



Galway City Community Network  
Líonra Pobail Chathair Na Gaillimhe

# Galway City Community Network

The Public Participation Network in Galway City

**20<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

**Menlo Park Hotel**

Plenary Minutes

## Attendance

Please see below

## Apologies

Imelda Gormally (GCP), Fiona Jennings (ISPPC), Diarmaid O'Sullivan (Threshold), Caroline Stanley (Friends of Merlin Woods), Nicola Tierney (Westside Age Inclusion), Martin O'Connor (COPE Galway).

Brendan McGrath, CEO Galway City Council, had been invited to attend to give an update in relation to proposed merger of Galway City and County Local Authorities and other matters. Brendan sent his apologies. Gary McMahan was to attend in his place but also sent apologies. GCCN will re-issue invitation to Brendan McGrath to attend September's Plenary.

## Welcome & introductions

Tommy Flaherty, Chairperson, opened the plenary and welcomed members to the meeting. He invited those in attendance to share their names and organisations. He noted that there was a microphone available to ensure everyone could hear and be heard.

## Minutes

The minutes of the previous Plenary (March 28<sup>th</sup> 2018) had been circulated. They were proposed by Brenda Smith, seconded by John Rabbittee and agreed.

## Matters arising

As there was no quorum present at the AGM (March 28<sup>th</sup>) it was agreed unanimously that in passing the minutes the decisions that were made in the AGM and March Plenary were ratified.

## Presentation to Peter Salmon

On his retirement Peter Salmon, former Chief Officer of the Local Community Development Committee, Galway City Council was invited to attend and a small presentation to be made on behalf of GCCN. Peter was unable to attend and will be invited to attend Plenary in September.

## Updates

Ann Irwin, GCCN Coordinator, gave an update on GCCN activities since the last Plenary:

- Date Protection – two training sessions took place in April 19<sup>th</sup>
- Public Sector Duty – GCCN, LCDC and GCP hosted a workshop delivered by the Equality Rights Alliance

- GCCN are required by the Department of Rural and Community Development to re-register all members and will be commencing that process in September
- Local Community Development Committee – a vacancy has arisen for a GCCN representative on the LCDC. GCCN criteria was developed and distributed to all at the meeting. This was agreed.
- Healthy Ireland – the Healthy Galway strategy was finalised and an application to the next round of HI fund was made for €75,000;
- Festival of Sustainability – Green Blue Festival to be held between September 20<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. GCCN is centrally involved in the organisation.
- G2020 Legacy Event – Ann attended the last three-day event. Ann invited others from the floor who had attended to give feedback. Margaret O’Riada, GTM, & Maria Molloy, Amach emphasised the importance of community participation and collaboration. It was felt there was a lack of youth engagement which G2020 took on to address.

The following GCCN Secretariat and Linkage Group and representatives’ meetings took place since March:

- Secretariat – three meetings
- Environment LG – two meetings
- Social Inclusion & Community Development LG – one meeting
- Housing & Accommodation LG – one meeting
- Sports LG – one meeting
- Economic Development & Enterprise Support LG – ongoing work to establish this group
- Arts & Culture LG - on going work to establish this group
- LCDC reps – two meetings
- JPC pre-meeting - meeting to be held the following morning (21<sup>st</sup> June)

## **Vacancies for GCCN representatives**

Ann reported the following vacancies for GCCN representatives:

- Local Community Development Committee – An invitation to nominate was circulated to all GCCN members. James Coyne had been acting as an interim representative. He has expressed an interest in remaining as GCCN representative on LCDC. Joan Kavanagh proposed James and Paul O’Donnell seconded. Ann outlined that James would be stepping down as Economic, Enterprise Support and Culture representative. This was because of the Department of Rural and Community Development are clamping down on double representation.
- Economic, Enterprise Support and Culture – Election to be deferred to the September Plenary.
- Western Drugs and Alcohol Task Force – vacancy exists as Imelda Gormally standing down. Thanks were extended to Imelda for the time and commitment she has given. As no interest expressed at this time any decision was deferred until September’s Plenary.

## **Reports from GCCN Representatives**

Tommy briefly went through the role of GCCN Representatives. Representatives are representing the GCCN at SPC and Committee meetings. They receive their mandate from GCCN and not their individual organisations. It is at the Linkage Groups where discussions take place on issues and an overall stand on items on the agenda.

Tommy requested that reports from GCCN Representatives needed to be submitted prior to the Plenary and reminded all representatives that it is a condition of GCCN representation to attend Plenary meetings.

## Local Community Development Committee

Terry Mc Donough presented a report. He outlined that the LCDC now administered funding under several programme including:

- SICAP
- Healthy Ireland
- The Community Enhancement Programme

He gave an update on The Local Economic and Community Plan, stating that GCCN and other community reps were advocating for the development of an action plan for 2018 and 2019. He stated that he department had indicated that they may look for the LECPs to be rewritten.

He outlined possible increased resourcing as he had attended a meeting in Dublin for LCDC's (non-Leader)

- Staffing
- Expenditures to be consistent with the plan

In relation to the query of increased resources Ann had already written to the Department of Rural and Community Development as this was raised at the last Secretariat.

James Coyne gave an update in relation to a LCDC meeting that took place on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. This meeting focused solely on Healthy Ireland Funding – GCCN had taken a lead on the application. Following discussions and suggestions the committee approved in principle the approach being taken to the new Healthy Ireland application. The closing date for this application was 25<sup>th</sup> May. The decision will be communicated in August.

## Environment, Recreation and Amenity SPC

Eleanor Hough provided an update on the Environment, Amenity and Recreation SPC. The meeting in May discussed the draft Beach and Open Spaces Bye-laws. Over 400 responses had been received. A significant number of these involved dogs and requirements for written permission to hold barbecues. GCCN had submitted a detailed response which overall included a “common sense” approach.

The issue in relation to passing of Busking Bye-laws was brought up. It will not be looked at for another 6 months. Eleanor deferred to Emma (Busking Community) who stated that as a group they were receiving very positive feedback and support at a local, regional and national level. They have an on-line petition and Big Busks are being held.

The Lough Corrib Navigation Trust was brought up and a request for a review of the structure. There was an “obscure” response as council stated they had received positive feedback. The ongoing situation that there is no Biodiversity Officer in Galway City Council was highlighted.

## Housing SPC

Fiona Blaney (GCCN) gave a brief update on behalf of Diarmaid O’Sullivan who could not attend. The last SPC meeting was held on 24<sup>th</sup> May where the following was discussed;

- Draft Estate Management Policy
- Consultation event for above will be held at the end of June for members of Housing SPC, Approved Housing Bodies, Residents Associations and members of LCDC
- Housing Needs Assessment currently being finalised

- Update in relation to Homeless figures – currently approximately 40 families in emergency accommodation & 15 in Transitional Accommodation
- Choice based letting systems to be introduced in the city in September/October

## Transport SPC

Derrick Hambleton gave update on the Transport SPC. Derrick outlined GCC Work Plan re Transport for 2018 and went through

### Galway City Transport Strategy

- A presentation was given on Bleeper Bike, a company seeking to supply a service of untethered rental bikes in Galway (information available on the GCCN web-site)
- A presentation on the level of progress made on the Western Greenway (information available on the GCCN web-site)
- Information was given on the progress of N6 Ring Road, which is expected to go to ABP in July. An initial workshop to discuss proposals for removal of the Browne Roundabout is to be organised for Councillors. Derrick highlighted lack of involvement with GCCN and informed that public involvement would take place at a later date. Dublin Road bus lane developments were also discussed.
- The removal of the Kirwan roundabout at the Headford Road is at Part 8 Planning, while CPO land acquisition is the next issue

## Economic Development, Enterprise Support & Culture SPC

Garry Lohan provided an update from the Economic Development, Enterprise Support & Culture SPC. Garry reported that within this SPC very little appears to be progressed in relation to strategies. This appears to be because of the majority being based on national strategies. There was no update in relation to G2020 as Hannah Kiely had been due to give an update to SPC in March but had missed it.

## Planning SPC

Shane Foran gave an update from the Planning SPC. Issues that have arisen have been the usage of housing in relation to Airbnb. This was an issue for planning as questions arose as to whether housing is for commercial or recreational usage. A discussion took place in relation to the proposed Bypass and the Ardaun Local Area Plan. Matters that were considered included usage of The Dyke Road; GCC appears to be backing away from this area's usage as a cultural space or a library.

Ann Irwin further updated the meeting that GCC has tendered for a Public Realm Strategy. GCCN will be seeking to be consulted on this strategy and will actively engage.

## Joint Policing Committee

Tommy Flaherty gave report from Joint Policing Committee. Matters which were discussed included;

- Red light cameras
- Operation Enable

## Galway Sports Partnership

Fiona Blaney (GCCN) gave report on behalf of Kerriann Faherty who was unable to be present. The last Sports Partnership meeting was held on May 17<sup>th</sup> which Kerriann attended. Kerriann is now on The Fit Towns organising committee and has also been actively involved in promoting participation of residents of the Great Western Direct Provision Hostel.

## Western Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force

Fiona Blaney (GCCN) gave a brief update on behalf of Imelda Gormally. Last WRDTF was in April but Imelda was unable to attend. She requested minutes, but none were provided.

## European Region of Gastronomy

No representatives present, or report received

## Motions

There were no motions

## Any other business

There was no further business and the Plenary concluded.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



## Attendance

Name	Organisation
Brendan Smith	Terryland Forest Park
Caroline Stanley	Friends of Merlin Woods
Brendan Mulligan	Engineer's Ireland West
Dan Clabby	Conservation Volunteers
Derrick Hambleton	An Taisce
Donncha Foley	Volunteer Galway
Eleanor Hough	Grattan Court Residents' Association
James Coyne	Westside Resource Centre
Joe Loughnane	Galway Anti-Racism Network
John Cleary	Galway Age Friendly Older People's Council
Margaret Ó Riada	Galway Traveller Movement
Marian Maloney	Action for Equality
Anne Donnellan	Glór Age Action
Mary Divilly Sheehy	Glór Age Action
Isabella De Luca	Ability West
Martin O'Connor	COPE Galway
Joan Kavanagh	Galway Age Friendly Older People's Council
Shane Foran	Galway Cycling Campaign
Ann Irwin	GCCN
Fiona Blaney	GCCN