

**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	Transport SPC
Ionadaí/FPCG (glacadóir - nótaí) Name of GCCF Rep (note-taker)	Richard Manton, Derrick Hambleton
Dáta & Suite Date & Location of Meeting:	25 th October 2016, Galway City Council
I láthair/ Attendance	Councillors: John Walsh (chair), Collette Connolly, Mike Cubbard, Frank Fahy, Pearse Flannery, Noel Larkin, Mark Lohan, External reps: Derrick Hambleton (environment), Pat Hardiman (trade union), Richard Manton (community/voluntary) In Attendance: Uinseann Finn, Martina Golding, Jim Molloy, Joe O'Neill, Anne Ruane

Príomhphointípléite / Key Issues Discussed:

1. Matters Arising

- The motion passed at the 19th April SPC meeting (calling for free school transport) was again raised by Collette Connolly. This motion has been placed on the Galway City Council (GCC) agenda, however, it has yet to be heard. The hearing of the motion is to be raised with the Mayor in advance of the next GCC meeting.
- Frank Fahy highlighted the issue of coach parking on Merchants' Road in the context of the 'blitz' on illegal parking. He suggested that GCC write to the Garda Superintendent regarding this issue.
- Frank Fahy also questioned the status of roundabout upgrades. Jim Molloy responded that consultants have been appointed to redesign the Kirwan, while the Browne will be examined in the context of the bus priority route (see below).
- The reinstatement of traffic calming on the Siobhán McKenna Road was raised by Derrick Hambleton. According to Jim Molloy, GCC is currently looking at installing bicycle lanes on this road. However, Mike Cubbard said that this has been the situation for over one year and that a timeframe should be provided.
- Traffic management plans for large events were addressed by several members, initially by Collette Connolly in the context of illegal parking at Pearse Stadium. Joe O'Neill claimed that this is an operational, rather than strategic, issue and therefore is not within the remit of the SPC. Furthermore, it is relatively rare that sporting events attract more than 10,000 attendees. However, other speakers said that traffic management plans will be important in future in the context of the European Capital of Culture, concerts, continued success of sporting teams.
- A number of other issues were also raised:
 - Bike Share Scheme extension: NTA will visit next week to assess locations. Provisionally these are: NUIG (3), UHG, Claddagh Hall, Moneenageisha, GMIT (1 or 2)
 - Tirellan and Western Distributor Road bus stops: bases to go in next week
 - Ballinfoyle pedestrian crossing: GCC discussing with TII as this is a National road

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- Western Distributor Road pedestrian crossings

2. Speed limit review

Uinseann Finn outlined GCC's speed review and the preparation of new bye-laws. This work is conducted in line with statutory guidelines which require the publication of bye-laws before April 2017. GCC has identified 90 housing estates across the city where speed limits will be reduced to 30 km/h and 'slow zone' signage will be erected.

These locations have been identified using the guideline of housing estates with 'one entrance, one exit' that are in GCC charge. Several members pointed out that this guideline excludes many areas with speeding problems (including near schools) and called for the circulation of the list of locations. Uinseann Finn responded that there will be a full review of speed beyond across the city and the new bye-laws will extend beyond these 90 locations to areas such as the Claddagh and Renmore.

A discussion on the 30 km/h limit followed. Several speakers called for a lower limit, such as 20 km/h. However, Uinseann Finn noted that there is no legal provision for a 20 km/h limit yet included in the Road Traffic Act. Frank Fahy said that 20 km/h is too low, although other members highlighted the damage that can be caused when a car travelling at 30 km/h can have on a child playing in a housing estate.

There was also a discussion on the use of speed ramps for enforcement. Uinseann Finn said that it would be cost prohibitive to install speed ramps in all 90 estates and that there are other issues with ramps such as noise and impact on motorists with spinal and other injuries. Joe O'Neill added that GCC is also examining narrowing roads, chicanes and other engineering works as part of the speed review.

Richard Manton called on GCC to install fixed speed cameras as a means of enforcement. However, Uinseann Finn said that local authorities do not have the power of enforcement and that this lies with An Garda Síochána. He added that driver feedback (radar) signs have been effective and that the data recorded by these signs will be used as part of the speed review.

3. Galway Transport Strategy (GTS)

Jim Molloy outlined three priority projects which are advancing as part of the GTS:

1. Parkmore Road: tender has been awarded for work on (a) short-term measures for traffic congestion alleviation and (b) long-term measures for bus and cycling.
2. City Centre Access / bus priority route: tender to be issued next week (see below)
3. Dublin Road: bus, pedestrian and cycling facilities, removal of Skerritt Roundabout

Mike Cubbard and Collette Connolly condemned Bus Éireann's (BÉ) removal of four routes between Westside and the Claddagh, particularly in the context of the promotion of bus transport in the GTS. Joe O'Neill outlined the response received from Brian Connolly, regional manager for BÉ, regarding this matter. This noted that these routes were provided as 'interim services' 30 years ago, are not covered by state funding and that the city bus network has

been enhanced. Mike Cubbard said that BÉ is failing the city, noting: that the nearest bus stop for these children is the Cathedral and that this will add car traffic to city streets.

Joe O'Neill suggested that Minister John Halligan be contacted regarding the inclusion of these routes in the school transport scheme.

Mark Lohan highlighted the lack of public transport services to Ballindoooley. Jim Molloy replied that the GTS highlights high frequency areas for the provision of core services. There will then be smaller, feeder services.

Proposed Iarnród Éireann route closures (including the Athenry to Ennis line) were highlighted by Derrick Hambleton. He called on CIÉ to come before the SPC to clarify their plans and called on improvements, rather than cutbacks, to rail services as a method of taking cars off the road. Pat Hardiman said that Iarnród Éireann should make ticket prices more competitive to encourage ridership.

Richard Manton outlined an NUIG evaluation of the bus priority route (Eglinton/Williamsgate St and Forster St) during a trial on Car-free Day (22nd September), when the two streets were closed to private car traffic. This evaluation found that there are clear benefits for buses, pedestrians and cyclists, although diverted car traffic must be accommodated, including the redesign of junctions. Frank Fahy said that the signage for Car-free Day was not adequate and caused inconvenience on the day.

Parking restrictions on Shop Street / Quay Street during delivery times were again raised by Collette Connolly. She called for the introduction of permits (and signage) to discourage private cars from blocking deliveries to business. Jim Molloy noted that these vehicles should not be using Shop Street anyway and that this is a matter for Garda enforcement. He agreed to erect signage stating 'commercial vehicles only' at the entrance to the street.

4. AOB

Derrick Hambleton asked how many electric vehicle charging points are in place in the city and pointed to the successful roll-out of charging points and electric taxis in Amsterdam. Jim Molloy said that there are 6 charging points in the city and Joe O'Neill acknowledged that Ireland is way behind in terms of electric vehicles and that there are concerns regarding range and charging time.

John Walsh noted that Galway County has one of the highest rates of road deaths in the country and that Galway City does not currently have a Road Safety Officer. Joe O'Neill noted that there is a shared training service with Galway CoCo and that the Road Safety Authority also has officers in place in the region.

Two new members were welcomed to the Transport SPC: Uinseann Finn (Senior Engineer) and Cllr. Mark Lohan (co-opted for Anna Marley). Best wishes were extended to Joe O'Neill who will be retiring before the next meeting.

Socruidh déanta / Key Decisions Made:

Speed review report to be circulated before next meeting

Gníomhaíochtaí**Action(s) required from GCCN:**

n/a

Dáta don chéadchruinniúeile**Date of next meeting :**

Tuesday, 24th January

Moltaíbreise / Any Other Comments:

n/a