

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

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Galway City Community Network
Lionra Pobail Chathair Na Gaillimhe

Cruinniú /Name of Meeting	Housing SPC
Ionadaí FPCG (glacadóir - nótaí) Name of GCCF Rep (note-taker)	Diarmaid O'Sullivan
Dáta & Suite Date & Location of Meeting:	21/07/2016
I láthair/ Attendance	Paul Hargaden (Community Forum:PPN rep), Cllr Mike Cubbard, Cllr Mairead Farrell, Cllr Michael Crowe, Cllr Declan McDonnell, Cllr John Walsh, Cllr Mike Cubbard, Cllr Neil McNelis Laurena Mitchell, Helena Martyn, Sharon Lawless, , Ann Brett, Assumpta – Galway City Council Housing Department

Príomhphointí pléite / Key Issues Discussed:

Tenancy Protection Service

Diarmaid O'Sullivan gave a presentation to the SPC on a new service being delivered by Threshold in conjunction with Galway City Council and the Department of Social Protection. The service will work with tenants whose tenancies are at risk to prevent tenancy breakdown and the occurrence of homelessness. Promotional work in relation to the service will be undertaken in the coming months. The service will operate across Galway City, Galway County, Mayo and Roscommon.

Rent Scheme Review

Galway City Council have been undertaking a Rent Scheme Review. 2,586 differential rent tenants have been contacted and they have been requested to return information in relation to their means. It has been necessary to send reminder letters to some 700. Responses have not been received from 392 who now run the risk of being faced with penalties which will not be refunded. A final letter will now issue to these clients. Any increases in rent due will be backdated to the previous January only. The issue vulnerable tenants, including those with literacy difficulties was raised and assurances were received that

Housing Needs Assessment

Local Authorities are required under law to carry out a Housing Needs Assessment every three years. All households on the housing waiting, approximately 4,500 list will need to be contacted and will have to provide up to date information in relation to means and household membership. Galway City Council will be writing to everyone on the list in the coming weeks and they will be required to complete a 4-page document. There will be adverts in the papers, on Galway Bay FM and voluntary and statutory agencies will be informed. If there is no response, people will lose their place on the list. If people have moved address and have not informed the Council of this fact, difficulties may arise in terms of responding to correspondence. GCC may try to contact people by text/email where practical.

Capital Programme

Phase 1 Ballymoneen Road (14 units) has gone to tender and it is expected that builders will be on site for first week in October. Phase 2 (55 Units) has to go back to redesign and procurement because DOE want increased density, although this is expected to only result in an additional 4 or 5 units.

There has recently been a call for Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) projects - both acquisitions and construction. Draw down for acquisition for projects needs to be completed by 29th July 2016 and construction projects by 4th November 2016. Galway City Council also looking to develop projects under the Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF). There were 18 units acquired in 2015 and a further 18 units approved for acquisition in 2016. A development at Roscam will see 14 units built by Cluide and 14 by Tuath.

It was highlighted that there have been no houses built by Galway City Council in the past five years.

Traveller Accommodation Programme:

Respond will be delivering a development at Doughiska in rezoned lands - 23 units, 4 of which will be for traveller families. However there continues to be significant resistance to the provision of additional halting sites in the city.

AOB

The extremely negative media coverage of the situation that arose following the provision of social housing in the Leas na Mara estate was discussed. It was stressed by some members that everyone, including elected officials have a responsibility not to inflame situations and contribute to discord.

Socruithe déanta/ Key Decisions Made:

Gníomhaíochtaí

Action(s) required from GCCN:

None

Dáta don chéad chruinniú eile
Date of next meeting :

Thursday October 6th 9.30am

Moltaí breise /Any Other Comments:

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