

**MEMORABILIA WORKING GROUP  
THURSDAY 28 OCTOBER 2010**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillor Hendron                      Chairman  
 Councillor C. Maskey  
 Councillor McCarthy  
 Councillor Stoker  
 Hazel Francey                                      Good Relations Manager  
 Anne Deighan                                      Good Relations Officer  
 Marie Craig                                         Good Relations Assistant (minutes)

<b>1.0</b>	<b>ROUTINE MATTERS</b>
1.1	The Working Group agreed to consider changing the start time of future meetings from 5.30 pm.
1.2	The minutes of the meeting of 9 September 2010 were taken as read and signed as correct.
1.3	<p>Arising from the minutes, the Working Group noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The stained glass window commission had been referred back by the Strategic Policy &amp; Resources Committee at its meeting on 24 September.</li> <li>• The Good Relations Partnership has agreed that funding under the Peace III programme should be pursued for both the stained glass window and the Blitz event.</li> <li>• The date of the Italian evening has been postponed due to the unavailability of the Italian Consul General. It is possible that the event will now take place in December but may be deferred until the New Year.</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>COMMISSIONING OF STAINED GLASS WINDOW – PROPOSED ARTIST’S BRIEF</b>
2.1	The Good Relations Manager reminded the Group that, at its meeting on 9 September, it had agreed to commission a stained glass window on the theme of <i>Celtic Myths &amp; Legends</i> . She referred to an artist’s brief, copies of which had been previously circulated, seeking expressions of interest in the commission.
2.2	She pointed out that this would be a two-stage process and outlined the probable timeline for commissioning the window. The closing date for Stage 1 (for submission of expressions of interest) is now likely to be end of November 2010, with stage 2 having a closing date of January 2011. It is envisaged that the stained glass window should be in place by April/May 2011.
2.3	The Good Relations Manager suggested that the Selection Panel should be comprised of the Chairmen of the Good Relations Partnership, the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee and the Development Committee (Cllrs Hendron, Crozier and C. Maskey, or their nominees). This would ensure both a political and gender balance. Appropriate officers from the Good Relations Unit and the Culture & Arts Units would also participate in the Selection Panel. The Working Group agreed that the external members of the Good Relations Partnership should also be invited to nominate up to 2 external members to participate in the selection process and agreed the composition of the Selection Panel as set out above.
2.4	The Good Relations Manager informed the Working Group that expressions of interest will be invited through social media such as Twitter, Facebook and the internet. This method of advertising had been used very successfully for the commissioning of the artwork to reflect Irish heritage and also avoided the high costs of advertising in newspapers.

2.5	The Good Relations Manager also asked the Working Group to consider a suitable location for the stained glass window. Some suggestions included the window behind Reception, the first window along the corridor towards the lift or on the first floor towards the Lord Mayor's Parlour. All agreed that the window should be situated in an area accessible to the public. The Working Group agreed that the Good Relations Manager should meet with appropriate officers from the Property & Projects Department to discuss the most appropriate location and the installation of the new window and report back in due course.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>REQUEST TO STAGE EXHIBITION from the FAMILIES of the VICTIMS of the BALLYMURPHY MASSACRE</b>
3.1	The Good Relations Manager referred to a report, copies of which had previously been circulated, reminding the Group that at the last meeting on 9 September, a letter had been tabled from the families of the victims of the Ballymurphy massacre, requesting an opportunity to stage a photographic exhibition entitled <i>Reflections</i> in the City Hall in August/September 2011 as part of their 40 year anniversary. Copies of images and text used in the exhibition were also tabled.
3.2	The exhibition consists of 12 boards, one for each person that was killed and one panel that set the scene regarding the lead up to the events in August 1971. The exhibition is made up of a group of 11 photographs taken by local photographer Jonathan Porter. The individuals who were killed were all civilians and included a Catholic priest and a mother of eight children; a total of 51 children were left without a parent as a result of the events.
3.3	The Good Relations Manager reminded the Working Group that the families of the victims continue to seek an acknowledgement from the British Government that those killed were innocent of any wrongdoing. The Ballymurphy group had recently met with the Secretary of State and has requested the Attorney General to order a fresh inquest into the deaths.
3.4	A Good Relations Officer met with representatives of the Ballymurphy group who wish their campaign to be given greater prominence within the City. Members noted that the exhibition has already been exhibited twice in Stormont and in Whiterock Library, West Belfast Festival (for several years), the Ulster Museum, the Grand Opera House and in Dublin. A letter of support for the exhibition from Alan McBride, the Co-ordinator of the WAVE Trauma Group, was tabled. He stated that he thought that the exhibition would reinforce the view that the City Hall was a welcoming place for all the citizens of Belfast.
3.5	A Member stated that although he had no problem with the exhibition and had every sympathy with the families, he had concerns around the accompanying text and could not support the staging of the exhibition in the City Hall for that reason. A Member noted that the letter from Alan McBride illustrated how the dynamic had changed within the victims sector and he felt that the City Hall should be open to all these groups.
3.6	The Good Relations Manager suggested that a film from the WAVE trauma centre 'Unheard Voices' could be screened for one evening during the time of the Ballymurphy exhibition. This film was made up of a collection of 6 powerful short stories of those who have lost someone as a result of the NI conflict, presenting poignant reflections on a range of experiences. The Working Group agreed that Good Relations staff should contact the Ballymurphy group before the next Strategic Policy & Resources Committee meeting to check if they would be happy to agree to this, since they might not wish their exhibition to be diluted.
3.7	The Working Group also agreed that other victims groups should be made aware that the space in the City Hall was available for similar exhibitions. It might be possible at some stage in the future to hold a broader exhibition on victims/violence in the City.

3.8	After discussion, the Working Group voted by 3 votes to 1 to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee that the request from the Ballymurphy Group should be approved.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND APPLICATION</b>
4.1	The Good Relations Manager advised that although she had hoped to be able to up-date the Working Group, the meeting scheduled with the Heritage Lottery Fund representative had been postponed. A decision by the Heritage Lottery Fund is expected at the end of November.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>BELFAST BLITZ – request for MEMORIAL</b>
5.1	The Good Relations Manager referred to a letter she had received that afternoon from the NI War Memorial Committee requesting that the Council erect a permanent memorial to the victims of the Belfast Blitz in 1941. The War Memorial Committee had requested that the Council should erect a memorial pillar on the front lawn of the City Hall near the Queen Victoria statue, in a style that would complement both the US Forces and the VC Magennis memorials.
5.2	The War Memorial Committee noted that all sections of the community in Belfast had suffered during the Blitz and the memorial would pay tribute to all those killed in April/May 1941; they would like the pillar to be in place for April 2012.
5.3	The NI War Memorial Committee envisaged that the pillar would cost in the region of £20,000 and stated that they would be willing to contribute half of that sum.
5.4	The Good Relations Manager pointed out that as the item had not been on the agenda, she did not expect a decision to be made at this meeting. She stated that she would meet with other appropriate officers within the Council and obtain more details before bringing back a further report on this item.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>
6.1	Since the Heritage Lottery Fund decision would not be known until at least December and various Members would be involved in the Selection Panel for the commissioning the stained glass window, the Working Group agreed to postpone its next scheduled meeting until the New Year.
6.2	Members referred to the reception for voluntary and community groups funded by the Good Relations Partnership to be held before Christmas and expressed the view that it was important that the commitment and dedication of those groups was adequately acknowledged. The event should recognise the substantial contribution of the voluntary/community sector to the work of the Council and the life of the city. <b>Agreed.</b>