

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

Please complete and email to
info@galwaycitycommunitynetwork.ie



Galway City Community Network
Líonra Pobail Chathair Na Gaillimhe

Cruinniú /Name of Meeting	Housing SPC
Ionadaí FPCG (glacadóir - nótaí) Name of GCCF Rep (note-taker)	Paul Hargaden
Dáta & Suite Date & Location of Meeting:	08/02/2016
I láthair/ Attendance	Clr Declan McDonnell, (Chair), Clr. Ollie Crowe, Paul Hargaden & Diarmaid O’Sullivan (Community Forum:PPN reps), Clr Niall McNeilis, Clr Mike Cubbard, Clr Mairead Farrell, Clr Michael Crowe Tom Connell, Laurena Mitchell, Sharon Lawless, Anne Ruane – Galway City Council Housing Department

Príomhphointí pléite / Key Issues Discussed:

Work Programme.

A draft work programme for the SPC was presented to the meeting and included the following items: Housing Strategy 2020, Housing Capital Programme, Housing Assistance Payment Scheme, Rent Scheme Review, Traveller Accommodation Plan, Housing Needs Assessment, Housing Organisation Review, AHBS and Coordination of Housing Strategies with Galway County Council. Three additional items were put forward: Homelessness, Tenant Purchase Scheme and Transfer Policy.

Council Owned Sites:

Details were presented of all sites currently in the ownership of Galway City Council. It was noted that the proposed outer road corridor has had a severe impact on the City Council owned lands; the draft road proposals has resulted in the loss or reduction in the usage of three major parcels of land. An interdepartmental group between housing and roads will be established to address this.

Traveller Accommodation Programme:

Recent developments in meeting traveller accommodation needs were discussed in addition to the ongoing traveller specific housing requirements as outlined in the Traveller Accommodation Plan.

There are currently four permanent halting sites in the city: i) Cul Tra, Salthill, 6 bays ii) Circular Road, 5 bays iii) Tuam Road, 7 bays iv) St. Nicholas Park, 5 bays. There are 20 bays in the transient site and 15 bays in the temporary sites, at Carrowbrowne in the County Council administrative area. There is also a temporary unauthorised site at Doughiska, There was some discussion in relation to the Knocknacarra and Ballymoneen sites and it was suggested that these sites could become very divisive. Outer road may have an impact on this site. There was also concern at the length of time it was taking to progress the whole process. There was a request made that local area reps be consulted in relation to these developments and that a process of consultation with local residents be facilitated. This was agreed.

New Projects:

Progress is being made on new projects in the following areas:

- Ballymoneen Road- 55 units
- Bothar an Choiste- 42 units
- Dougishka- 27 units (Respond!)
- Court Roisin - 15 apartments - Cluid

There are also a number of CAS funded projects and a PPP is being investigated in relation to 160 units in Ballyburke.

Housing Assistance Payments Scheme:

HAP commenced on Feb. 1st with city rent limits the same as the county though with 20% leeway. Staff training has been completed. Rent Supplement can no longer be paid out for new assessments, but instead for short term payment. 6 week waiting period. HAP applicants must source the property themselves and then inform the council. A request was made that an information/awareness campaign be organised for landlords, this was agreed.

It was noted that rent limits on offer were very low and landlords would not be happy with this fact.

Laurena Mitchell informed the meeting that a Workshop on HAP will be arranged for SPC members within the coming weeks. The need for a publicity campaign for landlords and tenants was again stressed.

Social Inclusion:

A draft strategy will be available within the coming weeks.

Socruithe déanta/ Key Decisions Made:

- 1) Local area reps are to be consulted in relation to developments within the Traveller Accommodation Programme.
- 2) A process of consultation with residents and area reps is to be facilitated in relation to the Traveller Accommodation Programme
- 3) Training is to be offered to SPC members re introduction of HAP
- 4) An information/awareness campaign aimed at landlords interested in HAP is to be arranged.

Gníomhaíochtaí

Action(s) required from GCCN:

None

Dáta don chéad chruinniú eile
Date of next meeting :

Thursday May 5th 9.30am

Moltaí breise /Any Other Comments: