

Theme 5 Green Network and Biodiversity

Six actions are listed below with their context.

Action 1 - this part of the development plan needs to be tied to the SDGs which are not mentioned in your questions despite being the international standard for sustainability. Every action needs to name the SDGs it impacts. **Action 2 - all actions need targets for which human resources and material resources are committed and time lines set.**

1. How can the development plan further support the development of the green network? Acknowledge protect and support what is already there through focussing human and material resources via the parks office. Galway City Council has no dedicated biodiversity officer with dedicated staff at present. GCC need to appoint a dedicated biodiversity officer with dedicated staff to engage in professional mapping of galway citys green networks and assets or natural capital within the lifetime of this plan. **Action 3, this biodiversity office should established and its natural capital mapping should be completed, published and circulated extensively within the life of this plan.**
2. How can we best conserve areas of natural heritage value while developing access for recreation? **Action 4 by establishing a professional office based in biodiversity - please see my last answer.**
3. What additional active/passive recreation facilities are required for the city? How can play opportunities be integrated in new developments? This is a key contribution again from the biodiversity office and the parks office. **Action 5, install 10 simple wooden playgrounds in the lifetime of this plan - install in the local parks of the local recreation areas, these need not cost €200k but perhaps sufficient units could be installed for €25k** to provide a number of fun areas. These should be overlooked to deter vandalism and local timber should be used as much as possible. A larger version of this idea existed in renvil park playground in the late 1980's - the old orchard had slides, swings, vertical stepping logs and various rides were constructed in rustic timber.
4. How can the plan promote the benefits of the green network to our health, biodiversity and climate action? The related offices for these areas in galway city council should collaborate - climate, energy (does not exist) and biodiversity officer, see previous point. Channels, boreens and networks that already exist can be utilised. The green network needs connecting and enhancing in the first half of the life of this development plan. Promotion of it can take place in the second half. There are significant channels for virtual promotion in galway including GEN, GCCN etc.
5. How can we ensure that there is a balance between the growth of the city and preservation of the natural environment? Traditionally there

has been no balance, growth has pushed on regardless. This is a key question and this action is needed - **Action 6, we need to provide proximal jobs, sustainable building practitioners, sustainable building materials, fund a comprehensive assessment of sustainable and integrated building opportunities in the city so that household occupants are advantaged in terms of proximity to necessary resources, proximity to sustainable transport opportunities, proximity to green and blue experiences touching nature and biodiversity, and low ecological footprint housing opportunities.** These opportunities will benchmark the way that more sustainable planning decisions can be made in the future.