

Public Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section
Chief Executive's Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**

11th September, 2017

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

In addition to those matters previously notified to you, the following items will also be considered at the meeting to be held at 4.30 pm on Tuesday, 12th September, 2017.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

4. Committee/Strategic Issues
 - (b) Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Development Working Group Minutes
(Pages 1 - 12)
9. Request for funding from North Belfast Play Forum (Pages 13 - 20)

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Subject:	Update on Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Development
Date:	12 September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Assistant Director, City & Neighbourhood Services Department Claire Sullivan, Policy and Business Development Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to report to committee on the key issues discussed at the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group meetings held on 3 August 2017 and 6 September 2017.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve the minutes and the recommendations from the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group meetings held on 3 August 2017 and 6 September 2017.

3.0	Main report
	<p data-bbox="272 226 421 255"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="165 327 1422 456">3.1 The Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group is a Working Group of the People and Communities Committee which consists of an elected member from each of the political parties.</p> <p data-bbox="165 528 1461 607">3.2 The minutes from the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group are brought before the Committee for approval.</p> <p data-bbox="165 678 1011 707">3.3 The key issues discussed at the 3 August meeting were:</p> <p data-bbox="165 779 1059 808"><u>3.4 Update on Business Case of the Crematorium Development</u> Members were provided with an update on the progress which had been made to date in terms of the discussions and meetings with representatives of other statutory agencies in order to progress the matter. Members agreed that a special meeting be held in September to which a report would be submitted in relation to some firm proposals regarding the preferred option.</p> <p data-bbox="165 1133 940 1162"><u>3.5 Update on the study visit to Crematoria in Scotland</u> The Group noted the information that had been provided on the study visit that had taken place on 28th June to Scotland to four crematoria.</p> <p data-bbox="165 1335 1177 1364"><u>3.6 Update on Permanent Memorial to mark Plot Z1 in the City Cemetery</u> Members were provided with an update on the consultation process of a permanent memorial at Plot Z1, commonly known as Baby Public, in the City Cemetery. Members were updated on the information sessions and consultation exercise that had taken place and that the process should be reviewed. A key issue had been the need to realise the desire of those present to have a memorial rather than artwork. Members agreed the recommended next steps which are outlined in the minutes, which included the establishment of a focus group.</p> <p data-bbox="165 1789 1171 1818"><u>3.7 City Cemetery Update on Concerns Regarding Anti-social Behaviour</u> Members noted the contents of a report which provided an update in relation to anti-social behaviour at the City Cemetery and agreed that officers investigate the costings associated with the possible installation of CCTV at the site.</p>

3.8	<p><u>Memorial Trees</u></p> <p>Members noted an update in relation to the provision of memorial trees at the Roselawn site and agreed that a report on the matter be submitted to the next meeting of the Working Group.</p>
3.9	<p>The key issues discussed at the 6 September meeting were:</p>
3.10	<p><u>Update on the Implementation of the Memorial Management Policy</u></p> <p>Members were provided with an update on the implementation of the policy and advised that there was an ongoing review which was examining a categorisation process whereby headstones will be categorised by the level of risk they pose and what action is required.</p>
3.11	<p><u>Update on Memorial Trees</u></p> <p>Members were provided with an update on the current position in the relation to the provision of memorial trees in Roselawn i.e. that there is currently no trees for purchase and there is limited scope to provide any new trees given issues with accessibility and the availability of land. Members agreed to apply the 2008 policy decision to end the process of providing memorial trees at Roselawn Cemetery.</p>
3.12	<p><u>City of Belfast Crematorium – Policy Statement for Infant Cremation</u></p> <p>Members agreed that the Council’s policy statement in respect of infant cremation should be made available on the Council’s website in line with national codes of practice and professional industry guidance.</p>
3.13	<p><u>Update on Memorial for Plot Z1 – City Cemetery</u></p> <p>Members noted the updated provided on the establishment of a focus group to advise Members on the design of the permanent memorial and agreed that its membership should be increased from 10 to 12 to allow all those people who has expressed an interest to participate.</p>
3.14	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no financial implications related to this report. The costs of the memorial at Plot Z1 will be met through the Council’s capital programme.</p>

3.15	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>There are currently no equality or good relation implications in relation to the capital projects however this will continue to be reviewed as the projects are developed.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 – Copy of the Minutes of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group’s meeting on 3 August 2017.</p> <p>Appendix 2– Copy of the Minutes of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group’s meeting on 6 September 2017.</p>

**STRATEGIC CEMETERY AND CREMATORIUM
DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP**

Minutes of Meeting of 3rd August, 2017

Members Present: Alderman Rodgers (Chairperson);
Alderman Sandford; and
Councillor O'Neill.

In Attendance: Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;
Mrs. S. Toland, Assistant Director, City Services;
Mrs. C. Sullivan, Policy and Business Development
Officer;
Ms. S. Kalke, Project Sponsor;
Ms. T. Slevin, Project Manager;
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 26th June were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of Interest were reported.

**Update on the Business Case of the
Crematorium Development**

The Director of Property and Projects reminded the Group that, at its meeting on 26th June, it had considered an options paper outlining the various proposals under consideration for the crematorium development and it had agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that a mix of options 3.1 and 3.3, that is, a new Chapel Crematorium on the Roselawn site and the refurbishment of the existing Crematorium but with variations and scenarios within this, be considered as the Council's preferred choice in respect of crematoria development. The Director outlined the progress which had been made to date in terms of the discussions and meetings with representatives of other statutory agencies in order to progress the matter. He referred to some of the other issues which had been raised by Members in relation to car parking and access and suggested that a special meeting be held in September to which a report would be submitted in relation to some firm proposals regarding the preferred option.

The Group noted the information which had been provided and agreed to this course of action.

Update on the Study Visit to Crematoria in Scotland

The Project Sponsor provided the Members with an update on the study visit that had taken place on 28th June to Scotland to four crematoria. She reminded the Members that the crematoria had been chosen because of their relevance in sizes, demand and operational models. The key recommendations from the study visit were as follows:

- Operating facilities in different locations could cause management issues – more staff were required, it could put additional strain on existing staff and result in diminishing quality of service;
- Strict regulation could help when the service provision was already overstretched – it had to be agreed if there was a (political) will to introduce charges when services ran over their booked times. If so, it needed to be enforced;
- Flexibility of chapel – it was more efficient if you had a chapel that was flexible in design than having several chapels of different sizes;
- Good design was essential for the functionality of the crematorium;
- Thorough planning in advance was essential, looking at all different options. Life cycle and revenue costs had to be taken into consideration and were equally important, if not more than the capital costs as they had a long term impact;
- Functionality of the operation was an important factor to ensure the building was fit-for-purpose, and that the way a service flowed was contributing to the quality of services and the well-being of those attending;
- The provision of adequate car parking as well as how you got there and leave was an important factor for the overall quality of the service that was being provided;
- The key problem with the existing facility at Roselawn was the number and rate of services which were being accommodated within 30 minute slots. It was recommended that the Roselawn development had to take into consideration that it was future proofed, that is, the chosen option had to have the ability to accommodate future changes on procedures and operations;
- Robustness of services was essential especially in the time period of redevelopment. Compared to the Scottish cases Roselawn had no “fall back” option, that is, it had to be operational during the construction phase and had to provide a robust service with minimal disruption;
- In the case of having a refurbished facility and a new facility, it could potentially cause issues with the accommodation of staff and their well-being. Ideally staff accommodation should be on one site and not split; and
- It had been suggested that a new facility would allow for the design and construction to reflect current Best Practice Guidelines for crematoria and therefore deliver best the adequate services required.

The Group noted the information that had been provided and commended the officers on the organisation of the site visit.

Update on Permanent Memorial to mark Plot Z1 in the City Cemetery

The Group considered a report which provided an update on the consultation process of a permanent memorial at Plot Z1, commonly known as Baby Public, the City Cemetery.

The Assistant Director provided the Members with an update regarding the information sessions and consultation exercise in relation to the memorial. Following those meetings, it was the opinion of those involved that the process should be reviewed and the Assistant Director updated in more detail on the agreed actions following the 4th July public meeting and the queries from those attending. A key issue had been the need to realise the desire of those present to have a memorial rather than artwork using the services of a stonemason. Accordingly, she recommended that the Group approve the following next steps:

- Review of the artist's contract;
- Confirmation and agreement of the changed brief for the memorial (based on the most recent consultation and not as previously based on the CAP report);
- Changes to the original business case;
- Start of new procurement process to appoint a stonemason;
- Setting up of a focus group;
- Design proposal for memorial;
- Consultation process (Citizen Space and consultation event);
- Installation of a memorial.

The Group noted the information which had been provided and agreed to the next steps.

City Cemetery Update on Concerns Regarding Anti-social Behaviour

The Group noted the contents of a report which provided an update in relation to anti-social behaviour at the City Cemetery and agreed that officers investigate the costings associated with the possible installation of CCTV at the site.

Memorial Trees

The Group noted an update in relation to the provision of memorial trees at the Roselawn site and agreed that a report on the matter be submitted to the next meeting of the Group.

Date of Next Meeting

The Working Group agreed that its next meeting be held on Wednesday, 6th September at 4.30 pm.

Chairperson

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**STRATEGIC CEMETERY AND CREMATORIUM
DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP**

Minutes of Meeting of 6th September, 2017

Members Present: Alderman Rodgers (Chairperson);
Alderman Sandford.

In Attendance: Mrs. S. Toland, Assistant Director, City Services;
Mrs. C. Sullivan, Policy and Business Development
Officer;
Ms. T. Slevin, Project Manager;
Mr. J. Parker, Cremation Officer;
Mr. A. McHaffie, Senior Woodland and
Recreation Officer; and
Mr. G. Graham, Democratic Services Assistant.

Apologies

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor O'Neill.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 3rd August were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of Interest were reported.

**Update on the Implementation of the
Memorial Management Policy**

The Assistant Director provided the Working Group with an update on the implementation of the Council's Memorial Management Policy which had been implemented in April, 2016. She provided an overview of the historical problems associated with unsafe, hazardous and unauthorised memorial structures which had necessitated the introduction of the policy.

The Members were reminded that a key element of the policy included a memorial inspection programme which had commenced in September, 2016 and which had revealed that a high percentage of headstones in Section D of Roselawn Cemetery were unstable or unsafe. The Assistant Director reminded Members that it was timely after a year of the policy to undertake a review. She referred to the media interest which had been directed at the Council in respect of the staking and banding of headstones to render them secure. She informed the Members that the review was examining a categorisation process whereby headstones will be categorised by the level of risk they pose and what remedial action is required.

She reported that the Council had, as part of its engagement programme with Memorial Sculptors scheduled a meeting to be held in October, 2017, at which an expert would be in attendance to provide advice and guidance on technical issues associated with memorial safety and that the Council would continue to work and provide advice and support to families who were grave owners in the affected plots.

It was reported that once the Memorial Management Policy had been updated a paper would be presented to the Working Group for its consideration.

Noted.

Update on Memorial Trees

The Assistant Director, in conjunction with the Senior Woodland and Recreation Officer, provided the Working Group with an update on the memorial tree scheme which, whilst the scheme had ended in 2008, there had been some contingency provided at Roselawn Cemetery since 2015 until recently. The Members were advised that, valuable burial land was being depleted and that substantial costs were being incurred by the Council to replace and maintain tree planted areas. The Working Group was advised that other problems associated with memorial tree planting had been identified, including tree overcrowding causing accessibility problems for families and visitors to tree planted areas.

The Working Group was informed also that currently no memorial trees were available at Roselawn and of the extremely limited potential to identify new areas suitable for memorial tree planting and requested that the Members endorse the implementation of the Council's 2008 policy decision to end the process of providing memorial trees at Roselawn Cemetery.

The Working Group accepted the recommendation as presented, subject to the approval of the People and Communities Committee and noted that papers on alternative memorialisation options, including tree replacement and unauthorised surrounds, would be presented to a future meeting of the Working Group for its consideration.

City of Belfast Crematorium – Policy Statement for Infant Cremation

The Cremation Officer provided the Working Group with a copy of the Council's policy statement in respect of infant cremation. He highlighted the need to ensure that there was clarity and consistency of approach on the subject matter and of the need to provide openness and transparency around this sensitive and emotive issue. To this end, he recommended that the Council's policy statement on infant cremation be published on the Council's website.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Working Group, expressed that its gratitude be conveyed to the staff at the crematorium for their dedication and diligent work and agreed, subject to the approval of the People and Communities Committee, that the Council's policy statement in respect of infant cremation be made available to the public via publication on the Council's website in line with national codes of practice and professional industry guidelines.

Update on Memorial for Plot Z1 – City Cemetery

The Assistant Director provided the Members with an update on the progress which had been made in seeking expressions of interest in respect of setting up a focus group to inform the Members on the design and creation of a suitable memorial structure for Plot Z1 at the City Cemetery. She stated that from the 16 responses received, 12 people had expressed an interest in participating as part of the focus group. It was reported that the Members had agreed previously that the focus Group would consist of up to 10 people. Given that 12 responses had been received, it was recommended that the focus group be extended to 12 individuals, subject to the approval of the People and Communities Committee, to allow everyone to be involved in the process. It was anticipated that the focus group would hold its first meeting in early October, 2017. She

stated that any design proposals emanating from the focus group would be referred back to the Working Group for its consideration.

Agreed.

Business Case of the Crematorium Development

The Policy and Development Officer referred to the previous meeting of the Working Group, at which it had been agreed to hold a special meeting in respect of the new crematorium development. She reported that the Director of Property and Projects was involved currently in discussions with Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council in respect of the matter and suggested that it might be beneficial for a report, following these discussions, to be presented at the October meeting of the Working Group.

Noted.

Date of next Meeting

The Working Group agreed that its next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 4th October at 4.30 p.m.

Chairperson

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Subject:	Request for funding from North Belfast Play Forum
Date:	12 th September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department Stephen Walker, Portfolio and Programme Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to present to Members a request from the North Belfast Play Forum for a contribution of £6,000 for the current financial year to sustain the club. A copy of the request from North Belfast Play Forum is attached for information as Appendix 1.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Committee is asked to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree to support North Belfast Play Forum through payment of £6,000 to sustain the club and that payment is made through a variation of the existing Facility Management Agreement.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee is also asked to agree that Sport Development staff work with the forum to review its programme and scope for income generation.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	<p>The letter provides background information on the Forum and the good work it has been doing since the mid 1990's in this area. The Forum has had a relationship with the Council dating back to this time, initially through agreement to use of the land to construct a polymeric multi user games area and the subsequent facilities management agreement (FMA) which ran until 2013 when the forum secured funding to upgrade the polymeric surface to 3G. Members are asked to note that the Council also contributed £10,000 as a 3rd party funder to this project to meet the short fall in funding. At that time, at the request of the forum, they secured a lease agreement with the Council, this was in order to satisfy the requirements of the funding body. The lease arrangement terminated the FMA which meant that the maintenance fee from the Council was no longer available, although a small fee in respect of the administrative building adjacent to the pitch remains subject to a FMA and a small monthly fee is currently payable. The Forum has therefore been in a position of having to effectively self-finance through income generation whether through charges or securing revenue funding.</p>
3.2	<p>The Forum has continued to provide a low cost affordable sports facility in this area however, it is experiencing a reducing balance. Applications have been made for revenue funding from both Sport Relief and from Children in Need. These are currently being assessed and no decision has yet been made.</p>
3.3	<p>The actual use of the facility is consistent with Council experience of artificial pitch use, i.e. consistent evening use Monday to Friday and morning to afternoon use at weekends. Day time use is limited.</p>
3.4	<p>A review of the current programme demonstrates that there is a significant element of free use. However, elements of this 'free' use includes intervention programmes for which the forum had received an income from a fund.</p>
3.5	<p>The Forum has previously sought and been granted similar support of approximately £22,000 in 2008 when the Council agreed to fund a post for 1 year.</p>

	<u>Request for Support</u>
3.6	The current request relates to a cash flow issue where funds are required to support immediate outgoings as outlined in Appendix 1, i.e. to cover insurance, accounts and maintenance.
3.7	Council could consider an option of bringing the asset back under the management of Council however this would have significant operational and financial impact extending beyond the cost of £6,000.
3.8	Given the substantial work of the North Belfast Play Forum and its past performance Members are asked to consider payment of £6,000 to sustain the current delivery model.
3.9	It is further recommended that support is provided to the forum by Sports Development Officers to assess the programming of the facility and potential for additional income generation.
	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.10	If members agree to the recommendation Officers will accommodate the amount of £6,000 within existing budgets.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>
3.11	There has been no equality impact.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - North Belfast Play Forum letter of request.

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To the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services,

Dear Nigel,

My name is Billy Wylie; I'm the current Development Manager for the North Belfast Play Forum (NBPF). As the management committee for the Waterworks Multi Sports Facility, the NBPF has played a fundamental role in the development of community sport in North Belfast and further afield.

Set up in 1995 to address the lack of youth provision and with the aim to develop Sport in the Community & the Community through Sport (e.g. Health, Crime, Employment, Training & Good Relations etc.)

The Waterworks is widely regarded as a model of best practice for community sports development, and it has become a focal point for sport and physical activity in Belfast. The NBPF has facilitated many opportunities for participation, and we continue to develop new and existing programmes while creating performance pathways to encourage people to remain involved in sport and physical activity.

While we recognise the importance of 'developing sport in North Belfast', many of the initiatives delivered by the NBPF simultaneously support the 'development of North Belfast through sport'. Accordingly, the NBPF continues to have a positive impact on many pertinent social issues including:

- Health;
- Youth Provision;
- Social Inclusion;
- Crime Diversion;
- Employment, Education and Training, and;
- Community Relations.

The NBPF has developed and initiated programmes as part of the NBPF sports development programme which is continuing to grow and evolve. Especially within the last year, NBPF projects are having a positive impact in communities throughout Belfast and Northern Ireland. For example, Midnight Street Soccer has been developed to promote girls sport and physical activity across Belfast and further afield.

We currently have one full time staff member as Sports Development Manager, four working volunteers and over 30 programme volunteers.

Below, detailed is the organisations incoming and out goings for September 2017 to March 2018.

We are currently awaiting a response on two applications for core funding from Sport Relief and Children in Need. We are requesting a gap funding package from Belfast City Council that would be crucial to sustain the facility for the coming year. With this support the NBPF would be able to sustain its self. The NBPF held a reserve of 20k for situations such as this one. Back in 2014 our organisation acquired funding to modernise and update the surface of the facility from a polymeric surface to a 3G surface that required the organisation to use its reserve. The facility is completely blocked booked at the moment with over 600 users per week. The NBPF prides itself on the development work delivered over the years to the people of Belfast and further a field.

Incoming finance

Total incoming	Sept 2017	Oct 2017	Nov 2017	Dec 2017	Jan 2018	Feb 2018	March 2018
Facility Hire generated	4wks x £700	4wks x £700	4wks x £700	3.5wks x £700	3.5wks x £700	4wks x £700	4wks x £700
Total	£2,800	£2,800	£2,800	£2,450	£2,450	£2,800	£2,800

Total incoming September 2017 – March 2018

Total: £18,900

Outgoing Costs

Total outgoing	Sept 2017	Oct 2017	Nov 2017	Dec 2017	Jan 2018	Feb 2018	March 2018	TOTALS
Salary Costs	£1,997.96	£1,997.96	£1,997.96	£1,997.96	£1,997.96	£1,997.96	£1,997.96	£19,587.75
Employers contributions	£800.29	£800.29	£800.29	£800.29	£800.29	£800.29	£800.29	
Public Liability Insurance	£0.00	£1,700	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,700
Accounts Fee	£0.00	£1,600	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,600
Pitch Maintenance	£165	£165	£1000	£165	£165	£165	£165	£1,990
Phone	£40	£40	£40	£40	£40	£40	£40	£280
Stationary	£10	£10	£10	£10	£10	£10	£10	£70
Total	£3,013.25	£6,313.25	£3,848.25	£3,013.25	£3,013.25	£3,013.25	£3,013.25	£25,227.75

Total outgoing = ££25,227.75

Difference = £6,327.25

The costings provided indicate that a gap funding package of £6,300 would sustain the facility for a further year and give the organisation breathing space to replenish its reserves while continuing to identify core funding opportunities. During the month of October we have two outgoing to be paid, accounts and public liability insurance. We also have pitch maintenance during the month of November to attend to.

Programmes listed below continue to run at the facility:

Midnight Street Soccer: A project initiated by the NBPF in 2004 and rolled out across the Province with over 4,000 young people participating to date. The programme tackles anti-social behaviour and is a crime prevention programme aimed at young people aged 14-17 years old. The award winning project continues in Belfast, Ballymena and Craigavon starting February 2017 with a new all girl programme. The project has been funded in the past by Belfast City Council and Sport NI.

Weekend Intervention Programme: A programme in its 15th year where we deliver unstructured play for young boys and girls at the weekends when other youth providers are closed. This programme is cross community and inter organisation supported by the local community and schools and funded by Belfast City.

After Schools & Schools Programme: Since 2008 the NBPF have delivered afterschool and curriculum time activities for local schools. Programmes include multi sport classes, sports day delivery and teacher training.

Ladies Boot Camp: A programme run in partnership with WISPA (Women in Sport and Physical Activity) The camp provides women with the opportunity to take part in physical activity in the Waterworks Park promoting fun activities and showcasing the now Greenflag Public Park.

Summer Scheme: Since 2003 the NBPF have delivered a summer programme aimed at young people for 6 weeks over the summer. Four weeks are mixed with boys and girls and the last two weeks are exclusively for young girls. The NBPF currently has over 90 young girls registered and active on a weekly basis. This programme has been funded by BCC since 2005.

Belfast Diverse: A cross community project aimed at young people to come together through the medium of sport to explore different cultures and traditions in a structured programme. This project is funded by the Good Relations Unit at Belfast City Council and has proven to be successful forming friendships of young people who otherwise would not have the chance to meet.

Coach Education: To date the NBPF have trained over 250 new coaches and provided volunteer opportunities for many people in the local community. Last year we trained 12 new coaches and retained 8 to become volunteers within the community working on different programmes and projects on behalf of our organisation. This project is funded by Belfast City

University & School Placements: For 12 years the NBPF have been training and help develop the next generation of sports development staff. We work closely with both Stranmillis and Jordanstown to provide placements for students. We work with local Secondary Schools to provide work experience opportunities for the young people.

Club Support: A lot of our customers are local clubs whom require support and guidance with funding from Belfast City Council and other small grants available. Support includes funding information sessions, coach education, governance support and general advice when required.

Marion de Frinse unemployed league: This project is run through the summer months and is named after one of our founding members, the league is aimed at men unemployed and as part of the project we deliver information sessions around addiction (gambling, drugs and alcohol)

Girls in Sport: The NBPF for the last 4 years have delivered a girls programme were we started with 12 girls and has now 60 young girls. Through the programme we have established 3 competing teams and the programme goes from strength to strength.

Homeless Intervention Activity: Working closely with the Simon Community and the Salvation Army we have produced a well-run programme that continues at the facility and is run by volunteers. The project has 24 men participating each week.

Toddlers Sport: Our newest project is aimed at young pre school children and works with parents and children around Fundamental movement.

The North Belfast Play Forum and its programmes are critical to Belfast and the work delivered is widely appreciated by the community. The NBPF are currently worried about sustainability of the site. Interim funding from Belfast City Council would enable the facility to stay open and continue delivering its eclectic range of programmes to the community.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and I look forward to your response.

Billy Wylie

Development Manager
North Belfast Play Forum

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