



Galway City Community Network
Líonra Pobail Chathair Na Gaillimhe

Galway City Community Network
The Public Participation Network in Galway City

Spring Plenary

March 27th, 2024

Attendance

Please see below.

Apologies

Aidan Harte, Karen Golden, Tom Duggan, Becca Clayton, Eleanor Hough, Lorraine Lally, Margaret Ó Riada,

Welcome & Introductions

The meeting was held in the Menlo Park Hotel. Tommy Flaherty chaired and opened the Plenary meeting by welcoming all. He invited those in attendance to share their names and organisations.

Minutes of Previous Plenary and Matters Arising

The minutes were circulated to all members ahead of the meeting and there were no changes to these. Chris Hickey proposed the minutes, Arun Asan seconded, and these were approved.

Presentation – Palestine People to People Network

Hiba Awaysa from People to People Network (P2PN) presented on volunteering in Palestine and fostering international solidarity with NGOs operating in Palestine. Conversations followed around possible collaborations and how interested GCCN members and the P2PN could work together.

GCCN Representatives' Updates & Community Discussions

The GCCN Representative Reports were circulated ahead of the meeting and the GCCN members were invited to read them before attending. Conversations followed and the GCCN members in attendance were invited to raise any questions and comments regarding these reports.

Planning SPC

An update was provided on the ongoing work of the Heritage Forum. Meanwhile, persisting issues with the Planning SPC were discussed, as GCCN Representatives expressed concerns about not receiving comprehensive information during meetings. To tackle this issue, a meeting with the Chief Executive will be arranged soon. Additionally, attention was drawn to the threat posed to green spaces in the city due to inadequate planning practices.

Economic, Community and Cultural Development SPC

Insights into Creative Communities and Creative Ireland, as well as updates on the Pilot Project concerning the Night Time Economy, were shared by Dominick Whelan during the meeting. Members then raised inquiries about the availability of transportation in the city on a 24-hour basis, leading to a discussion on the project's progress.

Transportation SPC

Shane Foran provided a brief update on the Corrib Park Roundabout, announcing the installation of a new crossing, which is a positive development for the community. Additionally, a delegation will address traffic calming policies around housing estates. A press release regarding the submission related to Corrib Park will be distributed to newspapers.

Climate Action, Environment, Recreation and Amenity SPC

Updates were given on branding works on behalf of Galway City Council, the Climate Action Plan and the removal of the kissing gates in Terryland.

Local Community Development Committee

No update was available as no GCCN representatives on the LCDC could attend this Plenary meeting.

Housing SPC

No update was available as no GCCN representatives on the Housing SPC could attend this Plenary meeting.

Joint Policing Committee

A new committee has been established, and a presentation on this will be provided at one of the upcoming Plenary meetings. Members were invited to participate in the Joint Policing Committee meetings as well as the GCCN Community Safety Group meetings. Discussions ensued about the vital role of Community Gardaí, who are particularly effective in our communities due to their familiarity with local residents and their ability to manage situations differently than regular Gardaí.

The Western Region Drug and Alcohol Task Force

A brief update was provided on the issue of drug-related intimidation. Young people caught with drugs are frequently pressured by drug dealers to withhold information, leading to significant psychological and sometimes physical strain on both the individuals and their families.

Galway Sports Partnership

There are numerous activities underway within the Galway Sports Partnership. An upcoming meeting concerning Green Spaces is scheduled. Additionally, the Galway Sports Partnership chair intends to organize two Sports Linkage Group meetings annually.

GCCN Strategic Plan

Brian Doherty presented the GCCN Strategic Plan. This was then proposed by Shane Foran, seconded by Caroline Stanley and approved.

GCCN Representatives' Elections

Two nominations were received for the current GCCN vacancies, one for the GCCN Secretariat seat, and the other for the Planning SPC seat. The two nominees were unavailable to attend the Plenary meeting. It was hence agreed to reschedule the elections to ensure that all nominees can participate.

Discussion Local Elections

Brian Doherty presented the Local Elections Work Plan and encouraged members to offer suggestions and volunteer for various actions. This led to an engaging discussion, with several members stepping forward to volunteer and contribute to the forthcoming efforts.

GCCN Update

The GCCN staff gave an update on the GCCN work since the previous Plenary meeting in December 2023.

GCCN Financial Report

The GCCN Financial Report was presented to the Plenary by Brian Doherty. This was proposed by Vusi Thabethe, seconded by Brendan Mulligan and approved.

AOB

No AOB.

Attendance

Present

Name	Organisation
Abdullahi Mudey	Galway Somali Community
Anne Marie Regan	Foroige
Arun Asan	Access for All
Brendan Mulligan	An Taisce
Brendan Smith	Tuatha of Terryland Forest Park
Caroline Flanagan	Irish Girl Guides Merlin Woods
Caroline Stanley	Friends of Merlin Woods
Chris Hickey	Galway School of Judo
Christine Nolan	Merlin Woods Brownies
Deirdre Cunningham	Galway City Partnership
Denis Hynes	Galway United Friends Co-Operative
Derrick Hambleton	An Taisce
Dominick Whelan	JCI Galway
Edward Higgins	EQUAL Ireland
Esther Osayimwen	Galway City Partnership
Helen Ogbu	SAOL Connect / Galway Volunteer Centre
John Rabbitte	Woodhaven Residents
Letizia Gorini	Youth Work Ireland Galway
Marian Maloney	Access for All
Micheal Murphy	Galway United Friends Co-Operative
Mohamed Farah	Galway Somali Community
Philip Hendrick	Galway Centre for Independent Living
Shane Foran	Secretariat
Tamar Tsukilashvili	Pernet CLG
Thom Stewart	An Áit Eile
Tom Duggan	Engineers Ireland West
Tommy Flaherty	Ballybane Community Resource Centre
Vusi Thabethe	Shining Light Galway

In Attendance:

Name	Organisation
Brian Doherty	GCCN
Oana Nicoara	GCCN
Rebecca Jackson	GCCN