

DRAFT

Notes From Community Network Meeting

4th February 2012 held at The Creggan Court Hotel, Athlone

Present

Chris Chapman - Facilitator

Aidan Faughey	Anne O'Leary	Arlene Walsh
Ciaran Walsh	Davie Philip	Dee Sewell
Donna Callan	Emma McGuigan	Gareth Austin
Georgina Buffini	Gerard Mulherin	Miren Maialen
Peadar Lynch	Sandra Austin	Sean Gallager
Sean Shanagher	Willie Morrogh	

After the introductions we were invited to air any outstanding contentious issues carried over from the previous meeting. They included

- Mapping & data – who holds? Any map needs to be clear it isn't about establishing a mega-brand. Once it was clarified that the network group would be autonomous and independent, that although GIY will be and are already mapping groups (as are other groups), that any community groups mapped do not have to be GIY groups, the issue was mostly dealt with. Many groups map but it was suggested that the GIY map (or others) could be embedded into other sites (e.g. a network group site).
- The naming of the network. This was dealt with at the end, and again, outlined that the group would be independent.
- How the relationship between the GIY project and All Ireland network actually works (and other networks too) making sure it is functional in practice. Clarity and avoiding unnecessary duplication of effort. It was felt that this was something to watch for.

We then outlined areas our plan needs to address:

- That it's not just a talking shop, that it doesn't become over-bureaucratic, it's kept loose and simple and that money isn't wasted on the 'centre'.
- That there's potential for a mantle of exclusivity amongst us that needs to be avoided. We may intend to be inclusive, but it may still not be easy for many. That the bottom up and top down meet. We need to be promoting and supporting to marginalised cities and that real work on healthy food is an issue.

The group split into three areas to discuss the 2012 Work Programme which includes links to local groups, development of resources and anything external. The results have been produced separately as the Work Plan (which will be forwarded to the full mailing list) and have been divided into two

areas with an initial working party for each (note: if anyone wants to join these working parties they're more than welcome!)

Website

Sandra Austin

Ann O'Leary

Davie Philip

Miren Maialen

Emma McGuigan

Donna Callan

Local Groups

Ciaran Walsh

Gerard Maulherin

Georgina Buffini

AidanFaughey

Miren Maialen

It was agreed that everyone at the meeting was happy to have their email addresses visible for ease of communication on the express understanding that they would not be forwarded or used inappropriately. Dee will email all list members to ask permission from any network members not at the meeting. She also offered to continue as coordinator and asked that everyone keep her informed of communications.

Until the website has been developed Dee would make the Facebook page a Group and continue to admin the Twitter Group. GIY still have their forum facility, as do other groups.

Future meetings will be approximately quarterly but the venue is to be decided i.e., should they be held in Athlone, in Dublin or move around the country, preferably to facilities that have community gardens? This is still an outstanding issue. The next meeting will be at the end of April, venue tbc.

Finally the climax of the meeting was to agree the name.... after brief discussion we agreed upon

The Community Garden Network - Supporting Community Gardens in Ireland & Northern Ireland