage – identified as a living and inclusive entity for the residents of Galway GCCN will be proactive in the development and implementation of Galway City Heritage Policy.

- To raise awareness of the importance of the heritage of Galway as visitor destination and as a growing employment opportunity.*
- To provide for inclusion of diversity of heritage interests as encouraged by Galway City Council under the auspices of the Galway City Development Plan.*
- Galway residents and visitors will be enabled to participate in all heritage events through active inclusion.*
- We believe in the promotion of Galway City as an ECO City which would involve the preservation and enhancement of the natural environment of Galway city that includes seashores, wetlands, karst limestone, meadows, forests, woodlands, lakes, rivers and bogs, the promotion and protection of biodiversity, the development of ecological corridors, the promotion and use of renewable and clean energies, an annual reduction in carbon emissions, the implementation of a policy of Zero Waste, the honouring of international biodiversity and environmental agreements as signed up to by the Irish state, the implementation of a pedestrian-friendly, cycling friendly, disability friendly and child friendly transport infrastructure, and active involvement by the community sector at all levels of the decision-making process.*

RECOMMENDATIONS

- GCCN to become a member of the Heritage Forum for Galway City
- GCCN will encourage the Planning and Heritage Offices of Galway City Council to support and advise Heritage groups in applying to the Heritage Council and other bodies for appropriate funding, e.g., through increased publicity and awareness in good time before application date; application forms to be simplified
- Development of an annual heritage award programme by Galway City Council
- Promotion and presentation of our heritage through literature, guided walks and talks.
- The integrity of Galway city's architectural heritage (particularly its medieval architecture) must be protected through robust planning and enforcement procedures.
- All heritage infrastructure supported by public funds must be accessible to the public. Accessibility to include physical and social
- Continue promotion of Galway as a bi-lingual city.
- Continue policy of free access to Galway City Museum.

- Improve/increase signage and access to Heritage related visitor attractions,
- Recommend to Councillors that a new Galway City Heritage Plan be developed and adopted as soon as possible.
- Increased integration of the work of Galway City and County in relation to heritage sites

Parks, Wildlife and Natural Heritage

- Implementation of the 'Galway City Habitats Inventory Report' as adopted by Galway City Council in May 2006 including an annual monitoring process of all wildlife habitats.
- Development of 'Ecological Corridors' across the city.
- Development of Terryland Forest Park as an community-based urban native tree woodland of national and international important .
- Appointment of a Biodiversity Officer for Galway City Council.
- Appointment of a Tree Officer.
- Development of a Forestry Interpretative & Learning Centre that would provide educational programmes on traditional skills such as coppicing, dry-stonewalling
- Provision of a community tree nursery.
- Introduction of an annual community Tree, Hedgerow and Bulb Planting across in the parks of Galway city.
- Development and promotion of eco-tourism that includes nature woodland walks, seashore safaris, cycle trails, bird watching and recreational angling.
- Promotion of Parks and Natural Heritage areas As Outdoor Classrooms for local schools
- Promotion of Parks and Natural Heritage areas As Outdoor Laboratories for third level colleges
- Introduction of a Golden Mile heritage programme for Galway city
- Introduction of Public Information Signage on the natural and social heritage in appropriate locations in the natural heritage areas of Galway city
- Implementation a city wide neighbourhood and work-place Organic Garden programme that include provision of a network of community gardens and allotments
- Promotion of Community Harvest Festivals
- Development of Parks and Recreational Facilities in tandem with Residential Development
- Promoting Meaningful Community Input into Park Management

- Implementation of a 'Adopt a Park' programme
- It should be the policy of the Council to ensure that each 'city', 'neighbourhood' and 'local' park as well as 'Greenways' should be formally adopted by specific residents associations, other community and voluntary groups as well as by schools
- Provision of Neighbourhood & Peoples' Parks
- A greater emphasis must be done in maximising the general population's utilisation of parks by the hosting of a variety of family and special events.
- Introduction of an annual Sunday Picnic Community Day
- Promotion of Community Festivals in Galway city parks
- Introduction of Park Rangers/Volunteer Wardens Scheme
- Introduction of an 'Art in the Parks' programme
- All City and Neighbourhood parks should have some thematic and relevant artistic element. These could range from an art sculpture trail to an outdoor amphitheatre
- Provision of an Outdoor amphitheatre and public green spaces for the performance arts and other cultural activities
- Provision of a City Farm
- Protection and preservation of existing agricultural lands within the city boundaries
- An end of urban sprawl
- Continuation of the 'Glan Suas Gaillimh' (Clean Up Galway) programme



Líonra Pobail Chathair Na Gaillimhe
Galway City Community Network

Galway City Community Network is the Public Participation Network in Galway City

Phone: +353(0)87 9326467

Email: info@qalwaycitycommunitynetwork.ie

Website: www.galwaycitycommunitynetwork.ie

Co-ordinator: Ann Irwin