



Galway City Development Board **NEWSLETTER**

Autumn, 2004

Volume 1, Issue 12

Welcome to the 12th issue of the Galway City Development Board's Newsletter



Children getting a tour of a fire engine on Children's Day. See pg 4

Preparation of September Review 2004 and Action Plan 2004 - 2005

The 13 CDB Co-Ordination Mechanisms and the Agencies are busy submitting the September 2004 Review and the Action Plan 2004-2005.

The co-ordination mechanisms have commenced the process of reviewing and planning for their third year of operation. Lead partners requested members to identify actions which their respective organisations are planning to undertake over the coming year vis a vis the goals and objectives outlined in the Strategy, Gaillimh Beo Agus Bríomhar ! Meetings of all co-ordination mechanisms have taken place and reached agreement on the final Action Plan. Individual action plans will be presented to the Galway City Development Board on October 8th, 2004 for ratification.

GALWAY LEARNING WEEK 2004

This year, Galway Learning Week will run from October 18th to 22nd to celebrate and promote learning in all its forms. Free events sponsored by learning providers will take place across the city with something for everyone. The week is supported by FÁS, NUI, Galway, Galway City Council, Galway City Community Forum, the Business Sector, the Trade Union Sector, Galway City Partnership, Galway City and County Childcare Committee, Galway Technical Institute, Galway Education Centre, Galway Mayo Institute of Technology, City of Galway VEC, Education Sector (Primary), Education Sector (Second Level) and Church of Ireland.



The Mayor of Galway Cllr. Catherine Connolly will launch Galway Learning Week on Tuesday, October 12th at 1.00pm at City Hall and representatives of all participating organisations have been invited to attend. All learning organisations are welcome to participate actively in the Week through demonstrations of learning, displays, talks, etc.

Mr John Tierney, City Manager has headed East to Fingal County Council. We wish him good luck in his new position. Mr. Joe O'Neill is now City Manager.

**G A I L L I M H
B E O A G U S
B R Í O M H A R !**



Update on the Co-ordination Mechanisms

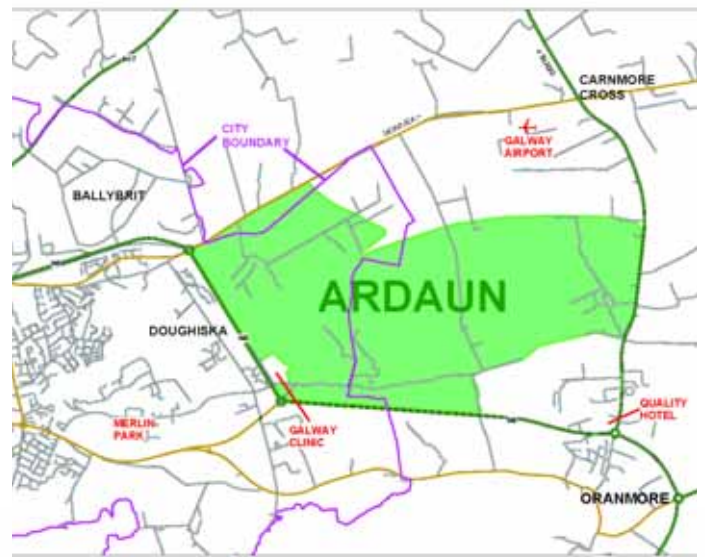
Spatial Planning Group

Ardaun Area Action Plan

The Spatial Planning Group* of the Galway City Development Board sees the forthcoming development of the Ardaun Area Action Plan as an exciting opportunity to apply best practice models of sustainable communities to Galway. With its broad-based membership, the Group is eager to work with Galway City Council, and applying its combined cross-sectoral specialist experience and knowledge to the development plan for the Ardaun Corridor. In effect, the Group aims to contribute significantly to the process underpinning this Plan, the pre-draft phase of which commences in the coming weeks. Elements to be addressed by members will include land use, integrated public transport, quality of life, health, education, recreation, natural environment and heritage amongst other factors critical to the generation of a self-sustaining community environment.

Located to the east of the city, the Ardaun Corridor comprises 410 hectares of land, 30% of which falls within the City boundary with the remaining land situated in the County. Over the coming years, development in Galway City and County will centre along this corridor, whose population is projected to swell to 18,000 by 2016. It is felt that concentration of development along this corridor will serve to generate an area which is self-sustaining, incorporating housing, a dedicated public transport system, employment, retail, school and leisure facilities. In addition, it is an aim of the local area plan to reduce car dependency and journey times from home to work, school, shops and leisure/community facilities.

*Membership of the Group: Ms. Mary Dooley, Business Sector, Professor Micheál Ó Cinnéide, NUI, Galway, Mr. Bartley Fannin, Education Sector, Sergeant Kevin Duffy, an Garda Síochána Mr. Jim Woolley, Bus Éireann, Mr. Ray Gilboy, Construction Industry Federation, Mr. Derrick Hambleton, GCCF Representative, Ms. Fionnuala Foley, City & County Childcare Committee, Cllr. Michael Crowe, Galway City Council, Cllr. Donal Lyons, Galway City Council, Mr. Tom White, GMIT, Ms. Gráinne Cahill, Western Health Board, Mr. Ciarán Hayes, Galway City Council, and a new GCCF Representative pending.



Integrated Transportation Group

Walking Buses Arriving in Galway City

At its most recent meeting on September 8th, 2004, the Integrated Transportation Co-ordinating Group of the Galway City Development Board agreed to develop walking buses on a pilot basis in the Mervue, Renmore, Westside, Ballinfoile and Castlegar areas of Galway City. Spearheaded by the National Safety Council, the Transport Group anticipates that following detailed survey analysis, trials will commence in these communities by Easter 2005.



Fig 1 Walking Bus at St Edwards National School Sligo.

So, what is a walking bus?

The walking bus is a fun and healthy way for children to travel

to and from school safely. Each morning a large group of primary school children and their volunteer supervisors (usually parents) walk along an agreed route, collecting additional passengers at designated stops and times along its journey hence the term 'walking bus'. The bus is very visible with all passengers including the driver and conductors wearing fluorescent reflective jackets.

Lots of benefits

It gives children the opportunity to socialise with neighbours and friends, learn road safety skills and exercise along the journey. The local community also benefits as parents link with teachers, neighbours and support bodies such as the National Safety Council, An Garda Síochána and Galway City Council in organising and improving the safety of the agreed route. Also, walking buses serve to reduce 'school run' traffic, a key objective of the Integrated Transportation Co-ordinating Group. At present, walking buses are operational in communities in Counties Dublin, Meath and Sligo.

Co-ordination and Commitment

Preliminary work began in each of the pilot areas on September 16th, 2004 when Éamonn Sayers, from the National Safety Council and Conal Duffy, from Galway City Council met with the principals and staff of Scoil Bhride, Shantalla, Scoil San Phroinsias, Tirellan Heights, Scoil Cairtriona, Renmore, Scoil na Trionaide Naofa, Mervue and Briarhill National School in Castlegar. Speaking after the initial meetings, Éamonn Sayers was confident that walking buses would be operational in Galway City in 2005.

For further information on walking buses see Galway City Development Board website www.galwaycity.ie/cdb.



Update on the Co-ordination Mechanisms

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT & WATERWAYS GROUP

City Waterways

Meetings, aimed at finalising a digitised map illustrating waterways ownership and responsibility and developing a waterways needs analysis, were held in August 2004 with Office of Public Works, Western Regional Fisheries Board, Galway Harbour Company and Lough Corrib Navigation Trustees. Legal clarification is now being sought to determine who has responsibility for maintenance of certain sections of the waterways such as the Mills District, since the Mills Trustees have not met since 1940. The needs analysis will be completed by December 2004. Similarly, the group anticipates that a clean up of a significant section of the waterways including de-silting will take place by Summer 2005.

In tandem, the Natural Environment and Waterways Group is now working to develop a local protocol in relation to de-silting, given its impact on habitats. To do so, work is underway to obtain an overview of the silt status of the City's waterways. Similarly, the group hopes to be in a position to undertake an ecological assessment of the City's waterways in the New Year.

Environmental Enhancement

After meetings with the Business Sector aimed at encouraging greater tree/shrub planting in business retail parks and grounds of public buildings, the Natural Environment and Waterways Group agreed to produce and launch an information leaflet by January 2005. In addition, the Group aims to pilot an environment enhancement project in the City in the New Year, focussing on a small scale project at first, before initiating further projects in other parts of the City.

RIVER WALK GALWAY



REGIONAL GROUP

This Group is actively involved in projects such as Broadband and the Western Rail Corridor.

Broadband: at their last meeting on 1st September 2004 in Castlebar Co. Mayo, Mr. Jim Mc Govern of the West Regional Authority informed the group that in Galway City, e-net have been appointed as the Management Services Entity and are taking over the network.

Western Rail Corridor: a working group was convened by Minister for Transport Seamus Brennan, and sub -groups have been set up to examine funding options, land use, travel demand and costs and benefits. The West Regional Authority will be meeting with planners and CDB representatives in each county to gather relevant information.

ELECTIONS OF COMMUNITY FORUM MEMBERS TO THE CDB AND SPC'S

On Thursday 16th September 2004, registered organisations on the Galway City Community Forum elected representatives to the Galway City Development Board and to the 5 Galway City Council's Strategic Policy Committees.

Elected Galway City Community Forum Representatives:	NAMES	ORGANISATIONS	ELECTED TO
	Joan Kavanagh	Galway Volunteering Network	CDB
	Brid Ni Chonghoile	Gaillimh le Gaeilge	CDB
	Denis O' Brien	St. Vincent de Paul	CDB
	Tokie Laotan	Action for Equality	Housing SPC
	Marlene O' Connor	Galway Simon Community	Housing SPC
	Derrick Hambleton	Galway Association of An Taisce	Transport & Infrastructure SPC
	Shane Foran	Galway Cycling Campaign	Transport & Infrastructure SPC
	Derrick Hambleton	Galway Association of An Taisce	Economic Development & Planning SPC
	Peter Maye	Ballinfoyle /Ballindooley Residents' Association	Economic Development & Planning SPC
	Aidan Berry	Cairde na Gaillimhe	Environment SPC
	Mary O' Donnell	Castlepark Community Development Group	Environment SPC
	Grainne Archer	Galway Centre for Independent Living	Recreation Amenity & Culture SPC
	Vernon Law	Bushy Park Residents' Association	Recreation Amenity & Culture SPC
	Vicky Leonard	Baile an Choiste Residents' Association	Recreation Amenity & Culture SPC
Brid Ni Chonghoile	Gaillimh le Gaeilge	Recreation Amenity & Culture SPC	

Ms. Rose Kavanagh of Galway AHDH was nominated by the Community Forum as their representative on the Social Inclusion Group



Further information on the Galway City Community Forum is available from: Joanne Reilly, Forum Co-ordinator at (091) 536-844 or e-mail: joanne.reilly@galwaycity.ie



News and Events

RAPID - Update



Under the RAPID Local Authority Estate Enhancement Scheme, small-scale capital works are currently in progress in a number of RAPID areas in the City. The Parks Department of Galway City Council is in the process of putting in place: (1) improved public lighting at recreation areas in Ballinfoile and Westside; (2) paved amenity area; (3) new seating and bins. Other identified works under this scheme will soon begin in Bohermore, New Mervue and Ballybane. The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform has recently announced funding for the "Equality for Women Measure"; €7 million has been earmarked for relevant initiatives within RAPID areas. The objectives of this measure are to improve women's access to education, training and employment, achieve equality in the workplace and business and increase the number of women in decision-making roles.

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is 12th October 2004.

For further information and application form, please contact Mr. Pat Foley, RAPID co-ordinator at (091) 536-832.

E-mail pat.foley@galwaycity.ie

Galway City and County Childcare Committee



On Friday 17th September 2004 the Committee organised an information workshop on childcare at City Hall. Launched by Mayor of the City of Galway, Councillor Catherine Connolly, the workshop enabled employers to benefit from the experience of companies that support the provision of childcare for their employees. It provided information on tax benefits, insurance issues, and supports available such as funding, in the form of grants and assistance with project development.

Among the guest speakers, Ms Mary Heffernan, Tax Manager with KPMG, Galway talked about tax benefits for employers. Section 34 of the Finance Act 1999 allows that certain free or subsidised childcare facilities provided by employers for the benefit of their employees will not be subject to tax under the benefit-in-kind rules. An employee will not be charged income tax on a benefit-in-kind arising in respect of any expense incurred in connection with the provision of a childcare service in qualifying premises for a child of a director or employee.

Mr. Emmanuel Dowdall, Area Director, IDA West/Midwest Region & Mr. Paul Cronin, Unit Manager, Property Division, IDA, Athlone, made a presentation where they highlighted that in the most recent World Competitiveness Report, Ireland ranked 24th out of 28 countries for the provision of childcare services. In 2002, the IDA Board approved the provision of childcare facilities in IDA Business Parks. The Property Division of the IDA identified sites suitable for childcare facilities on a number of existing IDA Business Parks and operations have started in Athlone & Galway (Parkmore). Plans are in place to put similar facilities in Tullamore & Kilkenny and are in development in Cork & Letterkenny. In the IDA's new business parks, suitable sites for childcare facilities will be reserved and placed on the market on a managed basis. The IDA's role is as a facilitator and has no direct responsibility for the operation, funding or regulation of such facilities. Site sales are by way of a 999-year lease with a user clause restricting the use of the site to childcare facilities.

CHILDREN'S DAY

The third annual Children's Day in Galway was celebrated on Sunday 3rd October in the Millennium Children's Park. It was organised jointly by Galway City and County Development Boards, City and County Childcare Committee, City of Galway VEC, Western Health Board and the GAF Youth Café. The fire engine proved a huge success as did the mobile farm including donkey, pig and chickens. Jugglers and Acrobats even enticed the audience out into the rain and in the City Council marquee, face painting, balloons, art work from the GAF, and information stands from Baboró and the Children's Discovery Museum proved popular. Regular attractions included the Mobile Library, the Playbus, Garda vehicles and the Croí Ambulance from UCHG.

