

**MEMORABILIA WORKING GROUP  
THURSDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2010**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillor Hendron      Chairman  
 Councillor Kyle  
 Councillor McCarthy  
 Councillor Stoker  
 Hazel Francey      Good Relations Manager  
 Anne Deighan      Good Relations Officer  
 Lorraine Dennis      Project Manager, Growing a Shared City Project  
 Marie Craig      Good Relations Assistant (minutes)

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor C. Maskey

<b>1.0</b>	<b>ROUTINE MATTERS</b>
1.1	The minutes of the meeting of 5 August 2010 were taken as read and signed as correct.
1.2	In relation to Item 6.0, the 'Wall of Hope' project, the Good Relations Manager reported that the organiser now intends to approach the Belfast Chamber of Commerce for financial support.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND APPLICATION</b>
2.1	The Good Relations Manager referred to a report, copies of which had been previously circulated, up-dating the Working Group on the Council's application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for financial assistance in its memorabilia project. The Stage 1 application was submitted at the end of August, and a decision is expected in November 2010.
2.2	The application outlines the importance of the City Hall as an iconic focal point in Belfast, its importance in historical terms, its heritage and valuable artefacts etc. The application has the potential for an additional £300,000 for City Hall projects. It includes a request for support for the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved access to and understanding of the building and its artefacts</li> <li>• A heritage based programme of activities and events, providing opportunities for cross-community engagement and better balance</li> <li>• Commissioning a collections care audit, a condition survey and a conservation plan</li> <li>• Staff training</li> <li>• Enhanced interpretation through a range of media</li> <li>• Improved exhibition space in the East Entrance area with display systems</li> <li>• Creation of a co-ordinator post to improve the integration of City Hall activities and programmes</li> <li>• Better marketing of the building and its programmes.</li> </ul>
2.3	The Working Group noted the contents of the report.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>PROPOSED CULTURAL EVENTS</b>
3.1	<b>Italian evening</b>
3.2	The Good Relations Manager reported that she had received a request from the Honorary Consul for Italy that the Council host an event to pay tribute to the local Italian community in Belfast. She noted that there has been an Italian community in Belfast since the middle of the 19 <sup>th</sup> century and the Consul General in Edinburgh was keen to develop its profile in the city. She reminded the Group that the Council has hosted a range of events for various minority communities in the past. The Italian community would organise the musical programme and provide artistes and the cost to the Council would be small. The date was likely to be 21 October and the Lord Mayor had indicated that he would be pleased to attend.

3.3	<b>70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Belfast Blitz</b>
3.4	The Good Relations Manager reported that the Council had received a request from the N. I. War Memorial organisation that it should mark the 70 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Belfast Blitz, April 1941. Since all sections of the community had been affected by the Blitz, the Good Relations Manager suggested that commissioning a small exhibition and hosting an event to mark the anniversary might form a suitable subject for an application to the Peace III Programme, under the theme of "our shared history". The total estimated cost of this would not exceed £15,000.
3.5	<b>Proposed stained glass window</b>
3.6	A suggestion was also made that a stained glass window around the theme of Celtic Myths & Legends could be commissioned. This would also fall under the theme of "shared history" and assist in achieving balance in the City Hall. The total estimated cost of this would not exceed £25,000.
3.7	<b>After discussion, the Working Group agreed to:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>the proposed Italian musical evening being held in the City Hall in October</b></li> <li>• <b>an exhibition to be commissioned around the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Belfast Blitz in April 2011</b></li> <li>• <b>a stained glass window to be commissioned on the theme of <i>Celtic Myths and Legends</i></b></li> <li>• <b>funding for the Blitz and window to be pursued through Peace III.</b></li> </ul>
<b>4.0</b>	<b><i>GROWING A SHARED CITY</i> PROJECT – PROPOSED SEMINAR SERIES</b>
4.1	Dr. Lorraine Dennis, Project Manager for the <i>Growing a Shared City</i> project, attended the meeting to brief Members. She referred to a report, copies of which had been previously circulated, requesting Members' input to the development of the project.
4.2	Two project activities in the near future will be the <i>Shared City</i> seminar series and the <i>Discussion Series</i> for Elected Members. The purpose of the seminar series is to facilitate improved dialogue between Members, officers and voluntary and community representatives. A series of monthly seminars will be held from November 2010 to April 2011 which will then provide context for the <i>Growing a Shared City</i> Conference in May 2011.
4.3	A list of suggested speakers had been circulated previously to the Working Group, with one (Dr. Mike Morrissey) having been confirmed for 8 November. Members were asked for their comments and further suggestions for the seminar series. A Member suggested that the time of the seminars should be changed to 12.45 pm. Another Member suggested that, although it was a good idea to have representatives from the private sector with a community focus, other speakers in this area should be sought out, such as Business in the Community. <b>After discussion, Members agreed to forward any further suggestions to Lorraine Dennis in the Good Relations Unit.</b>
4.4	The purpose of the discussion series for Elected Members is to develop a tailored discussion series delivered on a cross-party basis, with at least 10 members participating in each session. Again members are asked to forward suggestions for topics to Lorraine Dennis, who will forward the dates well in advance of the seminars. <b>After discussion, the Working Group noted the contents of the report.</b>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>EXHIBITIONS PROPOSED for the EAST ENTRANCE AREA of the CITY HALL</b>
	The Good Relations Manager tabled a list of proposed exhibitions received by Facilities Management which were scheduled to be held in the East Entrance until early 2011. The Working Group noted the information.
5.1	<b>Request from FAMILIES of the VICTIMS of the BALLYMURPHY MASSACRE to stage an EXHIBITION</b>
5.2	The Good Relations Manager tabled for information copies of a letter she had received the previous day from the Families of the Victims of the Ballymurphy Massacre (September 1971), requesting the opportunity to stage an exhibition in the City Hall in 2011 as part of their 40 year anniversary. She also tabled copies of images and text used in the exhibition, which had already

	been on display at Stormont and St Mary's College. She pointed out that as the item had not been on the agenda, she did not expect a decision to be made at this meeting.
5.3	Several Members were of the view that the exhibition could be included in the context of a broader exhibition on victims/violence in the City. Some Members felt that the proposed text item could be viewed as contentious. The Group agreed that there were many communities in the city that had suffered in the troubles and their voices also needed to be heard.
5.4	<b>After discussion, the Working Group agreed to defer this request until further discussion had been held.</b>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>
6.1	The Working Group agreed to cancel the next meeting which was scheduled to be held on 7 October. <b>The next meeting will be held at 5.30 pm on Thursday 28 October.</b>  <b>PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE</b>