

**GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP  
MEMORABILIA WORKING GROUP  
THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2009**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Councillor Hendron	Chairman
	Councillor McCausland	Deputy Chairman
	Councillor Kirkpatrick	(nominee of Cllr. Stoker)
	Councillor Kyle	
	Councillor McCarthy	
	Councillor C. Maskey	
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Hazel Francey	Good Relations Manager
	Caroline Wilson	Senior Good Relations Officer
	Anne Deighan	Good Relations Officer
	Marie Craig	Good Relations Assistant (minutes)
	George Wright	Head of Facilities Management
	Maureen Mackin	Consultant

<b>1.0</b>	<b>ROUTINE MATTERS (MINUTES OF MEETING OF 16 OCTOBER 2009)</b>
1.1	The minutes of the meeting of 16 October were taken as read and signed as correct.
1.2	<b>Arising from the minutes</b> Hazel advised that the fact that the City Hall is a working building and this should be taken into consideration when developing an exhibition management policy.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>MEMORABILIA IN THE CITY HALL – NEXT STEPS AND PLANNING FRAMEWORK</b>
2.1	Cllr. Hendron welcomed Maureen Mackin to the meeting and referred to Maureen’s draft Planning Framework which had been previously circulated. She then invited Maureen to brief the group on the main points from the draft plan.
2.2	Maureen reminded the Group that she has been tasked with both maintaining momentum in the short term but also to plan a more long term approach. This approach would address the issue of balance in the City Hall. It is envisaged that a detailed plan with aims and objectives for the first 12-18 months and an outline for the following 3 years will be produced.
2.3	Maureen briefed the group on possibilities already proposed including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exhibitions ‘hired in’ from organisations such as the Linen Hall Library. Lectures and debates can be organised in order to accompany the exhibitions;</li> <li>• Borrowing work from the Ulster Museum and other organisations, although the Council must bear in mind conditions such as security, insurance and maintenance; and</li> <li>• Interpretation, that is explanatory signage in relation to historic portraits and other artefacts which would be useful to help the public understand the displays and their context in City Hall.</li> </ul>
2.4	Over the coming weeks, Maureen will also look at the development of content and themes of future exhibitions. Content and themes would be as diverse, inclusive and accessible as possible and of interest and relevance to local citizens.
2.5	A decision making framework needs to be developed, as well as marketing, associated events and PR plans for such exhibitions. Resources required need to be identified and also roles and responsibilities in implementation need to be defined. <b>A further paper on these matters would be brought to the Working Group for consideration at a future meeting.</b>
2.6	Maureen is keen to meet with Members of the group on a one-to-one basis before the

	brainstorming meeting with all Councillors.
2.7	<p>Cllr. Hendron thanked Maureen for her report and invited comments and questions from the Group. In response to a question from a Member, Maureen replied that the detailed plan will be produced within the next 3 months.</p> <p>In response to a question from a Member, Maureen agreed to make a slight amendment to the wording of the second paragraph in her introduction in the paper. This was agreed.</p>
2.8	Hazel distributed copies of a submission from the GAA with suggestions for representations and tributes to the organisation in the City Hall. Cllr. Maskey indicated that he would be happy to consider these proposals at the planned Councillors' brainstorming session.
2.9	In relation to the displays in the Reception Room, George Wright highlighted that there would be a considerable cost (around £7,000) to remove portraits and the same cost again to put portraits up and this needed to be considered before deciding on removing/putting up portraits. A firm decision on what is being placed in the Reception Room would be needed before removing any materials. He also advised that this room was regularly in use and not always available for access by the public tours.
2.10	<p>George advised that there will be security issues around displays which may also impact on lender's decisions in allowing their materials to be displayed in the City Hall. <b>It was agreed that officers would present a paper at the next meeting on the availability of additional and appropriate display spaces in the City Hall for Members' consideration.</b></p> <p>In the meantime, George Wright will advise on the best options for display of a Trade Union Banner within the City Hall.</p>
2.11	<p>Anne Deighan advised the group on a list of organisations which have already expressed interest in their exhibitions being displayed in the City Hall. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ulster Sports Museum (agreed for Nov/Dec)</li> <li>• Council's staff photographic competition</li> <li>• Council's Re-imaging communities programme</li> <li>• SHIP photographic exhibition</li> <li>• An exhibition by Paul Hutchinson (artist) based on a walk around boundary lines</li> <li>• Relatives for Justice Remembering Quilts</li> <li>• Mindwise Mental Health Organisation</li> <li>• Translink</li> <li>• Belfast Sewers Project</li> <li>• Sister City of Nashville</li> <li>• History of Council's Cleansing Services.</li> </ul>
2.12	<p>There was discussion on who was responsible for deciding which exhibitions should be included and the criteria for inclusion. George advised that in the past this decision had been made by the Strategic &amp; Policy Resources Committee, and the authority had been delegated to the Director of Corporate Services. <b>After discussion, the Group agreed that the criteria should be tabled at the next meeting and reviewed, to be adjusted if required.</b></p> <p>Once these criteria were reviewed, Members agreed to recommend to Strategic &amp; Policy Resources Committee that authority would likely remain delegated to the Director of Finance and Resources on the decisions on what will go on display. A regular report on the schedule of displays would be presented to the Memorabilia Working Group for their information.</p>
2.13	It was advised that a decision was now required on borrowing an exhibition from the Linen Hall

	<p>Library and an associated programme of lectures and debates organised.</p> <p>Of the exhibitions available at the Linenhall Library, Anne advised the Group of their first and second preferences. Based on the popularity with Members, it was suggested that the United Irishmen exhibition be installed first, followed by the Images and Reflections (photographic exhibition 1970s), then Unkindest Cut (historic political cartoons) and finally an exhibition entitled Celebrated Literary Belfast.</p> <p>(Cllr. Kyle left the meeting)</p>
2.14	<p>Some Members felt that the Images and Reflections exhibition would be more likely to capture the public's imagination and that this should be exhibited first. However, a Member was of the view that this would not address the issue of balance if the order was changed and he would not be supportive of this. A Member made the suggestion that the United Irishmen exhibition could be displayed first as part of a package that would include Images and Reflections next and then an exhibition on the Orange Order. It was decided to put this suggestion to the vote.</p>
2.15	<p><b>Cllr. McCausland proposed that exhibitions on the United Irishmen; Images &amp; Reflections; and the Orange Order should be exhibited in the City Hall (in that order) with appropriate events programmed to promote discussion on the subjects. This was seconded by Cllr. Kirkpatrick.</b></p> <p><b>Votes in favour: 3</b></p> <p><b>Votes against: 2</b></p> <p><b>The proposal that exhibitions on the United Irishmen, Reflections &amp; Images &amp; the Orange Order should be exhibited in the City Hall (in that order) was therefore declared carried.</b></p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>PLAQUES IN THE CITY HALL</b>
3.1	<p>Hazel advised the Group that the Council had overturned the decision not to replace the military plaques in the East wing of the City Hall. It had been agreed that there will be a temporary exhibition of these in the East Entrance. Hazel has contacted relevant experts who will help to identify those with the most significance and interest to Belfast. Hazel will report back to the Working Group at a later stage on this matter for their agreement.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>FORMAT OF 'BRAINSTORMING' EVENING SESSION</b>
4.1	<p>The Strategic Policy &amp; Resources Committee agreed at its meeting on 23 October to hold a brainstorming session on the subject of City Hall memorabilia for all elected Members of the Council. Details will be advised.</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Thursday 3 December at 5.30 pm.</b>

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