

**Minutes of Special Council Meeting of Galway City Council
held on Wednesday 12th January 2022, at 4pm online via zoom platform.
City Development Plan 2023 – 2029**

Presiding: Cllr. C. Connolly, Mayor of the City of Galway

Present

Virtually: Councillors: I. Byrne, A. Cheevers, J. Connolly, M. Crowe, M. Cubbard, F. Fahy, O. Hanley, C. Higgins, E. Hoare, P. Keane, N. Larkin, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, N. Murphy, M. O'Connor & T. O'Flaherty

In attendance

Virtually: Mr. B. McGrath, Chief Executive
Ms. P. Philbin, Director of Services
Ms. R. McNally, Director of Services
Mr. P. Greene, Director of Services
Mr. D. Smyth, Head of Finance
Ms. C. Phelan, Senior Planner
Mr. B. Barrett, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. D. Mahon, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. E. Naughton, Head of ICT
Mr. U. Finn, Senior Engineer
Mr. T. Prendergast, Senior Engineer
Ms. C. Kilcoyne, Senior Engineer
Ms. H. Coleman, Senior Executive Planner
Mr. F. Clancy, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. E. Silke, Administrative Officer
Ms. K. Moloney, Assistant Planner
Ms. M. Harrington, Executive Planner
Ms. M. Beirne, Executive Planner
Ms. C. Morgan, Administrative Officer
Ms. T. Donohue, Staff Officer
Ms. M. Kilgarriff, Assistant Staff Officer
Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator
Ms. G. Reilly, Clerical Officer

Mr. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator commenced the meeting with a statement of intention to conduct the business of the Meeting in line with Standing Orders followed by a moment of silent reflection. She asked if all Councillors could raise their hands virtually to confirm that they could both see and hear her. This was confirmed. She read the Code of Conduct and Regulation of Lobbying information into the record of the Meeting:

Extract from Code of Conduct for Councillors under the Local Government Act 2001: Key decisions on planning matters such as the making of development plans are vested in the elected council as representatives of the local community acting in the interests of the common good and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. The planning system is a very open one allowing for input by all parties. It is all the more important therefore that consideration of planning matter by Councillors is carried out in a transparent fashion; follows due process; and is based on what is relevant while ignoring that which is irrelevant within the requirements of the statutory planning framework. The same applies as regards input by individual Councillors in relation to planning applications,

Minutes, Confirmed & Signed

Mayor Cllr C. Connolly
Mayor of Galway

decisions on which vest in the executive. Extra care must therefore be observed in dealing with planning matters and in this context the provisions of this Code particularly as regards conflict of personal and public interest are very relevant.

Extract from Regulation of Lobbying; Guidelines on lobbying in relation to development and zoning of land from the Standards in Public Office Commission: When communicating with public officials or representatives regarding the zoning or development of land, individuals and groups who may not ordinarily regard themselves as carrying on lobbying activities, may find that the Act also applies to them. These guidelines deal specifically with lobbying in relation to zoning and development. When drawing up development plans or local area plans, local authorities engage in a formal consultation process. This means that the public may make a submission to the local authority setting out their views on the proposed plan. Making views known to a local authority as part of a formal public consultation process is not lobbying. Communication, however with a Designated Public Official outside the formal public consultation process about a development plan or local area plan or a proposal to zone or re-zone particular lands may be lobbying. For example contacting a local TD or County Councillor about a development plan or a proposal to zone or re-zone particular lands outside the formal public consultation process or a proposal to zone or re-zone particular lands outside the formal public consultation process.

Mayor C. Connolly referred Councillors to Chapter 3 – Housing and Sustainable Neighbourhoods.

Councillor Murphy spoke on the motion he submitted regarding the National Park Initiative (**Original motion, 23 June 2021 – deferred from meeting of 12.01.2022 - Proposed by: Cllr. N. Murphy**
Seconded by: Cllr. C. Connolly

Councillors discussed the motion.

Mr. McGrath, Chief Executive outlined concerns regarding the motion submitted by Cllr. N. Murphy. He also advised the meeting that he received verbal legal opinion regarding the matter and outlined same.

Ms. C. Phelan, Senior Planner responded to queries and clarifications raised.

Cllr. M. Cubbard advised that he agreed with the essence of the motion but proposed to defer the motion and to consider same when more informed. This was seconded by Cllr. O. Hanley. Following clarification, that it was not expected to have formal legal advice received before the deadline of 19th January, the seconding of the motion was withdrawn by Cllr. O. Hanley.

Cllr. D. McDonnell suggested that the item be left on the agenda and to include as a submission and the matter could be fully discussed at that point.

Cllr. N. Murphy advised that he wished for the motion to be considered. Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator proceeded to take a Roll Call Vote on the motion:

Proposed by: Cllr. N. Murphy Seconded by: Cllr. C. Connolly

Original motion, 23 June 2021: "I move that a recommendation be added that Galway will adopt the National Park City initiative mission statement, aims and principles and will seek to be confirmed by the National Park City Foundation as a National Park City." The minutes of that meeting state that the following amendment proposed by Cllr Lyons was passed: "That the motion brought forward by Cllr. N. Murphy in relation to National Park City status for Galway City be deferred until further information has been presented to the Council."



Following that meeting all councillors were invited to a workshop on the topic on at 11am Tues Sept 14th. It was organised by Brendan Smyth and included presentations from Daniel Raven-Ellison, founder of the London National Park City; Neil McCarthy, CEO of World Urban Parks; Kathryn Tierney, ex-policy coordinator for the 'Green Deal' at the European Commission; Martin Gettings from the Canary Wharf Group London, Emily Hamilton, head of Environment Protection, Social Responsibility and Corporate Governance at Savills Investment; and Jonathan Maidment, Head of Parks & Harbour Authority in Cardiff Council."

Several elected members and council staff members attended that workshop. Recordings of the presentations are available at <https://bit.ly/3mP2l28>. I believe that this workshop satisfied Cllr Lyon's amendment and I would like to now re-submit the original motion. I believe that Policy 2.2 (page 47/48) is the right place to add such an objective. Not that point 12 of that policy already calls out that we should "Collaborate with the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and any other relevant stakeholder". I consider the NPC organisation to be a relevant stakeholder, and we should add an objective which explicitly states that.

In favour: Cllr. I. Byrne, Cllr. C. Connolly, Cllr. O. Hanley, Cllr. N. Murphy & Cllr. M. O'Connor

Against: Cllr. A. Cheevers, Cllr. J. Connolly, Cllr. M.J. Crowe, Cllr. F. Fahy, Cllr. C. Higgins, Cllr. E. Hoare, Cllr. P. Keane, Cllr. N. Larkin, Cllr. D. Lyons, Cllr. D. McDonnell, Cllr. N. McNelis & Cllr. T. O'Flaherty

Abstain: Cllr. M. Cubbard

In Favour: 5 Against: 12 Abstain: 1 Present: 18

The motion was defeated

Mayor C. Connolly referred to the motion submitted by Cllr. M.J. Crowe, which was deferred from the meeting of Monday 10th January 2022. Cllr. M.J. Crowe amended the wording of the motion.

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator proceeded to take a Roll Call Vote on the motion.

Proposed by: Cllr. M.J. Crowe **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. McDonnell

Chapter 3: Policy 3.9 no. 1 To insert text "Vehicular access to Coolagh - Briarhill village shall be limited to the existing road access only. The objective for a proposed cycle network link from this road is indicative and an alternative alignment outside the village envelope is preferable."

In favour: Cllr. I. Byrne, Cllr. A. Cheevers, Cllr. C. Connolly, Cllr. J. Connolly, Cllr. M.J. Crowe, Cllr. M. Cubbard, Cllr. F. Fahy, Cllr. O. Hanley, Cllr. C. Higgins, Cllr. E. Hoare, Cllr. P. Keane, Cllr. N. Larkin, Cllr. D. Lyons, Cllr. D. McDonnell, Cllr. N. McNelis & Cllr. T. O'Flaherty

Against: Cllr. N. Murphy & Cllr. M. O'Connor

In Favour: 16 Against: 2 Abstain: 0 Present: 18

This motion was passed.

Mayor. C. Connolly referred to the motion submitted by Cllr. M. O'Connor.

Councillors discussed the motion.

Proposed by: Cllr. M. O'Connor **Seconded by:** Cllr. C. Connolly.

Chapter 2, Page 54, 2.3 Section 10

Supports the redevelopment on regeneration and Brownfield sites and measures to address dereliction and vacancy

Add the text: "Including seek to explore acquiring via Compulsory Purchase Order of three identified sites that have been left idle for a number of years. Commonly referred to as the Dawn Dairies site in Renmore, Connacht Laundry Site on Helen Street and Higgins former Hardware shop site on Shantalla Road."

M. O'Connor withdrew the original motion submitted above and accepted suggested wording by Ms. H. Coleman, Senior Executive Planner below and resubmitted same as a motion.

Proposed by: Cllr. M. O'Connor **Seconded by:** Cllr. C. Connolly.

That the following wording be added to pg. 227 10.3:

"The Council will investigate all options to progress the redevelopment of strategic Regeneration and Opportunity Sites in the city, including through Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) and other funding opportunities, through suitable partnerships, by direct land acquisition, through provision of enabling infrastructure and through implementation of city council plans and strategies."

This was agreed and approved.

Mayor C. Connolly referred to the motion she submitted. Ms. H. Coleman, SP responded to queries raised.

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator proceeded to take a Roll Call Vote:

Proposed by: Cllr. C. Connolly **Seconded by:** Cllr. M. O'Connor

I wish to propose the attached motion that was already in the previous CDP on p.35 Demolition of existing dwellings for higher density development will not be acceptable in the inner residential areas except in cases where it is demonstrated that the proposed development would make a positive contribution to the area's urban design and where it does not represent a major intervention into or redevelopment of the urban fabric. This assessment will be balanced with the contribution that any proposed replacement would make to enhancing the character of the area and will have regard to any sustainable benefits of such development. Where replacement is acceptable, new development will be required to comply with the Council's development standards.

In favour: Cllr. I Byrne, Cllr. C. Connolly, Cllr. M. Cubbard, Cllr. M. O'Connor & Cllr. T. O'Flaherty

Against: Cllr. A. Cheevers, Cllr. J. Connolly, Cllr. M. J. Crowe, Cllr. F. Fahy, Cllr. O. Hanley, Cllr. E. Hoare, Cllr. N. Larkin, Cllr. D. Lyons, Cllr. D. McDonnell, Cllr. N. McNelis & Cllr. N. Murphy

In Favour: 5 Against: 11 Abstain: 0 Present: 16

This motion was defeated.

At 5.25pm, Mayor C. Connolly suggested that the meeting take a break for 15 minutes. This was proposed by Cllr. F. Fahy and seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed. The meeting resumed at 5.40pm.

Mayor C. Connolly referred to the motion she submitted. Councillors discussed the motion. Ms. C. Phelan, SP and Ms. H. Coleman, SEP responded to queries raised.

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator proceeded to take a Roll Call Vote:

Proposed by: Cllr. C. Connolly **Seconded by:** Cllr. M. Cubbard

I wish to propose the attached motion, which was in the previous CDP on. Pg. 35 2.7 Inner Residential Areas.

Galway has a variety of house types in the inner residential areas, with a mix of private and public housing. Places such as Claddagh, Shantalla and areas of Bohermore provide valuable housing in strong sustainable communities close to the city centre. These areas are under pressure with demand for housing extensions and for limited infill development. They have also experienced considerable pressure from traffic and car parking which has reduced their residential amenity. It is recognised that these areas are dynamic and that potential still exists for some additional residential development which can make efficient use of existing public transport routes and social and physical infrastructure. It is the priority of the Council to ensure that new development will not adversely affect the character of these areas. In this regard infill development and housing extensions should not be of such a scale that represents a major addition to, or redevelopment of the existing urban fabric. In this respect, infill development will have regard to the existing pattern of development, plots, blocks, streets and spaces. Infill development will also have regard to the scale and proportion of existing buildings, building lines, massing and height of buildings in relation to the street.

In favour: Cllr. I Byrne, Cllr. A. Cheevers, Cllr. C. Connolly, Cllr. J. Connolly, Cllr. M. J. Crowe, Cllr. M. Cubbard, Cllr. F. Fahy, Cllr. O. Hanley, Cllr. C. Higgins, Cllr. E. Hoare, Cllr. N. Larkin, Cllr. D. Lyons, Cllr. D. McDonnell, Cllr. N. McNelis, Cllr. N. Murphy, Cllr. M. O'Connor & Cllr. T. O'Flaherty

In Favour: 17 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 17

The motion was agreed and approved.

Councillors discussed a finish time for the meeting. Mayor. C. Connolly suggested that the meeting continue to 7.30 pm and to revisit the situation at 7.20pm. This was agreed.

Ms. C. Connolly referred Councillors to Chapter 4 – Sustainable Mobility and Transport.

Councillors raised a number of general queries on Chapter 4.

Cllr. T. O'Flaherty proposed that the word 'consider' be replaced with the word 'support' on p101 in bullet point 6 of 4.6 of the policy. It was agreed that this would be considered alongside a motion submitted by Cllr. N. Murphy.

Ms. C. Phelan, SP and Mr. U. Finn, SE responded to general queries from Councillors in relation to same.

Mayor C. Connolly referred Councillors to the motion submitted by Cllr. N. Murphy.

Cllr. N. Murphy spoke on the motion.

Proposed by: Cllr. N. Murphy **Seconded by:** Cllr. N. McNelis

Page 92 on last paragraph of the Cycling section.

I move the we amend “Providing convenient cycle parking near bus stops and at key locations across the city, including at education locations, transport hubs, employment areas, commercial and community hubs” to add “and housing estates”

Section 4.10 Page 103 has an objective 2 “Provide cycle parking facilities at appropriate locations including the City Centre, District Centres, Neighbourhood Centres, close to public transport interchanges, schools, beaches, cemeteries and parks” – Also add “housing estates” here.

Rationale

Public bike parking should be available in the places people visit including homes of friends and relations. Also e-bike rental companies use public bike racks as their designated drop-off/pick-up points and their use will be encouraged if the bikes can be made available closer to where people live.

Ms. H. Coleman suggested for the wording be amended to include ‘residential areas’ rather than ‘housing estates’ and Cllr. N. Murphy agreed to amend the motion to reflect this change.

Cllr. D. McDonnell proposed that ‘where appropriate’ be added and this was accepted by Cllr. N. Murphy.

Councillors discussed the motion and following this discussion, the wording of the motion was agreed:

Proposed by: Cllr. N. Murphy **Seconded by:** Cllr. N. McNelis

Page 92 on last paragraph of the Cycling section.

I move the we amend “Providing convenient cycle parking near bus stops and at key locations across the city, including at education locations, transport hubs, employment areas, commercial and community hubs” to add “where appropriate, residential areas.”

Specific Objective – Sustainable Mobility, Walking & Cycling Objective 2:

Section 4.10 Page 103 has an objective 2 “Provide cycle parking facilities at appropriate locations including the City Centre, District Centres, Neighbourhood Centres, close to public transport interchanges, schools, beaches, cemeteries and parks” – Also add “where appropriate, in residential areas” here.

Rationale

Public bike parking should be available in the places people visit including homes of friends and relations. Also e-bike rental companies use public bike racks as their designated drop-off/pick-up points and their use will be encouraged if the bikes can be made available closer to where people live.

The motion was agreed and approved.

At 7.24pm, Mayor C. Connolly raised the matter of a finish time for the meeting. Cllr. D. McDonnell proposed that the meeting proceed for the remainder of the evening to complete Chapter 4 and Chapter 5. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons.

Cllr. T. O’Flaherty suggested that the meeting continue to 9pm.

Cllr. J. Connolly proposed that the meeting continue until 9pm or until Chapters 4 and 5 are completed or, whichever is the lesser. This was seconded by Cllr. C. Connolly and agreed by Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Connolly **Seconded by:** Cllr. C. Connolly

That the meeting continue until 9pm or until Chapters 4 and 5 are completed or, whichever is the lesser.

This was agreed.

Mayor C. Connolly referred Councillors to the motion submitted by Cllr. N. Murphy.

Cllr. N. Murphy spoke on the motion.

Councillors discussed the motion.

Ms. C. Phelan, SP, Ms. H. Coleman, SEP, U. Finn, SE and Mr. McGrath, CE responded to queries raised.

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator proceeded to take a Roll Call Vote:

Proposed by: Cllr. N. Murphy **Seconded by:** Cllr. C. Connolly

I move that on Page 97 of the draft the following line is removed “In addition, a replacement of the existing surface car park on the Dyke Road is accepted on lands included in the Headford Road Regeneration area where re-development accommodating the car parking in a multi-story format would enable more efficient use of the land.”

This line is a direct contradiction of the rest of the section which discusses modal shift. We should not commit to parking at that location before we have even decided on the design of the development at that location – it is a perfect opportunity to reduce parking in town and encouraging the possibility of park-and-ride.

In favour: Cllr. C. Connolly, Cllr. N. Murphy & Cllr. M. O’Connor

Against: Cllr. I. Byrne, Cllr. A. Cheevers, Cllr. J. Connolly, Cllr. M.J. Crowe, Cllr. F. Fahy, Cllr. O. Hanley, Cllr. C. Higgins, Cllr. E. Hoare, Cllr. N. Larkin, Cllr. D. Lyons, Cllr. D. McDonnell, Cllr. N. McNelis & Cllr. T. O’Flaherty

In Favour: 3 Against: 13 Abstain: 0 Present: 16

The motion was defeated.

Mayor C. Connolly referred Councillors to the motion proposed by Cllr. M.J. Crowe.

Proposed by: Cllr. M.J. Crowe **Seconded by:** Cllr. T. O’Flaherty

Amend wording in Section 4.6, pg. 101 to: “Support reduced speed limits in the city centre and residential areas of the city.”

The motion was agreed and approved.

Mayor C. Connolly proposed a five minute break to allow for ventilation of the Council Chamber at 20.07pm, the meeting recommenced at 20.17pm.

Mayor C. Connolly referred Councillors to the motion submitted by Cllr. N. Murphy.

Councillors discussed the motion.

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator proceeded to take a Roll Call Vote:

Proposed by: Cllr. N. Murphy **Seconded by:** Cllr. C. Connolly

Section 4.6, page 101. Speed Limits

Objective 6 says "Consider reduced speed limits in the city centre and residential areas of the city."

The word consider is fairly weak.

Motion: I move that we add an objective that says "Support a city centre 30kph zone."

Rationale:

All councillors have already seen proposals for a 30kph zone in the city centre – it was part of the bye-laws proposed in 2020, but councillors never had the opportunity to vote on a city centre 30kph zone in isolation from other changes. This motion will allow councillors to indicate if they want this measure to be included in some future bye-laws.

In favour: Cllr. C. Connolly, Cllr. M. Cubbard, Cllr. O. Hanley, Cllr. N. McNelis, Cllr. N. Murphy, Cllr. M. O'Connor & Cllr. T. O'Flaherty

Against: Cllr. I. Byrne, Cllr. A. Cheevers, Cllr. J. Connolly, Cllr. M. J. Crowe, Cllr. F. Fahy, Cllr. E. Hoare, Cllr. D. Lyons & Cllr. D. McDonnell

In Favour: 7 Against: 8 Abstain: 0 Present: 15

This motion was defeated.

Mayor C. Connolly referred Councillors to the motion submitted by Cllr. O. Hanley.

Councillors discussed the motion.

Proposed by: Cllr. O. Hanley **Seconded by:** Cllr. N. Murphy

Insert an additional policy point under Policy 4.2 Land Use and Transportation (Page 85) to read: "Support the development of public transport and active travel infrastructure by leveraging special development contribution levies from large scale developments."

The motion was withdrawn.

Proposed by: Cllr. O. Hanley **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. McDonnell

Replace references in any maps with a bus route through Merlin Park Lane, such as Fig 4.1 on page 87, and instead show a route that terminates in Merlin Park Hospital.

The motion was withdrawn.

It was agreed that text be added under fig. 4.1 to explain that this map was taken from the GTS and that the bus route terminates at Merlin Park.

All other maps will be checked and amended or a note attached.

This was agreed and approved by Council.

Cllr. O. Hanley spoke on the motion.

Ms. H. Coleman responded to queries on same.

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator proceeded to take a Roll Call Vote:

Proposed by: Cllr. O. Hanley **Seconded by:** Cllr. C. Connolly

Insert an additional policy point under Policy 4.3 Public Transport (Page 89) to read:
“Support the modal change to public transport under the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) through modal change targets for walking, cycling, and public transport within the lifetime of the City Development Plan.”

In favour: Cllr. C. Connolly, Cllr. M.J. Crowe, Cllr. M. Cubbard, Cllr. O. Hanley, Cllr. N. McNelis, Cllr. N. Murphy, Cllr. M. O’Connor & Cllr. T. O’Flaherty

Against: Cllr. I. Byrne, Cllr. A. Cheevers, Cllr. J. Connolly, Cllr. F. Fahy, Cllr. E. Hoare, Cllr. D. Lyons & Cllr. D. McDonnell

In Favour: 8 Against: 7 Abstain: 0 Present: 15

The motion was passed

Mayor C. Connolly referred Councillors to the motion submitted by Cllr. A. Cheevers.

Cllr. A. Cheevers spoke on the motion.

Mr. U. Finn, Senior Engineer spoke on the motion.

Proposed by: Cllr. A. Cheevers **Seconded by:** Cllr. M.J. Crowe

Specific Objective no. 11 on page 105 That Galway City Council investigate the possibility of, with a view to providing an additional/ alternative access and egress for Boireann Bheag estates, Roscam in order to help alleviate chronic traffic congestion on the Doughiska road artery at peak times.

The motion was agreed and approved.

Mayor C. Connolly referred Councillors to the motion submitted by Cllr. J. Connolly.

Ms. C. Phelan, Senior Planner spoke on the motion.

In response, Cllr. J. Connolly withdrew the motion.

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Connolly **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. Lyons

Pg. 85 Change to Policy 4.2 #4

“Promote effective sustainable residential densities in the city particularly along and close to the existing and planned public and sustainable transport route network *pending on the prevailing level of service at that time.*”

The motion was withdrawn

It was proposed by Cllr. N. McNelis and seconded by Cllr. C. Connolly that an adjournment meeting take place on Friday 14th January 2022 at 10am until 6pm with lunch from 1pm to 2pm.

The meeting then concluded at 9pm.

