



Galway City Development Board NEWSLETTER

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INVOLVING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

INCLUSIVE PROCESS

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PARTICIPATION

PARTNERSHIP

HARNESS VOLUNTARY EFFORT

DEMOCRATIC LEGITIMACY

PARTICIPATIVE DEMOCRACY

Welcome to the 3rd issue of Galway City Development Board's Newsletter.

In this issue, we hear about the publication of GCDB's 'Audit of Services' and 'The Galway City Atlas.' We bring you up to date on developments in the Community Forum; with some changes on the board itself and give the background to the National Children's Strategy.

The work of Galway City Development Board is entering a crucial stage in the preparation of the

strategy for the city's economic, social and cultural development over the next ten years. Consultation has been an integral part of the process so far and we report on 2 of the larger consultation events held to date. The GCDB will continue to engage with its various stakeholders and with the wider community as we move towards finalising the strategy. Look out for notice of further consultation events over the coming months.

Minister to Launch Development Board Publications

Minister for the Environment and Local Government, Mr. Noel Dempsey, T.D., will officially launch two Galway City Development Board publications, "The Galway City Atlas" and "The Audit of Service Provision in Galway City" on September 18th during a visit to Galway.

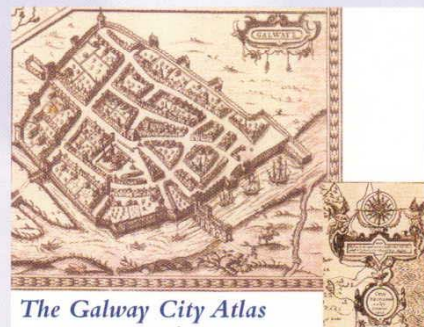
To develop a ten-year economic, social and cultural strategy for Galway City by December 2001, the Galway City Development Board (GCDB) started asking questions such as: "Where are we?" "Where do we want to go?" and "How should we get there?" To answer these questions, the GCDB realised that research was needed to obtain a current "snapshot" of the City. As a result two research projects were undertaken, namely the Galway City Atlas produced in early 2001 and the Audit of Services produced in June 2001.

To produce the Galway City Atlas, statistical information was gathered in relation to population trends, education, employment, industry, the retail sector, tourism, community enterprise, public services, the environment, infrastructure and the physical features of the City.

This information was then mapped to produce a unique visual portrayal of Galway City with respect to these variables. In total, the Galway City Atlas comprises 64 different maps, 68 tables of statistical data and also includes 5 graphs. Text in the Atlas is

deliberately minimal with feedback indicating that the colour-coded maps make it very easy to understand what is happening in each area of Galway City. Examples of data mapped include the distribution of unemployment, the location of manufacturing industry in the city, the origins of students attending both NUI, Galway and the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, the dispersion of groups affiliated to Galway City Community Forum and the location of schools within the city.

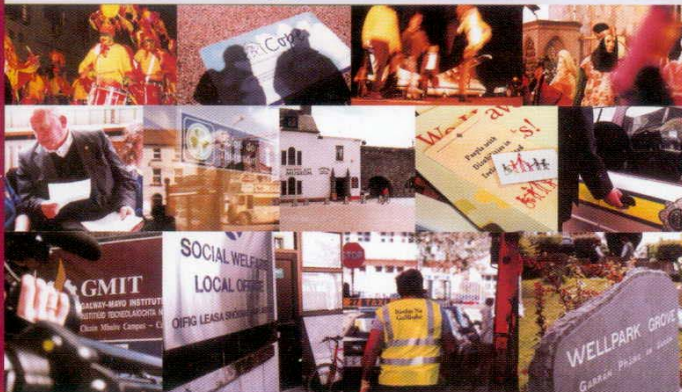
The data gathering and mapping using Global Information Systems (GIS) technology was undertaken by the Eurogise Project at NUI, Galway under the leadership of Dr. David Moore. This initiative was advanced under the NASC partnership, with the aid of EU funding under the TERRA programme. It is the first project of its kind undertaken for the city and will provide a useful benchmark against which to measure progress in the implementation of the City Strategy.



The Galway City Atlas

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THE AUDIT OF SERVICES

The Audit of Services represents a fresh attempt on behalf of the GCDB to address the issues relating to co-ordination of services in Galway City. This research project differed from the Atlas insofar as it sought to solely examine the status of service provision across all sectors in the City.

In sum, the audit comprises four sections. Section one presents the rationale for the audit rooted in the need to identify the current status of services in the City. Section two presents the findings of survey. Section three provides a directory of the respondent organisations and programmes operating in the City, with programmes ordered in terms of their overall objective. Finally, Section four presents a compilation of the publications produced and supplied by the respondent organisations and groups.

The audit represents the Galway City Development Board's first attempt to undertake an analysis of this nature and is very grateful for the assistance received from the 208 respondents. It is hoped that the survey findings will provide indicators as to the status of services identifying any gaps, overlaps and opportunities for co operation that will be addressed in the City Strategy.

These two publications are an invaluable source of data to inform the work of the City Development Board in developing the 10 year Strategy for the Economic, Social and Cultural Development of Galway City. Both the Atlas and the Audit can be viewed at City Hall and are available to download from Galway Corporation's Website at www.galwaycity.ie



CONSULTATION CONTINUES

Over the last number of months, the CDB has held two public Stakeholder Consultation events as part of the Strategy Development process. An integral part of this whole process has been a commitment to consultation with as many people as possible who have a stake in Galway's future. Each event was attended by more than 60 representatives of agencies and organisations representing the statutory, community and business sectors in the city.

Over the last year, the Board has received dozens of presentations from a wide range of agencies and organisations working in the city. In April, the focus of the Consultation Event in the Galway Bay Hotel in Salthill was the CDB's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis which addressed the question, "Where are we?" There was a lively and constructive debate in plenary sessions and in workshop groups around key issues arising from the SWOT and the feedback from the day will certainly form part of the answer to the question "Where are we?"

On 25th June, the CDB again hosted a consultation event this time posing the question "Where do we want to be?" Facilitated by May Day Consultants (who also worked on the April event), the 60+ attendees worked their way through the Board's draft "Visions, Goals and Objectives." The various contributions will now be considered by the Board as it finalises this phase of the process. A topic which arose on a number of occasions was the concern that the City Development Board's objectives should be co-ordinated with those of the Galway County Development Board.

The interest and commitment of those attending is heartening and illustrates that the process of consultation, which will continue throughout the development of the strategy, is seen as important and essential to everyone who has a stake in Galway's future.

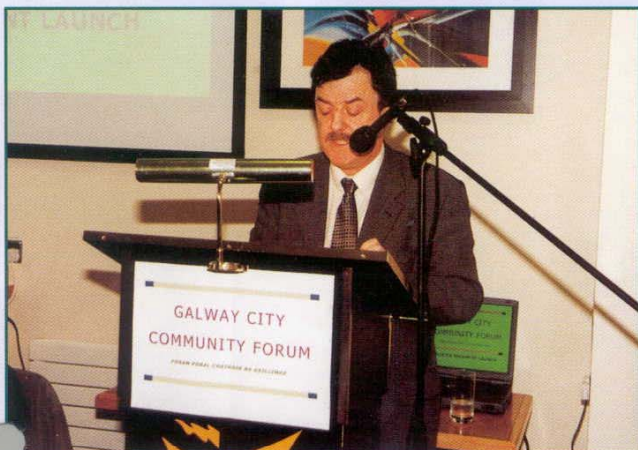
There will be further consultation events throughout the autumn as the board moves toward the final publication date for strategy.

COMMUNITY FORUM POLICIES DOCUMENT

"Possibly, the most innovative thing to happen to local government in Ireland in the last 100 hundred years,"

is how the publication of the Galway City Community Forum's Policies Document was described by one person present at its launch in April of this year

At a reception on Monday 9th April, 2001, Galway City Community Forum launched its first ever Policies Document. The Forum, through its various representatives, is bringing forward its ideas and recommendations to both the City Development Board and Galway Corporation's Strategic Policy Committees. It also has been involved in the consultations taking place around the Corporation's new Housing Strategy



Kevin Carey, Chairman of the Steering Group of Galway City Community Forum speaking in the Galway Harbour Hotel.

The Forum, which was established in the last year, acts as the collective voice of the community and voluntary sector in Galway. It brings together a broad range of groups and organisations for the first time, articulating a range of policies and recommendations for the future shape of Galway. The Forum is set also to increase its current membership of just under 200 groups when plans for expansion over the coming months come to fruition.

The policies of the Forum cover Housing & Accommodation, Environment & Waste, Older People, Social Inclusion, Transport and Planning and The Arts.

They were the result of months of effort by the community and voluntary sector working in partnership to agree a vision of the future of Galway. This took place mainly in sub-groups which then brought the suggested policies and recommendations to a meeting of the full Community Forum for approval at the end of January. Since the launch of the Policies document in April, the Forum has brought forward further policies on Transport and on Waste at its quarterly meeting in May

The Policies launch was attended by a large number of people representing a broad spectrum of interests within the city including members of the City Development Board and its sub-groups and augurs well for the future development of both the Community Forum and Galway city.

The full Community Forum meets again on 15th September and 1st December. Its sub-groups meet on an ongoing basis and details about these meetings and about membership are available from the Office of the Director of Community & Enterprise.



Some of the audience attending the Forum Policies Launch

THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S STRATEGY AND THE CDB

In November of last year, An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern T.D., launched the National Children's Strategy, a 10 year plan to improve the quality of all children's lives. The strategy has three goals: Children will have a voice; Children's lives will be better understood and Children will receive quality supports and services.

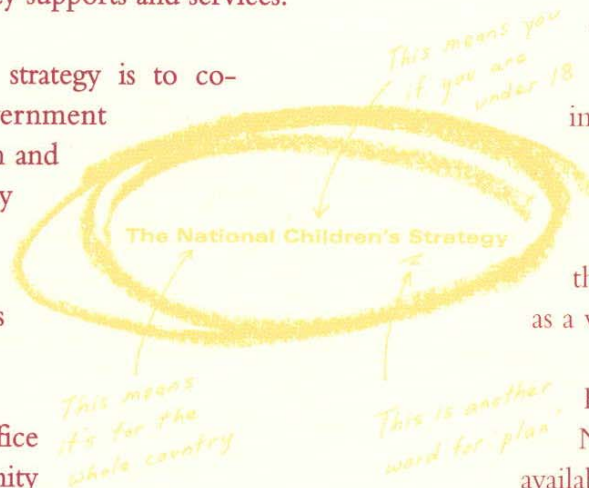
One of the roles of the strategy is to co-ordinate how the government delivers services to children and the City and County Development Boards have responsibility for local co-ordination of the Children's Strategy

Under the first goal, the Office of the Director Community and Enterprise is currently working with City of Galway VEC, Galway Youth Council, Galway City Partnership, members of the Community Forum and others to develop a Children's/Youth Forum which will give a voice to people in Galway under the age of 18. It is hoped to have that up and running by the Autumn.

The CDB's Strategy, due for publication in January 2002, will be proofed against the Children's Strategy and it is timely in considering this that Galway Corporation recently approved plans to develop Galway as Ireland's first 'Child-Friendly City.'

The role of the CDB will be to co-ordinate local implementation of the Children's Strategy and to ensure that children's interests and concerns are an integral part of the future development of the city as a whole.

Further information on the National Children's Strategy is available from the National Children's Office on 01 418 0582, from www.doh.ie/publications/natchild.html The Office of the Director of Community & Enterprise has a number of copies of the Strategy available.



CHANGES ON THE CITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

- Mr Jack Callinan has replaced Mr Ronan Scully as one of Galway City Partnership's representatives on the City Development Board.
- Alderman Declan McDonnell joins the Board as Chairman of the Housing SPC.
- Cllr Donal Lyons continues on the Board in the position reserved for the Mayor of Galway having succeeded Cllr Martin Quinn who completed his term as Mayor in July.

For more information on Galway City Development Board and its work, please contact:

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