

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

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Galway City Community Network
Lionra Pobail Chathair Na Gaillimhe

Cruinníú /Name of Meeting	Planning SPC
Ionadaí FPCG (glacadóir - nótaí)	Brendan Mulligan
Name of GCCF Rep (note-taker)	
Dáta & Suite Date & Location of Meeting:	10/12/2019
I láthair/ Attendance	Councillors: Peter Keane (Chairman), Owen Hanley, Ollie Crowe and Frank Fahy Executives: Ruth McNally, DoS, Caroline Phelan (Senior Planner), Emma Silke (Administrative Officer) & other staff GCCN Reps: Derrick Hambleton, Brendan Mulligan

Príomhphointí pléite / Key Issues Discussed:

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes had been circulated in advance.

B. Mulligan requested that his rejection of the presentation on the Corporate Plan being stakeholder engagement with the Planning SPC be recorded in the minutes.

B. Mulligan requested that the information given to the Planning SPC that approval was expected shortly for the recruitment of 3 additional staff, 1 Executive Technician and 2 administrative staff, be recorded in the minutes.

Matters Arising

Cllr Ollie Crowe enquired about the approval of the additional 3 staff to identify properties being let on a short-term basis and when it is expected that additional staff would be recruited. He referred to 59 families being homeless. Emma Silke responded that she had been led to believe that Departmental approval is imminent and that it would probably be the end of Q1 before all the additional staff would be in place. In the meantime, GCC will follow up complaints as they have been doing.

Cllr. Ollie Crowe asked Ruth McNally, Director of Services for an update on the Harbour Lands as discussion of it at last night's Council Meeting had been deferred to the January Council Meeting. Ms McNally said that she had no involvement in it at all. It is a matter for the Chief Executive alone and will not be coming before the Planning SPC. It is an Executive Function not a Reserved Function for Council. However, Councillors might wish to share the briefing that they get at the January Council meeting with the Planning SPC. The Chairman agreed and said the members of the Planning SPC would have a copy of whatever briefing Councillors get well before the next Planning SPC meeting.

Derrick Hambleton expressed concern about the time being lost in making a decision on the transfer of the Harbour Lands to the City Council.

Work Programme

Caroline Phelan briefly ran through the topics on the draft Work Programme commenting on each item such as:

Vacant Sites Register: – valuations maybe available in the next 9 months as a basis for the levy. Slow progress. Best outcome would be to see development proposals being brought forward.

Short-Term Lettings: – ongoing

Public Realm Strategy: – starting with micro-spaces on a trial basis.

Heritage Projects: – 3 streams of potential funding. Potential €77,000 co-funding to distribute over 2 projects. More details will be available at the February meeting.

Liosbán Regeneration (URDF): – Looking at it in a more expansive manner including adjacent lands. An architectural study is underway with the Land Development Agency (LDA). This will be followed by a more detailed masterplan.

RSES: – The RSES is expected to be adopted at a NWRA meeting on Friday 13th December.

Variation of the GCDP: - The City Council has conveyed certain disquiet to the NWRA about the draft RSES. Legislation requires the City Council to vary the City Development Plan within 23 weeks of adoption of the RSES.

Marine Planning: The draft Marine Planning Policy Statement has been out to public consultation.

Development Contribution Scheme: – Working on it now. A draft will be available in Q1 2020.

URDF – Projects 2020: - Next round imminent. Prioritising projects at the moment. Hope to apply for funding. Criteria not published yet.

Headford Road Regeneration Area: – A Framework Plan was prepared previously by Galway City Council. The LDA prepared a feasibility report earlier this year.

Legislation & Policy Updates: - New planning legislation imminent. The intention is to keep Planning SPC members up to date.

Updates on Projects/

Schemes as appropriate: - The intention is to keep Planning SPC members up to date.

B. Mulligan requested that the topics on the draft Work Programme be categorised according to the objectives for which legislation had provided for the setting up of SPCs, namely formulation of policy, development of

policy, monitoring of policy and review of policy This would help to clarify what work the Planning SPC is intended to do. This was agreed.

Discussion

Heritage Projects

Cllr Frank Fahy referred to Heritage Projects and pointed out that GCC had acquired Menlo Castle in 2000 and not a red cent has been spent on its protection or conservation since. No money in the budget for it this year. Going to do Terryland and Merlin Castle instead. Menlo is to be done as part of the GCRR but this might not go ahead.

The Chairman responded that the Planning SPC is a policy platform. Cllr Frank Fahy stated that it has been the policy to carry out works on Menlo Castle. The Chairman stated that the SPC develops policy but can't carry it through.

Derrick Hambleton said we should have a policy to draw up a plan, with stakeholder involvement, to deal with the 3 castles.

Ruth McNally said we have a Heritage Plan and a Heritage Officer. It is an Architect in the Housing Department that is looking after it – it is not part of the Planning Dept.

Caroline Phelan said there had been three conservation plans prepared since 2015. Planning don't undertake capital works – Ann Marie Cusack, Architect, is the most involved. Caroline Phelan had been involved with Jim Higgins in drafting the brief for tender for services in relation to these.

The Chairman expressed the view that the Architect and Mr. Higgins should come before the Planning SPC. He agreed to keep this item on the agenda.

Cllr Frank Fahy thanked Caroline Phelan and her staff for the work done on the Gate Lodge at Menlo Castle. He expressed concern about the preservation of 5 old thatched cottages in Menlo village.

LECP

Cllr Owen Hanley suggested that there should be more policy around the LECP which is under review. Caroline Phelan said that some planning staff have attended the meetings to review the LECP implementation strategy.

URDF

Cllr Owen Hanley enquired what was being proposed for URDF funding in 2020. Caroline Phelan responded that the criteria for URDF funding have not been published yet. She believed there will be a focus on the Regional Cities.

Ruth McNally suggested a joint meeting of both Planning and Transport SPCs at some stage to look at URDF funding.

Marine Planning

Ruth McNally referred to the complexity of planning and offered to make available a presentation she had given recently on Marine Planning.

Headford Road and Sandy Road Regeneration lands and City Centre lands

Cllr Ollie Crowe enquired about plans for the Headford Road and Liosbán lands.

The Chairman expressed the view that the LDA should come before the Planning SPC in relation to plans for the Headford Road and the Liosbán lands in Q2 of 2020 at the latest.

Ruth McNally confirmed that these are being looked at again by the LDA in a cross-departmental grouping of the Council now.

Derrick Hambleton said that the involvement of the SPC had been minimal. There is no LAP for the Headford Road and asked had policy changed. A statutory LAP would involve public consultation. He expressed concern about the lack of a LAP for the city centre, the housing crisis and the need to stop urban sprawl. He was concerned too about developer-led planning in the city – a framework plan has been prepared already by a developer for the Inner Harbour lands.

The Chairman observed that there was a provision in the GCDP to prepare a LAP for the Headford Road. Ruth McNally stated that a LAP had not been prepared for the Headford Road as the City Council doesn't have the resources to prepare a LAP.

B. Mulligan suggested that the SPC should have a policy that a LAP be prepared for the City Centre and that there be participation with the PPN, GCCN, in relation to it. Caroline Phelan responded that the City Council has been shortlisted for an award for its public engagement.

Cllr Frank Fahy observed that the LDA had included no housing in its previous plan for the Dyke Road car park site and that the Council had sent a very clear message that this was not acceptable.

Socruithe déanta/ Key Decisions Made:

It was agreed that the topics on the draft Work Programme will be categorised according to the objectives for which legislation had provided for the setting up of SPCs, namely formulation of policy, development of policy, monitoring of policy and review of policy.

Harbour Lands to be on the agenda at future Planning SPC Meetings. Members of the Planning SPC will have a copy of whatever briefing Councillors get at the January Council Meeting well before the next Planning SPC meeting.

The Heritage Officer and the Architect dealing with the heritage projects will come before a future Planning SPC meeting. The heritage projects will be kept on the agenda for future meetings.

There will be a joint meeting of both Planning and Transport SPCs at some stage to look at URDF funding.

The LDA will be invited to come before the Planning SPC in relation to plans for the Headford Road and the Liosbán lands in Q2 of 2020 at the latest.

A draft schedule for the Planning SPC meetings in 2020 will be considered at the next meeting.

Gníomhaíochtaí

Action(s) required from GCCN:

Dáta don chéad chruinniú eile Date of next meeting :	Tuesday February 18 th at 09:15
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Moltaí breise /Any Other Comments:

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies, since adopted by the Northern & Western Regional Assembly on the 24th January 2020, includes a Metropolitan Area Spatial Strategy (MASP) which incorporates Oranmore, Claregalway, Moycullen and Bearna, will have major implications for Galway city.