

1Tuairisc/Reporting Template for Galway City Community Network Representatives

Please complete and email to communications@gccn.ie at your earliest convenience, preferably one week after the meeting and no later than two weeks.



1. Cruinniú / Name of Meeting	Climate Action, Environment, Recreation and Amenity SPC
2. Ionadaí LPCG (glacadóir - nótaí) / Name of GCCN Rep (note-taker)	Brendan Smith
3. Dáta & Suite / Date & Location of Meeting:	Tuesday 22nd February 2023 Zoom and council chamber
4. I láthair / Attendance	<p>Present</p> <p>Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr. Martina O'Connor (Chairperson) • Cllr. Donal Lyons • Cllr. Declan McDonnell • Cllr. Terry O'Flaherty • Cllr. Niall Murphy • Cllr. Colette Connolly • Mr. Pat. Greene • Ms. Sharon Connolly • Ms. Sharon McHugh • Ms. Lisa Smyth • Ms. Paula Kearney • Mr. Tiarnan McCusker(?) <p>Community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caroline Stanley • Eleanor Hough • Brendan Smith <p>In Attendance:</p> <p>John McCarthy, Arup Emma Oldroyd, Arup Colm Shaughnessy, Galway City Council Jason Craughwell, Galway</p>
5. Príomhphointí pléite / Key Issues Discussed:	
Matters arising	
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a. Waterways Stakeholders Group	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eleanor Hough requested once again that the Waterways Stakeholder Group be reinstated as promised by city council and the delay in doing so is unacceptable. She asked about the Blue Spaces Strategy, agreed at previous SPC meetings. Patrick Greene responded that Blueways 	

were covered by CFRAMS, River Basin Management Plan and the BlueWays plan, to wait and see what they came up with. Establishment of a River Ways Trust was discussed at a recent LAWPRO meeting.

- Brendan Smith pointed out a similar waterways themed group met for many years under the auspices of Galway City Development Board and collectively undertook many actions that benefited the city and its waterways

b. Vacant Position of Tree Officer

All three GCCN reps questioned why the Tree Officer position had still not been filled by early 2023 as promised at the previous SPC meeting. Patrick Greene responded that 8-9 Community Wardens were appointed ahead of the Tree Officer.

c. Kissing Gates Audit

All three GCCN reps questioned the failure by council to provide a comprehensive update on the Kissing Gates audit as promised at the previous SPC meeting, the reasons the council gave for not having it available and that they as community representatives would continue to request it. Brendan Smith asked the members of the SPC and officials to take part in a group walk of the number of the sites where the kissing gates are located in order to assess their accessibility. Sharon Connolly responded that kissing gates were being examined on a case by case basis and that a meeting would take place with NTA in next few weeks.

d. Items for Inclusion in the Agenda

Brendan Smith asked the chairperson and the director present how can members get items included onto the agenda. This is because he had written requesting that the promised Community Wardens for Parks and an SPC input's into the Galway City Development Plan be included as agenda items. These items were not included and no reason why was given.

Director Patrick Greene stated that there was no problem for the Draft Galway City Development Plan to be discussed at a SPC last year if he was so asked. Brendan Smith said that that was factually incorrect as he had requested that the SPC formally debate the plan and to make inputs and that this was refused by officials at a previous meeting.

Agenda

2023 Work Programme

Brendan Smith said that whilst the Work Programme states that Updates on all masterplans will be given as they are being progressed, members do not know which masterplans are being progressed and which are not. He gave the example of the masterplans for both Terryland Forest Park and Merlin Woods- they had been over a number of years included in the annual work programmes with funding being allocated. But they have never happened. Patrick Greene responded that councillors already receive information on progress in quarterly reports etc.

Presentation on E chargers overview of Electric Vehicle infrastructure

By Colm Shaughnessy – Galway City Council and John McCarthy – Arup Consulting Engineers.

Main points:

- Ban by 2035 on sale of new ICE vehicles
- 37 charging points in the city
- Cabling challenges
- Equitable pricing

Presentation on Galway City Council Green Spaces Strategy

By Emma Oldroyd Arup Consulting Engineers

Strategy will according to Emma provide a coordinated framework for the planning and management of natural and recreation facilities, networks and interventions across the city. It will build on the 2008 Recreational and Needs Analysis study and will include the consideration of projected impacts of population growth, climate change and biodiversity action.

Aim is to deliver net-positive outcomes for the community, economy and the environment.

Community and Stakeholder Engagement is promised.

<p>GCCN pointed out the need for the Strategy to engage communities who have contributed so much to protecting and enhancing the natural environment with the city.</p> <p>Caroline Stanley brought up the destruction of multiple trees by the HSE on their lands in Merlin Woods without any consultation. Lisa Smyth said that trees were on privately managed land, will try to engage with HSE re management of woodlands.</p> <p>Brendan Smith raised the issue of the failure by city council to put in place the agreed three fulltime wardens into city parks as voted through by the Galway City Council councillors. He also expressed concern over the loss of natural habitats near Terryland Castle by the laying down of water pipes and ancillary activities.</p> <p>Caroline Stanley stated on the urgent need to protect city parks from any encroachment by built development whilst Brendan Smith pointed out that city councillors knowingly voted to zone lands in the draft development plan for built development that lay within flood plains.</p>	
<p>6. Socruithe déanta / Key Decisions Made:</p> <p>Issues were debated and presentations made but no decisions made per se.</p>	
<p>7. Gníomhaíochtaí / Action(s) required from GCCN:</p> <p>To review the role of the SPCs in the draft development plan process. SPCs are losing the opportunity to review and make inputs into the plan.</p> <p>To get three properly trained wardens designated for the council parks as per vote of Galway City Council in April 2021.</p> <p>Writing to chairperson of the SPC requesting that GCCN get copies of the reports/updates on the Masterplans</p>	
<p>8. Dáta don chéad chruinniú eile / Date of next meeting :</p>	<p>Not sure.</p>
<p>9. Moltaí breise / Any Other Comments:</p>	