

City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group

Monday, 14th April, 2025

THE CITY HALL/CITY HALL GROUNDS INSTALLATIONS WORKING GROUP MINUTES

Members present: Councillor Flynn (Chairperson);
Aldermen Lawlor and Rodgers; and
Councillors de Faoite and Murray.

In attendance: Ms. N. Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and
Civic Services;
Ms. K. Mullen, Client Manager; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Member Services and Digital Support
Officer.

Apologies

No apologies were recorded.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 12th February, 2025 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were reported.

Installation of Stained Glass Window – Update on arrangements and narrative

The Members were advised that, to accommodate the Lord Mayor's diary, the unveiling of the new stained-glass window would now take place on Thursday, 22nd May at 10.30 a.m.

The format of the event would be a short speech by the Lord Mayor, at the new window, with tea and coffee served immediately after in the Reception Hall/Great Hall. It was suggested by a Member that the representatives of both families be invited to a private unveiling on the evening of Wednesday, 21st May, with the proviso that no social media posts would be made until the public unveiling. A framed copy of the final artwork would be presented to the family representatives at the public unveiling. In addition, the Client Manager suggested that, rather than the production of commemorative booklets, commemorative bookmarks be printed and given to those attending the unveiling and that they would then be made available in the City Hall Gift Shop.

The Members considered the following suggested narrative to accompany the artwork:

Narrative Panel - (to be located to side of new stained glass window)

This window was commissioned to celebrate the rich heritage and positive role our local LGBTQ+ Community plays in the city.

The visibility of our LGBTQ+ Community creates a more welcoming and vibrant city, this window also helps make the City Hall inclusive and reflective of all the citizens of our city.

The bright colours representing the progress flag are joined by images highlighting many of the campaigns the community took part in to achieve equality, as well as including historical figures such as Roger Casement, as well as contemporary figures such as Lyra Mc Kee, Tarlaic Mac Neilis, and Jeff Dudgeon.

The window is framed with green carnations, a flower associated with Oscar Wilde. Banners representing different campaigns are shown including the Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners, Marriage equality and Pride in both Irish and Ulster Scots.

The window was unveiled by Lord Mayor Cllr Micky Murray on 22nd May 2025 and designed by (artist names).

The Working Group recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that:

- the aforementioned narrative to be included on the panel to contextualise the window;
- agree the new unveiling date of Thursday, 22nd May, with a private unveiling on the evening of Wednesday, 21st for the representatives of both families of the two individuals depicted; and
- commemorative bookmarks be printed instead of booklets and that they be made available in the Gift Shop following the event.

Empty Promises Opal Stone Sculpture
(Donate to Shankill Shared Woman's Centre)

The Working Group was advised that during Mr. Alex Maskey's term in office as Lord Mayor (2002 – 2003), he had been presented with a 'Empty Promises: Open Stone Sculpture'. This was a tribute to the women of Belfast and was by artist Mr. Arthur Manyengendzo from Chiweshe in Zimbabwe. The Members were advised that the piece was currently in storage in the City Hall basement, and it was being suggested that the Members give consideration to gifting the sculpture to the Shankill Shared Women's Centre, where it would be permanently on display to members of the public.

The Members noted that there might be other memorabilia available which could be loaned to groups/organisations for public display but noted that consideration would have to be given on an individual basis to any insurance requirements and that all requests would be subject to a loan agreement.

The Working Group recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the 'Empty Promises: Open Stone Sculpture' be gifted to the Shankill Shared Women's Centre.

Chairperson