

**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	Planning SPC
Ionadaí FPCG (glacadóir - nótaí) Name of GCCF Rep (note-taker)	Derrick Hambleton with comments from Shane Foran
Dáta & Suite Date & Location of Meeting:	22 nd Oct 2015 – City Hall
I láthair/ Attendance	Ollie Crowe – No other of the 7 councillors attended. Joe O’Neill, Caroline Phelan, Helen Coleman, Liam Blake, Jim Higgins, Breda Glynn - GCC. Nuala Nolan – Trades Council and John Mannion – Latin Quarter business rep. Myself and Shane Foran attended for the GCCN.
<p>Príomhphointí pléite / Key Issues Discussed:</p> <p>Agenda items – Minutes of previous May 14th meeting. Review of the Draft City Development Plan. Update on Heritage projects. Information on Insurance for SPC members.</p> <p>Under matters arising. I raised the issue of The Living City Initiative (where owners of pre 1915 houses could get tax reliefs to upgrade premises for housing people), that was revealed at the previous meeting. I asked how many applications had been received so far? Liam Blake said that there had been only one so far. But that any made for a commercial premises would have gone straight to Revenue Commissioners. In other words, a complete waste of time.</p> <p>Copies of the Draft of the City Development Plan had been sent out to councillors and ours were picked up the day before the meeting. Therefore, we had only a brief look at it. Even then, though I had the reports and maps the actual plan had been left out of my pack. So I only got my copy at this meeting.</p> <p>The Draft Plan is now available for councillors to amend and then adopt allowing for additional submissions from them. Is then adopted as their Draft Plan on 12th December 2015. It is then put out for further Public submissions from 3rd January 2016 – for a further 10 weeks + 9 Christmas days.</p> <p>With such a dense document, there is much to absorb and there will be many issues that the GCCN members will wish to take up with councillors I am sure.</p> <p>I congratulated the executive on the size of the task and the quality of the document. I had a copy of a 1991 City Plan with me which was only 72 pages. Over the past 30 years Development Plans now have to include reference to so many new Government Policy Directions, SEAs, EIAs, European Environmental Directives and Regional Planning stuff the folder we were given is now 5 inches thick.</p>	

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It was noted that the road through Merlin Woods is still in the plan. But this was explained had to be included so that the Council could vote it off. This should happen.

Nuala Nolan noted that nothing in the plan could be achieved without funding, therefore it is just a wish list in her view. She commented that she was particularly concerned about plans for developing Lough Atalia as a special amenity area and wondered about this, she also noted that considerations were being discussed about keeping College Road/Bohermore traffic One-Way?

A discussion about the N6 By pass ensued at which I expressed a view that 14m had been previously wasted in a fruitless plan and that, so far 3 Or 4 million had been wasted on a new plan which was unacceptable to the 41 families that would lose their homes. The executive did not accept my assurance that this plan was doomed to also end in rejection.

Jim Higgins then presented his Draft Heritage Plan, and gave a report on its contents. There was a discussion around the historic metalwork around the city. There are still small sections of the old Eyre Square railings left and St Nicholas have requested these.

I asked about the status of the Eglinton Canal, which is not mentioned in his plans. He is to organise a meeting of all parties with an interest in the future development of this waterway, which I pointed out was being overlooked as regards its importance to both tourism and as an amenity. The Canal passes through NUIG lands and then the city and is managed by the Lough Corrib Navigation and this is controlled by the City Council. Therefore, we feel that it is important to have some discussion about how the waterway can be upgraded and preserved and funding acquired for the common good!

Socrúithe déanta/ Key Decisions Made:

None really.

Only decision made was for Jim Higgins to organise a meeting about the canals future development.

We should all obtain a copy of the Draft Plan and review whether our own submission appears anywhere in the plan, then to engage with councillors about issues of importance to the Community Network?

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

As above.

Dáta don chéad chruinniú eile

10th December 2015.

Date of next meeting :

Moltaí breise /Any Other Comments:

None.