



Galway City Development Board NEWSLETTER

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Volume 1, Issue 14

Welcome to the 14th issue of the Galway City Development Board's Newsletter

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



L to R: Cllr. Colette Connolly, Cllr. Catherine Connolly, Mr. Ciarán Hayes, GCC, Mr. Seamus Bree, Enterprise Ireland, Mr. Rob Smith, Galway Online and Mr. Michael Coyle, Galway Chamber.

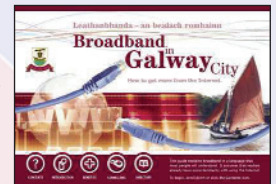
Broadband in Galway City

On Monday March 7th 2005, a new user-friendly guide entitled "Broadband in Galway City", was launched by the Mayor of the City of Galway, Cllr. Catherine Connolly in City Hall. This interactive Portable Document Format based guide produced by Galway City Council aims to drive awareness and uptake of broadband in the City across all sectors. Galway City Council is working with the newly established eCity sub-group of Galway City Development Board to increase broadband awareness and uptake in the City. Commenting on the critical importance of broadband for the City, Dr Chris Coughlan, chair of the eCity Group states:

"To survive, compete and be successful in today's 24x7 knowledge based global economy, the innovative use and application of broadband is now an essential core strategy across all aspects of business within individual, small to medium enterprises or multinational corporations".

Benefits

The guide stresses the need for the city to become proficient as both providers and consumers of broadband embracing "Broadband in all aspects of city life". It details the broadband benefits for the City, workplace and home such as instant communication, receipt of large data rich files, research gains, video conferencing, CCTV, backup, archiving and teleworking. As with any guide, it attempts to assist potential end-users of broadband of the factors to consider when getting connected. Here, the guide addresses factors including cost, connection speed, availability, set up, hardware and software.



The guide attempts to encourage all sectors to avail of broadband technology and to bridge the so-called 'digital divide'. It has a Galway City focus involving contributions from organisations such as Boston Scientific, the Westside Library, Galway Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Enterprise Ireland, Hewlett Packard, Kenny's Book Export Company, Galway Community College and the Westwood House Hotel, each explaining the benefits that having broadband has made to their work environment.

Directory of Operators

Critically, the guide includes a directory of carriers providing broadband packages in Galway City. Details for carriers including Smart Telecom, Eircom, Esat BT, MCI, ESB Telecoms, Digiweb and Irish Broadband are outlined with contact details provided for all, displaying the range of carriers which are eager to do business in Galway City.

Speaking at the launch in City Hall, Rob Smyth, Galway Online, who designed and wrote the guide on behalf of Galway City Council said:

"Galway City Council is to be congratulated for its innovation. By publishing this introduction to broadband as an electronic guide, Galway City Council can distribute it easily from their website to reach the people who need the information, and by doing so also eliminate the cost, effort and waste associated with paper."

The guide is available to view or download from the Galway City Council website at www.galwaycity.ie/broadband. Alternatively, the guide can be emailed to interested parties by contacting Galway City Council at broadband@galwaycity.ie.



Mr. Brendan Sheehan
Department of Education

The Galway City Development Board is happy to welcome two new members since the last edition of the Newsletter.

Mr. Joe MacGrath, Galway City Manager, appointed on 2nd February 2005 and Mr. Brendan Sheehan, Manager of the Western Regional Office of the Department of Education and Science.



Mr. Joe MacGrath
City Manager



Galway launches "Towards a City of Equals - the Galway City Anti-Racism Strategy"

Galway celebrated United Nations' International Day Against Racism in a very special way. The Mayor of the City of Galway, Councillor Catherine Connolly officially launched Towards a City of Equals - the Galway City Anti-Racism Strategy on March 21st, in City Hall.



L to R: Elaine Harvey, Declan Brassil; GCP, Kathleen Sweeney; GTSG, Musbau Foley Sarumi, One World Centre.

This is the first strategy of its kind to be developed and published in Ireland, and should serve as a model. The launch was chaired by Ms. Kathleen Sweeney, Chairperson of the Galway Travellers' Support Group. Speakers included Mr. Frank Fahey, TD, Minister of State at the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Ms. Elaine Harvey, Chairperson of Galway City Partnership, Mr. Charlie Currie, Chairperson of Action for Equality - Galway, and Mr. Musbau Foley Sarumi of Galway One World Centre.



The Mayor of the City of Galway launching The Strategy at City Hall.

Words of recommendation from An Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern, T.D. were read during the launch: "Galway is the first Irish City to undertake such a strategy and I am sure that your example will encourage others to follow this lead."

The Mayor of the City of Galway, Cllr. Catherine Connolly said it was a vital document that emphasised the need for all people in Galway City to live together and to embrace our now diverse society. She especially welcomed the actions that will emphasise the importance of politicians, political parties and the media in the fight against racism. Mr. Frank Fahey TD, Minister of State at the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform said the launch was one of the most important events in his political career.

The Minister referred to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, to which the Government recently reported on anti-racism initiatives in Ireland. He said, 'The CERD Committee has issued its concluding observations on Ireland's report and welcomes, in particular, the launch of the National Action Plan Against Racism'.



The Minister finished his speech by saying, 'I congratulate you once again on producing this fine document and for being the first Irish city to do so. My hope is that other towns and cities will follow your example.'



Mr. Musbau Foley Sarumi, a human rights activist and a refugee who has lived in Galway for 5 years and works with the Galway One World Centre said that the strategy 'is the beginning of something wonderful'. He spoke of his dream that 'Galway City will be a city of equals' and spoke of the importance of

acknowledging that, 'The starting point for the strategy must be to admit that racism exists in Galway City'.

Mr. Charlie Currie, Chairperson of Action for Equality - Galway, said, 'We need those in power to take decisive actions as outlined in the action plan, so that we can create and sustain equal opportunities for everyone and therefore help move us Towards A City Of Equals'. Mr. Currie concluded by saying, 'To take an active part in the future development of a more equal, harmonious, safe and diverse city is a true expression of our humanity.'

Context:

Galway City Partnership as Lead Partner, in conjunction with the anti-discrimination umbrella group, Action for Equality - Galway, and with the support of the Social Inclusion Group and the City Development Board, undertook to develop an Anti-Racism Strategy - Towards a City of Equals.

The latest Census of Ireland (2002) estimates that there are a total of 224,261 people that identify their nationality as non-Irish living in the country, accounting for just over 5.5% of the overall population. In Galway City, 5,972 people class their nationality as non-Irish, accounting for approximately 9% of the overall population. Towards a City of Equals envisages Galway City as an Intercultural City free of racism and sees as its mission the elimination of racism from Galway City. The approach taken by Towards a City of Equals is that of the National Plan Against Racism, (Planning for Diversity), which emphasises the notion of interculturalism. Interculturalism is essentially about creating the conditions for interaction, understanding, equality of opportunity and respect between all communities in Ireland in the belief that Irish society as a whole will benefit and be enriched. The strategy includes a Declaration that can be signed by individuals and organisations who wish to express their solidarity with the strategy. The signed Declaration should be returned to Galway City Partnership.

The guests enjoyed refreshments and entertainment, which highlighted multi-cultural talents in Galway with performers Sharon Murphy, Colours Street Theatre, the Baslowa Band, the Grupo Candeias and the Global Music Project.



The Baslowa Band

Towards a City of Equals cannot be implemented without the co-operation and participation of all organisations and individuals in Galway City.

A Summary Document of the strategy was also launched and is available in 9 languages including English, Portuguese, Spanish, French, Irish, Chinese, Russian, Arabic and Braille.



The Grupo Candeias showing Capoeira



L to R: Elaine Harvey, GCP; Cllr. Catherine Connolly, Mayor of the City of Galway; Charlie Curry, Action for Equality.

For more information and copies of the strategy, contact Galway City Partnership at 773466. www.gcp.ie



Co-ordination Mechanisms - Achievements -



Éamon de Buitléar launches 'Galway City Habitat Inventory'

A new report, which highlights rare natural habitats in Galway City, Galway City Habitat Inventory, produced

under the auspices of Galway City Development Board, was launched, Monday, 31st January, by renowned naturalist and filmmaker Éamon de Buitléar in City Hall. The Natural Environment and Waterways Group established in 2002 by Galway City Development Board commissioned this study. A key action for the group was to prepare an inventory of significant nature and wildlife habitats in the City to inform policymaking. To proactively drive this project a dedicated group of ecologists and experts in the field supported the Group in achieving its aim with funding for the project sourced from the Heritage Council, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and an ESB/CVI award.

We learn that the City is host to 58 different habitat types; of these habitats, 22 are considered to be nationally or internationally rare and of high ecological or biodiversity value, with a number listed in the EU Habitats Directive, because they are under threat in Europe.

The report including an inventory and a large-scale map, shows where the nature and wildlife habitats are located within the city's boundaries and what needs to be done to protect them. It also uncovers some fascinating information about the land upon which Galway City is built. For instance, most of the flora of the Burren occurs in Galway City, which can be found mainly in the north and east of the City in the limestone grassland and exposed rocky areas. The Inventory also highlights that turloughs, which are unique in



Dr. Greg Forde, Natural Environment & Waterways Group, Cllr. Catherine Connolly, Dr. Julie Fossett, Environment & Waterways Group, Mr. Richard Nairn, Natura

Europe can be found in the limestone areas of the west of Ireland with Menlough Turlough cited as a good example of this rare habitat in Galway City. However, the inventory also highlights causes for concern finding that people still dump refuse in important habitats such as the saltmarsh at Roscam. Speaking at the launch in City Hall, Richard Nairn, Director of NATURA Environmental Consultants, who prepared the inventory of

habitats, said: "Galway City has one of the most diverse natural environments of any city in Ireland as it lies between Lough Corrib and Galway Bay and also on the boundary between the granites of Connemara and the limestone of east Galway. This is the first time that such a detailed inventory of habitats has been prepared for any urban area in Ireland. It will feed directly into the planning system and will help ensure that the best areas are protected for the people of Galway in future".

The Galway City Habitats Inventory can be viewed or downloaded at www.galwaycity.ie/cdb.

For more information, contact Stephen Walsh, Parks Department, Galway City Council.

Canal Cleaning and Desilting

The City Development Board under the auspices of the Natural Environment and Waterways Group commenced a major cleanup and desilting of one of the city's most attractive stretches of canal in early March 2005. This section of the



Fisheries Board staff relocating fish prior to canal cleanup

Waterways known as The Eastern Conduit which runs from Newtownsmith to the rear of Jury's Hotel, has become heavily silted over the years. The deposited silts have become traps for litter and other debris, which make the waterway unsightly. In addition, the quality of the habitat has also worsened over time.

The partners in the cleanup operation are the Office of Public Works, Galway City Council and the Western Regional Fisheries Board. Signs have been erected along the canal to increase public awareness of this project. Consultation with other key stakeholders has formed a strong element underpinning the development of this clean-up. It is noteworthy that a period of de-watering will take place before silt material is removed. It is anticipated that the

operation will be completed before the summer season.



The Mayor's Awards

Celebrating voluntary activity in Galway City, were presented at a ceremony on Tuesday, 25th January in The Black Box Theatre, Galway. Each of the nominees was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by the Mayor of the City of Galway Councillor Catherine Connolly, and the winners received a Galway Crystal plate and a cheque of €600.

The individual category winners were:

- Arts, Culture & Heritage: Donal Taheny in recognition of his lifetime of work for the conservation of the heritage of Galway City;
- Children and Youth: Miriam Pybus for her tireless work for the Scouting movement in Galway City.
- Residents' Groups, Neighbourhood and Environment: An Taisce, Galway, represented by Derrick Hambleton, for the voluntary work undertaken to protect the built and natural heritage and environment of the city.
- Social & Community Support: Jack Callanan and Galway Centre for Independent Living (GCIL) for their work on behalf of the rights of people with disabilities.
- Sports and Recreation: Ciarán Delaney for his work to develop Knocknacarra Hockey Club.
- Young Volunteer of the Year: Pamela Groarke for her contribution to the development of services for young people in Galway and in particular her work with Young Mothers in Education.
- Volunteer of the Year: Mike Swan for his commitment as helmsman and training officer of Galway Lifeboat.



Front (left to right) Jack Callanan, GCIL, Donal Taheny, Woodquay, Cllr. Catherine Connolly, Mayor of the City of Galway, Pamela Groarke, Young Mothers in Education; Back (left to right) Mike Swan, Galway Lifeboat, Derrick Hambleton, Galway Association of An Taisce, Miriam Pybus, Scouting movement, Ciarán Delaney, Knocknacarra Hockey Club.



News and Events

RAPID - Update

A R.A.P.I.D. Newsletter was printed in January 2005 and delivered to various RAPID areas of the City. The newsletter is designed to help keep residents informed as to what is happening under the RAPID Programme in Galway City. Over seven applications from projects based or servicing RAPID areas have been successful in receiving funding from the Dormant Accounts. To date, €775,000 grant aid has been allocated to organisations located in or servicing RAPID areas. Mervue pre-school service has received €815,000 under the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme. This childcare project which was an action identified in the RAPID Plan and is a great example of a partnership approach between different agencies and the local community. Under the Equality for Women Measure, two out of three groups endorsed by the RAPID AIT have been successful. Galway Travellers Support Group received €175,000 and Waterside House €70,000.



Bohermore Community Hall Committee received a grant of €25,000 towards and extension to the existing community hall under the Capital Refurbishment Programme for Community and Voluntary groups. This funding has come from the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. Five applications for funding under the Sports Capital Programme have been endorsed by Galway City RAPID AIT. These include Ballinfoile Community & Regional Basketball Centre, St. Michael's GAA Club, Mervue/Ballybane GAA Club, Hibernians' Football Club, Galway Karate Club, Shantalla..



L to R: Ross Rooney, Davnet McEllin, GCP, Jack Evans, Paul Fitzgerald, Patrick Curran and Daniel Gallagher.

Dáil na nÓg 2005

Delegates from Galway City Comhairle na nÓg (pictured) attended Dáil na nÓg 2005 which took place in Croke Park Dublin on Saturday 19th March 2005. Over 200 delegates, from Comhairle na nÓg throughout the country, attended the Dáil. The themes selected by delegates in their Comhairle in advance of the Dáil were alcohol and drug misuse and facilities for young people. Recommendations arising from the day's discussions included:

- Specialised training for Gardai on youth issues
- Increased funding for new youth centres
- Education around drug and alcohol abuse to be started at 4th class in primary schools
- The voting age should be lowered to 16 years
- Minister for Children Mr. Brian Lenihan, TD addressed Dáil na nÓg and stated that "the misuse of alcohol and drugs and facilities for young people are crucial issues in Ireland today. Young people are closest to these problems and their voice must become part of the solution."

galway city community forum

forum pobal chathair na gaillimhe

RESULTS OF GCCF ELECTIONS

Following the 13th March 2005 elections, here is the list of GCCF representatives to the CDB co-ordination mechanisms:

Arts and Culture Group	Brid Ni Chonghoile, Gaillimh le Gaeilge, Sandra Bunting, The West Residents' Association
Community Development Group	Joan Kavanagh, Galway Volunteering Network Sheila Mangan, Tirellan Heights Residents' Association
Economic Development Group	Bart Tannian, Grattan Court Residents' Association Mary O' Donnell, Castlepark Community Development Project
Health Forum	Evelyn Moran, Active Retired Renmore Association Eithne Mhic Aodha, Salthill Active Retirement
Integration Transportation Group	Padraig Fahy, Hands Across the Corrib Nuala Nolan, Western Family History Association
Natural Environment & Waterways Group	Brendan Smith, Sandyvale Lawn Residents' Association Ricky Sarpong, Friends of Galway
Social Inclusion Group	Nuala O' Hara, Tirellan Heights Residents' Association Andy Bourne, Galway Simon
Spatial Planning Group	Kieran Cunnane, Galway for a Safe Environment Derrick Hambleton, Galway Association of an Taisce
Sports & Recreation Group	Kieran Cunnane, Galway for a Safe Environment Sheila Mangan, Tirellan Heights Residents' Association
Strategic Learning Network	Nuala O' Hara, Tirellan Heights Residents' Association Brian Mc Namara, Galway Writers' Group,
Galway Tourism Forum	Brid Ni Chonghoile, Gaillimh le Gaeilge, Sandra Bunting, The West Residents' Association
Galway Volunteering Centre	Sheila Mangan, Tirellan Heights Residents' Association

As part of a continuing process of engagement with communities in the planning and delivery of educational services, the Department of Education and Science has established a new regional office covering counties Galway, Mayo and Roscommon.

The work of the Western Regional Office will include:

- Acting as a single point of contact for information and advice to the public on education services available in the region.
- Representing the Department of Education & Science on the City and County Development Boards, including Social Inclusion Measures Working Groups.
- Representing the Department of Education & Science on the Regional Drugs Task Force and on other bodies dealing with educational matters, as appropriate.
- Identifying educational issues and concerns arising at local level, and providing regular reports to the Department.

Visitors will also be welcome to call to the office after it opens to the public.

Mr. Brendan Shehan, Manager,
Department of Education & Science,
Western Regional Office,
Victoria Place,
Galway.

Tel: 091 864500/864501/864502

Fax: 091 864599

wro@education.gov.ie

At the AGM and Quarterly meeting of Galway City Community Forum held in the Menlo Park Hotel on 7th December 2004, six new members were nominated to participate along with seven existing members on the Steering Group for the coming year. The Steering Group meets monthly and held its first meeting on 17th January 2005.

The Current membership is as follows:

The Chairperson, Mr. Shane Foran, Galway Cycling Campaign, Ms. Grainne Archer, Galway Centre for Independent Living, Ms. Sandra Bunting, The West Residents' Association, Mr. Michael Dooley, Dochás Don Óige, Ms. Tokie Laotan, Action for Equality, Ms. Deirdre Murphy, Threshold Galway, Mr. Stan Sjothun, Claddagh Heritage Society, Ms. Matti Twomey, Multiple Sclerosis Society, Ms. Nuala O' Hara, Tirellan Residents' Association, Ms. Delo Collier, Music for Galway, Ms. Joan Kavanagh, Galway Volunteering Network, Mr. Kieran Cunnane, Galway for a Safe Environment, Ms. Eleanor Hough, Grattan Court Residents' Association, Ms. Anne Mc Donagh, Cnoc an Oir Residents' Association, Mr. Andy Bourne, Galway Simon.