



Galway City Community Network  
Líonra Pobail Chathair Na Gaillimhe

# Galway City Community Network

The Public Participation Network in Galway City

**29<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

**Harbour Hotel**

Plenary Minutes

## Attendance

Please see below

## Apologies

Tommy Flaherty (Ballybane Resource Centre), Imelda Gormally (GCP), Fiona Jennings (ISPCC), Diarmaid O'Sullivan (Threshold), Caroline Stanley (Friends of Merlin Woods), Nicola Tierney (Westside Age Inclusion), Niall O Brolcháin.

## Welcome & introductions

Marian Maloney (Vice-chair) chaired the meeting in the absence of the Chairperson.

## Minutes

The minutes of the previous plenary (5<sup>th</sup> December 2017) had been circulated. They were proposed by Joe Loughnane, seconded by Margaret Ó Riada and agreed.

## Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

## Vacancies for GCCN representatives

Ann reported the following vacancies for GCCN representatives:

- Childcare Committee - Marian Maloney expressed an interest but requested additional information. Contact is to be made with the City and County Childcare Committee.
- Joint Policing Committee – One nomination was received from John Cleary (Galway Age Friendly Older Person's Council) and was unanimously approved. However, in the absence of a quorum, the decision will need to be ratified at the next Plenary meeting.
- Local Community Development Committee - There are specific requirements for membership of the LCDC. It was agreed that representatives would work with the Co-ordinator to develop criteria and an interim appointment would be made by the Secretariat.

## Update

Ann Irwin, GCCN Co-ordinator, extended thanks to the former GCCN Development Worker, Jamie Gorman, who has left GCCN. Ann gave a presentation on recent GCCN work since the previous Plenary meeting in December.

Highlights included:

- Housing conference – From Immediate Needs to Sustainable Solutions: Preventing Homelessness in Galway was a collaborative event, organised by GCCN and a number of GCCN members. This conference was fully subscribed and attended by members of the local authority, other statutory agencies and members of the community and voluntary sector. Martin O’Connor (Cope) fed back that that a good line up of speakers and a good example of a piece of collaborative work.
- Healthy Ireland – GCCN has invested a significant amount of work in leading the application for The Healthy Ireland Fund and in supporting the implementation of the subsequent projects.
- Data Protection – previous training very well attended, feedback was positive and as a result future training organised for 19<sup>th</sup> April.

To review the March Plenary update please [click here](#).

## Reports from GCCN Representatives

Ann 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

Margaret O’Riada gave feedback. She informed the Plenary that the work of the LCDC is characterised by a lack of a strategic approach. She stated that there is no implementation plan for 2018, despite the best efforts of GCCN. GCCN representatives had tried to have a number of actions (all based on work in hand identified by a series of workshops GCCN organised) but there are attempts to reject these. Participation from the GCCN representatives, Galway City Partnership and the Trade Union is high, but this is not the case for other sectors. Margaret expressed that there was more positivity in relation to progress between meetings now that Terry McDonough is chairperson. Donnacha queried whether there were any designated staff in Galway City Council to follow up on actions. Ann stated that this was the role of Peter Salmon and Catriona Morgan within GCC. Ann further followed up with update on talk at previous meeting of Secretariat in relation to withdrawing from the Local Community Development Committee. There were several comments on this and agreement that GCCN would strategically withdraw if there was no improvement.

### Environment, Recreation and Amenity SPC

Brendan Smith and Eleanor Hough updated the meeting on the work of the Environmental, Recreation and Amenity SPC. Representatives have been very busy and building strategic alliances e.g. Green Leaf. Issues brought up include: derelict sites – there is no procedure evident to tackle this although it does appear to be in place in other local authorities and the lack of an anti-dumping strategy. Eleanor emphasised the importance of the Environmental Linkage Group meeting to discuss the draft Bye-laws on Busking and Street Performance. Two items had been put under AOB on the agenda for the SPC - the Bio-Diversity Action Plan and works on the canal. These are due to be discussed at the next SPC. Time was given to discuss serious concerns raised by representatives about the “clean up” by Lough Corrib Navigation Trust of the Eglinton Canal. There was no consultation about the re-planting in the area. Serious concerns were expressed about bio-diversity. Eleanor expressed strongly that she felt it should be brought up with CEO re lack of consultation. Issues highlighted by members included the lack of continuity of staff in Galway City Council and the fact that appear to be passed but not acted on. Shane highlighted that a vote of thanks be extended to Eleanor in relation to the considerable work carried out. Margaret suggested that in addition to withdrawal from certain structure legal action ought to be considered. Ann suggested representatives need to come together to discuss an approach.

## Housing SPC

No report given or representative present.

## Transport SPC

Derrick Hambleton gave update on the Transport SPC. An update was given on the draft Galway City Centre Urban Transport Plan. Derrick fed back that Bus Eireann are seeking to reduce the number of bus routes around the city from 11 to 5. The Galway City Ring Road application will be submitted to An Bord Pleanala in the coming months.

## Economic Development, Enterprise Support, Arts & Culture SPC

James Coyne provided the update from the Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Culture SPC. There was no current update as the SPC meeting was to take place the following day. James outlined the agenda for the upcoming meeting. Derrick requested an update as to whether there was feedback to the SPC from councillors in relation to the Regional Authority (Northern and Western Regional Assembly). James stated that there had been none, but this matter was on the agenda for the following days SPC. Clarification was sought on the participation of GCCN representative on Arts Funding Subcommittee. Ann stated that she had requested an update, but none yet received.

## Planning SPC

Shane Foran gave an update from the Planning SPC. Issues that have arisen have been around strategic planning guidelines, student housing and apartment guidelines. Single occupancy units (i.e. apartments) have been high and as a result Shane stated that standards have been reduced. A discussion took place in relation to the use of lands surrounding Galway Harbour. These appear to be developer led, and was stated, that therefore financially led. Representatives reported that Galway City Council had stated that GCCN Representatives were not allowed to see draft plans for ARDAUN. Representatives for the Planning SPC expressed the view that they were unable to comment and prepare in advance of meetings if not permitted to see plans. Local councillors supported representatives on this issue. Questions in relation to harbour lands and implications for the city were discussed. Brendan Mulligan pointed out that if land is not transferred from harbour to GCC it will go to private developers. James pointed out that Galway Harbours focus appeared not to be on ships but on cars (with land use re car parks). Joan Kavanagh requested that housing needs for older people be put on the agenda.

## Joint Policing Committee

Joe Loughnane gave report from Joint Policing Committee. He felt that as media were present that issues discussed received more attention. Operation Enable was brought up by GCCN representatives and a progress report was requested. A request had been sent from Galway Anti-Racist Network about the reporting of racist incidents.

## Galway Sports Partnership

No representatives were present, or report received.

## Western Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force

Imelda Gormally had sent a report which Ann delivered.

An outline of Planet Youth was presented by Ann on behalf of Imelda. Planet Youth is an evidence-based drug prevention model. It originated in Iceland where a range of stakeholders worked from a community based participatory approach. The programme is a prevention-based model that targets adolescent substance mis-use. Martin O'Connor added to the discussion as he was present at the initial presentation.

## European Region of Gastronomy

No representatives present, or report received

### Motions

#### Associate Membership

Fiona outlined that Associate Membership allows for groups that do not fully meet the criteria of a PPN but share the values. Associate members are not allowed to vote, nominate or become representatives. This category of membership is allowed for by the Department Guidelines. The issue was discussed by the Secretariat and was seen to be beneficial to GCCN. There were tangible benefits seen in relation to the sharing of information, input of issues and expertise in specific areas.

The motion was approved and is to be ratified at the next Plenary meeting.

#### Any other business

There was no further business and the AGM and the Plenary meeting concluded.

Signed



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Date

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## 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