

Tuairisc/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	Transport SPC Tuesday 7th November 2023
2. Ionadaí LPCG (glacadóir - nótaí) / Name of GCCN Rep (note-taker)	Shane Foran & Paul O' Donnell
3. Dáta & Suite / Date & Location of Meeting:	Tuesday 7th November 2023 Zoom and council chamber
4. I láthair / Attendance	<p>Present</p> <p>Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair) in chamber • Cllr Clodagh Higgins online • Cllr Mike Cubbard in chamber • Cllr Alan Cheevers in chamber • Cllr Niall Murphy in chamber • Cllr Peter Keane Online (later) • Cllr Noel Larkin Online <p>Community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shane Foran GCCN in chamber • Paul O'Donnell GCCN in chamber • Pat Hardiman SIPTU online • Kenny Deary (Galway Chamber of Commerce, online) <p>GCC Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pat Greene (Director Of Services) in chamber • Fiona Holland (Senior Engineer) in chamber • Colm O'Riordan (Senior Executive Engineer) in chamber • Brendan Gallagher ??? online • Martin Kenny (Administrative Officer) In chamber <p>In Apologies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Clodagh Higgins • Cllr Colette Connolly (Think apologies given)
5. Príomhphointí pléite / Key Issues Discussed:	
<p><u>1. Minutes</u></p> <p>=====</p> <p>Proposer (Not recorded)</p> <p>Shane Foran (GCCN): Seconds minutes but would like to raise matter of accuracy</p> <hr/> <p><u>2. Matters arising</u></p> <p><u>Queries Raised:</u></p>	

Shane Foran (GCCN):

- Corrections –The minutes have me querying use of School Road to access Castlegar by bicycle I was referring to Tuam road and Headford Road

ClIr Niall Murphy:

- Turning Circle on Ballymoneen Road

ClIr Mike Cubbard:

- Pedestrian Crossing at Liosban??

Responses

Pat Greene (DoS):

- Multimodal corridors - funding remains to be seen
- Turning circle - bus routes to be finalised in 2024 when this is done will look at turning circle - can look at it separately as part of NTA project

Colm O’Riordan (Executive):

- Ballymoneen road forms part of ?
- Spoke to NTA yesterday regarding turning circle they will work with us
- Need to look at spatial constraints

ClIr Niall Murphy:

- Is there a specific location?

Colm O’Riordan (Executive):

- Looking at new estate
- Test conclusion was that it was very tight

Pat Greene (DoS): Liosban

Colm O’Riordan (Executive):

- Liaising with ability west have agreed a location. Drawing has been prepared.

Shane Foran (GCCN):

- Are we going to see design?

Pat Greene (DoS):

- We have to go with the standard

Paul O’Donnell (GCCN):

- There are options within the standards

Discussion around policy =

Paul O’Donnell (GCCN):

- Proposal to bring design to SPC meeting to review so that strategic policy can be developed, as is the supposed function of the SPC.

ClIr Mike Cubbard:

- Wants crossing - people looking for this crossing for a long time

ClIr Niall Murphy:

- Wants crossings

Pat Greene (DoS):

- We can have a discussion do you want to prioritise crossings or traffic calming?

Cllr Mike Cubbard:

- Engineers know what they are doing

Shane Foran (GCCN):

- In response to Pat Greene (DoS): they are both the same issue - if we had an appropriate traffic calming policy then this could drive the crossing policy

Shane Foran (GCCN):

- Two very different crossing designs being used in the city at the same time one up at Western Distributor road and one up at Trappers

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- Concerns about Trappers crossing sees buses and trucks needing to pull out into the road.
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3. Presentation on Galway City Council Events Management

(Item 6 on agenda taken first as Brendan would have to leave)

(09:50 - 11:00) Presentation From Brendan Gallagher (See attached Presentation.)

Questions

Cllr Alan Cheevers:

- Agrees with Cllr Alan Curran about concerns on traffic management plan for Macnas Parade
- What kind of traffic management plan was put in place?
- Traffic still going through roads that they should not have been going through until Guards intervened
- Where is the plan?

- Second Taxi drivers - Christmas market last year - because of the layout some of them got tickets - has there been some kind of direct contact?

Cllr Mike Cubbard:

- Complement council on management of Croi Run - also soccer matches
- Requests more information to councillors about traffic management issues prior to events - councillors need that information
- Public Reps kept in the dark on road closures etc

Cllr Niall Murphy:

- Croi run went smoothly
- Streets of Galway - runs with out major road closures
- Wolf Tone bridge felt very dangerous after Halloween event
- Why offering free parking? - encourages people to bring cars
- Buses stuck getting from Salthill to Town
- Small events are well organised
- Bigger events needed longer road closures for them. We need a plan
 - Close roads to private cars
 - Facilitate Buses

Cllr Peter Keane:

- Thanks for presentation - more collaborative the better we are - smaller events particularly Pearse stadium that cause problems,
- Presentation very positive
- What involvement we have vis a vis what happened this morning? 2 car collision on bridge, large delays where is our role in that?

Pat Hardiman (SIPTU)

- GAA do e mail through the clubs and the clubs email down to the members.
- Run on Saturday nobody seemed to know about it
- Christmas market
- Able to go knock in hour 15 mins - trip in city 1hr 10mins
- Need our shops to survive
- Open Cross Street to taxis buses cyclists

Paul O'Donnell (GCCN):

- Larger events well organised in advance
- Is there a possibility to link in with BusConnects?
- Can we test BusConnects road closures and bus gates in advance get people used to the idea?

ClIr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- Free parking in Dyke Road every evening
- Match on Sunday walked to match home at 4
- Macnas parade lot of people with children
- GAA and Connacht Rugby need to have a chat with Galway United about parking on Dyke Road
- Parking on footpaths - and impeding disabled people forcing them out on the road
- Bugbear about parking on footpaths
- Issue that needs to be addresses
- Christmas Market - now extended but zero consultation
- Policing of Christmas market is a joke
- Taxi drivers discommoded so that private company can make money
- Taxi drivers can only park at ranks

Responses from Brendan Gallagher (Executive):

- Macnas - rolling closures - will look at the concerns in ClIr Currans article
- Will table that at the post review meeting
- Christmas market - asked them to contact taxi companies - disappointed to hear that he will contact milestone marketing.
- Worth noting that period is extended this year
- Galway United Matches
- Match at 2:45. Gardai were in place - were significant amount of Gardai - can bring up with Galway United
- Galway United did share details of traffic management through social media channels - BG will bring back to Galway United committee.

ClIr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- Situation this morning on Dyke Road (Crash on Quincentary bridge?)
- Sean Kyne TD could not get to Moycullen

Fiona Holland (Executive):

- Too much traffic which is why trying to move traffic out of the city under the GTS

Colm O'Riordan (Executive):

- Two lanes blocked -

Fiona Holland (Executive):

- At peak hours if there is an accident the traffic will stop

Brendan Gallagher (Executive):

- In relations to the Irish Water Works on Headford road – the thought process was to do the works during the school holidays

Cross Street (as side topic)

Pat Greene (DoS):

- Put in for outdoor dining - open for deliveries - would need to bring back to emergency services - can bring it back

Kenny Deery (Chamber of Commerce):

- Cross street = lot of pain = businesses having to adapt - reversing temporary closures could be a step back in terms of the city's long term goals.
- Comments that the ring road is needed.
- Is there room for a more agile management system?
- Close lanes in oncoming directions and adjust lights.
- Agile ability to deal with and react.

ClIr Mike Cubbard:

- Not here representing Galway United but a supporter of the club – making out GAA and Connacht Rugby as best boys in town not the case - from Coolagh road down to stadium its coned off by volunteers.
- (No?) Free parking sends out the wrong message - people are coming in from outside the city late at night there is no Public Transport for them
- Will be more matches - need a plan for the season - free parking from 5pm instead of 6pm
- Need a plan for the season 3-4k people every second Friday.

Brendan Gallagher (Executive):

- Bohemians game seen as a test game for next season - Guards aware of what is coming - working very hard at preparing

ClIr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- As soon as no-parking cones end people park on footpaths no reason people can't park in Dyke Road
- Can walk from Dyke Road

ClIr Alan Cheevers:

- Do get GAA fans parking on Dr. Mannix Road

ClIr Niall Murphy:

- Near Pearse Stadium people blocked into houses
- Had no effect on me - only need to get a percentage of people in cars
- Disappointed to hear words keep traffic flowing - people don't need to cross the city
- Traffic blocks private cars does not block emergency vehicles

Brendan Gallagher(Executive):

- Emergency services have and input
- Will table points

ClIr Noel Larkin:

- Highlighting all the problems = outer bypass is the key to traffic problems - gone back to ABP because we missed the climate action plan by 4 days
- Does not see occasional rugby events (as the issue?)
- Want people to come in to the city.
- Need to expedite outer bypass
- Proposal to write to the Minister for transport to push forward the Ring Road.

ClIr Clodagh Higgins :

- Seconds proposal.

Shane Foran (GCCN): :

- Comments on Cross St

- Lower Salthill, Claddagh have the highest levels of cycling in the country outside Dublin
- The effect of the Cross Street and Flood Street changes was to push all cyclists crossing the Wolfe Tone Bridge down Merchants Road, a multilane one-way system.
- This is an unsuitable place to be pushing people on bikes

Paul O'Donnell (GCCN):

- Comments that if the ring road is wanted it will most likely have to go to EU court under IROPI and under that process it is a requirement to prove that all alternatives have been tried - so we will need to show that mobility shift was attempted.
- We will be waiting many many years for the outer bypass to come regardless and whether to agree or disagree with the bypass alternatives and other measures need to be implemented.
- Can the new active travel team prepare a Mobility Shift Strategic Plan and bring it to this SPC?

Pat Hardiman (SIPTU):

- Be no big matches this side of Christmas - Christmas Market - if takes an hour to take a bus from Eyre Square to Westside people will not get the bus
- Asking for a meeting with Christmas Market

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- Second that

- Discussion of Letter to Minister re outer by pass

Pat Greene (DoS): :

- New EIR has been done and submitted to ABP. They have reverted to the date it was refused. This needs to be reviewed by ABP and cautioned about a need to be careful about interfering in the process. Currently there is no date for when the decision will be made..

Cllr Niall Murphy:

- Is the EIR available to the public?

Pat Greene (DoS):

- Will have to get back to you

Cllr Noel Larkin:

- Should be making noise - asked will letter to Minister interfere with the process?

Pat Greene (DoS):

- "I would be cautious, as it's on a knife edge. Maybe there are political avenues politicians can pursue." Better to go to regional politicians - rather than something in writing

Cllr Clodagh Higgins:

- Shares same frustrations - asked for a meeting with Ministers last February - we are too quiet

Cllr Niall Murphy:

- Ring road is not the topic

Cllr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- Notes Frustration

Modal Shift

Colm O'Riordan Responses (Executive):

- Mobility Management plans
- Active Travel Team is growing - will be rolling those out
- Canal project is coming to a conclusion

- Ballybane Castlepark got approval
 - Bus Gate - perhaps could be explored for Patricks Day - bus gate at Salmon Weir and at City Hall
 - Could tell the public
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4. Traffic Calming Policy - Update

(11:00 - 11:20) Verbal Presentation from Fiona Holland

- Verbal update -
- Thinking process - carrying out traffic calming at various different levels
- Isn't an all-inclusive written policy
- Other councils
- Some have a traffic calming policy
- Some have a narrow focus

Standards

- A lot of the standards go back as far as 2003 all say should not be done in isolation
- DMURS - main document that most of those policies are quoting - reducing the width of the roads - will be used at the planning stage

Traffic Calming schemes

- Section 38
- Traffic Works
- Safe Routes to School
- Traffic Signs Manual
- Bus related infrastructure
- Own by laws
- Would all have to be referenced -
- DMURS - pinch points chicanes
- Pedestrianisation of streets
- Gateway and Entry treatments
- Build outs traffic islands
- Speed Ramps
- School Crossings
- Junction Enhancements
- Multimodal Study

CLlr Mike Cubbard:

- Asking for particular estates - asking for ramps - being told don't do ramps
- List off a set of measures estate roads - ramps at the bottom of the list.
- Estates are forgotten about.
- No policy - everything focussed on city centre -

CLlr Niall Murphy: :

- Don't want policy to be just follow national standards
- Kingston Road - very narrow - traffic at high speed
- Millers lane to XXXXX very narrow needs to signs do not overtake

CLlr Alan Cheevers:

- Thanks Fiona
- Priority is estates
- Merlin lane very high speed traffic - told that feedback signs - is all they can do

Shane Foran (GCCN):

- City Council executive seems to be allergic to speed ramps.

Shane Foran (GCCN):

- Ramps
- DEMURS
- Kinston road is what you will get if you follow DEMURS, lanes which would be 3M wide and buses are 2.6m wide so where are cyclists supposed to go.
- Critique of DEMURS not being fit for purpose
 - Seeking a derogation from DEMURS for the City

Responses from Fiona holland

- Didn't mention ramps but I did have it on my list.
- Pedestrian crossings are often raised,
- 2003 guidelines recommend ramps are the last option
 - Housing Estates. Are we going to do just housing estates or a comprehensive policy?
 - From a resource point of view,
 - You may or may not agree with DEMURS, but you need to take a strategic approach.

ClIr Mike Cubbard:

- Not just a policy for ramps / estates, a comprehensive traffic calming policy is needed.
- The back of Corrib Park is in need for ways to get people across the road.
- City Centre is often prioritised over the people on the outskirts.

Pat Greene

- We have to follow National Guidance to secure funding.
- We could do it bit by bit, but would need to break it up.

Shane Foran:

- Do we need a working group to help deliver this outside of the SPC meetings?

ClIr Frank Fahy (Chair):

- That can happen after June with the next SPC members.

5. Park and Ride Update

- Postponed to next meeting.

6. Residential Parking in Woodquay and Oranmore

- Postponed to next meeting.

7. Agenda for the next meeting & Work Programme Update

- Not discussed.

8. AOB

Dr O' Connell has conducted research on air quality, would like to present to 2 SPCs.

All members of this SPC welcome to attend.

Dates for next years Meetings

Tue 6th Feb

Tue 7rd May
Tue 3rd Sept
Tue 5th Nov

Other Questions

- Confirm we will have the design for Liosbán to be circulated.
- Traffic lights at Claddagh Basin, when will they be turned on?.

Colm O’Riordan

- Need to be coordinated with lights at Jurys and Fire station. We want all these to be connected and are working on this so we do not have a date as of yet

Close of Meeting @ 11:30.

6. Socruithe déanta / Key Decisions Made:

7. Gníomhaíochtaí / Action(s) required from GCCN:

1. Follow up on request to circulate crossing design for members to review in advance of the next meeting and develop traffic calming policy at the next SPC meeting.
2. Follow up on request for the new active travel team to prepare a Mobility Shift Strategic Plan and bring it to this SPC.
3. Discuss with GCCN Members the possibility of FOI for EIR for ring road?
4. Follow up on idea potentially to implement BusConnects type Road Closures for St Patrick's Day.

8. Dáta don chéad chruinniú eile / Date of next meeting :

Tue 6th Feb

9. Moltaí breise / Any Other Comments:

- There is a clear desire among councillors for a considered traffic calming policy for the city.
- Agreed by the GCCN reps that the general atmosphere of the meetings has become much less confrontational and much more convivial for all members, councillors and community reps. Change of Senior Engineer and additional staffing seem to be having a positive effect on the atmosphere.