

## Tuairisc/Reporting Template for Galway City Community Network Representatives

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



<b>1. Cruinniú / Name of Meeting</b>	<b>Planning SPC</b>
<b>2. Ionadaí LPCG (glacadóir - nótaí) / Name of GCCN Rep (note-taker)</b>	<b>Brendan Mulligan</b>
<b>3. Dáta &amp; Suite / Date &amp; Location of Meeting:</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> September 2023</b>
<b>4. I láthair / Attendance</b>	<p>Present -----</p> <p><b>Council:</b></p> <p>Cllr Peter Keane (Chair), Cllr Frank Fahy</p> <p><b>Online:</b></p> <p>Cllr Niall McNelis, Cllr Noel Larkin, Cllr Alan Curran, Cllr Clodagh Higgins</p> <p><b>Community:</b></p> <p>Derrick Hambleton Brendan Mulligan (online)</p> <p><b>In Attendance:</b></p> <p>Uinsinn Finn, Acting Director of Services, Eoghan Lynch, Senior Planner, Helen Coleman, Senior Executive Planner, Liam Blake, Senior Executive Planner, Peter Staunton, Senior Executive Planner, John O'Donnell, Senior Staff Officer, Laurena Mitchell, Senior Executive Officer, Marcella Kilgarrieff, Staff Officer.</p>
<b>5. Príomhphointí pléite / Key Issues Discussed:</b>	
<p><b>New Senior Planner</b></p> <p>Eoghan Lynch was introduced as the new Senior Planner. [He has replaced Caroline Phelan who retired in late 2022/early 2023. Peter Staunton has moved to Forward Planning.]</p> <p><b>e-Planning Portal</b></p> <p>A new online planning portal went live on the 20<sup>th</sup> June. By the date of the Planning SPC Meeting, 48 online applications (55% of all applications) had been received.</p> <p>Enforcement has gone paperless since 4<sup>th</sup> September.</p> <p><b>Heritage Forum</b></p> <p>The Planning SPC was told that it was planned to hold a meeting of the Heritage Forum in September – there hadn't been a meeting since the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> June.</p>	

## **Residential Zoned Land Tax**

Six landowners appealed the City Council's determinations to An Bord Pleanála. Four have been determined to date – 3 upheld and 1 overturned.

A further two landowners had since appealed the City Council's determinations included in the Supplemental Map to An Bord Pleanála. An Bord Pleanála had until 27 October to make a decision.

## **Population Statistics from Census 2022**

This was put on the agenda as it was raised by the GCCN Reps at an earlier SPC meeting. The population of Galway city increased by 7.3% between Census 2016 and Census 2022 compared to increase of 8.1% in the population of the state. There has been a very noticeable contraction in the population in the 40-42 age range in 2022 who would have been in the 33-36 age range in 2016. This indicates that people are leaving the city before they have children. There are relatively fewer children in the city than in the county.

The GCCN Reps expressed serious concern about the evidence from Census 2022 that Galway City is falling behind the interim population targets for 2026 and 2031. It will need something transformational to enable the city to achieve its NPF target population of 120,00+ by 2040. Inadequate wastewater and water infrastructure and inadequate provision of housing are constraints to population growth.

The Senior Planner said that difficult decisions need to be made including increasing density to gentle density and reallocation of road space to make movement through the city easier for pedestrians and cyclists. He expressed the view that this needed to be done in advance of the Ring Road otherwise there is no justification for the Ring Road.

The Small Area Populations Statistics will be published in September which will provide useful data.

## **Temporary Time Limited Waiver in respect of Development Contributions**

A presentation was given on the above scheme which is intended to incentivise developers to progress developments with a view to boosting supply of both private and social housing. Schemes must commence on site between 25/04/2023 and 24/04/2024 and be completed no later than 31/12/2025.

## **Ardaun LAP**

The Ardaun LAP will expire in 2024. The Planning and Development Bill proposes changes to the process for development of LAPs so it may be necessary to await its enactment before proceeding with a new LAP for Ardaun.

The GCCN Reps raised serious concerns about Uisce Éireann's withdrawal from An Bord Pleanála of its application for a Wastewater Storage Tank at Merlin Park Pumping Station which was intended to service the Ardaun LAP area and the eastern suburbs in general, as well as Oranmore.

## **Any other Business**

The Acting Director of Services agreed to give the same update on the GMATS as had been given to the Transport SPC, at the next Planning SPC meeting

## **6. Socruithe déanta / Key Decisions Made:**

It was agreed to invite Uisce Éireann to send a representative to the Joint Galway City and County Planning SPC meeting to give an update on its plans for infrastructure.

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

None.

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

- Joint Galway City and County Planning SPC meeting 01/12/2023
- Planning SPC meeting 05/12/2023
- 4<sup>th</sup> Heritage Forum meeting 11/12/2023

**9. Moltaí breise / Any Other Comments:****Presentations/Updates**

Four presentations were circulated to members of the Planning SPC at 08:13 on the morning of the meeting – just 17 minutes before the meeting was due to start at 08:30. A fifth presentation was circulated by email at 09:13 during the meeting.

The GCCN Reps complained about the late circulation of presentations which meant there was no opportunity for members to read and consider them. The Chair accepted it was a valid complaint.