



Galway City Community Network
Lionra Pobail Chathair Na Gaillimhe

Galway City Community Network CLG

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Galway City Community Network, The Public Participation Network in Galway City

Proposed Variations to the City Development Plan 2017-2023 GCCN Submission

August 2020

Preface

Established in 2014, **Galway City Community Network** (GCCN) is the Public Participation Network in Galway City. It represents groups and organisations in the community, voluntary and environmental sectors in Galway City. The twin objectives that GCCN pursues are to:

- Advance the values of sustainability, equality, culture, community, empowerment and inclusivity and embed these in the policies, programmes and practice of local government, state organisations, national government and civil society.
- Develop and implement progressive models of and approaches to representation, participation and engagement for civil society in informing and shaping policy development and implementation.

Context

GCCN recognises the importance of the City Development Plan (the Development Plan) and of ensuring that the Development Plan incorporates, reflects and is aligned with the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial Economic Strategy (RSES). GCCN also recognises the importance of all measures to ensure climate change adaptation and mitigation. It is within these contexts that the following points are made.

Submission

General Points

1. Given the importance of the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial Economic Strategy, the amendments being made to the Development Plan are surprisingly minor.
2. We wish to restate dissatisfaction with the process for adopting the City Development Plan in 2017, specifically to the fact that there was little consideration given to the detailed submission made by GCCN¹ at the time and there was no right of reply to the response to submissions outlined in the CEO's report.

Specific Points

3. The inclusion and focus on the Galway Metropolitan Area raises a number of issues:
 - a. The Galway Metropolitan Area essentially doubles the area of the city without a satisfactory strategy for the development of the city area.
 - b. The GMA provides for an extension to the boundaries of the city, circumventing the consultation process and legal underpinning usually seen when city boundaries are extended.
 - c. There is insufficient information on the envisaged population increase as outlined in Table 1. We would like clarity on the planned settlement patterns for the envisaged increases.

¹ <https://galwaycitycommunitynetwork.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/GCCN-Submission-on-the-draft-Galway-City-Development-Plan-Final-Draft.pdf>

4. GCCN welcomes the proposed Housing Need Demand Assessment and the Density and Building Heights Study but calls for a timeline for the publication of both and recommends that they should be published within a year. Further, GCCN calls for those in insecure accommodation to be included in the assessment of Housing Need Demand, even if they are in receipt of the Housing Assistance Payment.
5. Section 9.2 references 'key stakeholders.' GCCN calls for a definition of 'key stakeholders' and requests the inclusion of GCCN and the Galway Environmental Network in this context.
6. In relation to the proposal for the development at Cappagh Park, GCCN calls for a commitment for increased sustainable transport options to ensure that amenity areas and surrounding neighbourhoods are protected from excess parking. Further, GCCN calls for more detail on the footprint of the development and the potential impact on surrounding amenities, including Barna woods.
7. GCCN calls for a right to reply to the CEO's report on the submissions to be received.