

## **GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP**

**MONDAY, 6th JUNE, 2011**

### **MEETING OF THE GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP**

Members present: Councillor Hendron (Chairman); and  
Councillor Maskey.

External Members: Ms. S. Bhat, Inter Faith Forum;  
Mr. S. Brennan, Voluntary/Community Sector;  
Ms. A. Chada, Minority Ethnic Groups;  
Archdeacon B. Dodds, Presbyterian Church;  
Mr. R. Galway, Confederation of British Industry;  
Ms. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;  
Mrs. M. Marken, Catholic Church; and  
Mr. P. Scott, Catholic Church.

In attendance: Mrs. H. Francey, Good Relations Manager;  
Mr. D. Robinson, Senior Good Relations Officer; and  
Mr. B. Flynn, Democratic Services Officer.

(Mr. R. Galway in the Chair.)

#### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from the Rev. Lesley Carroll and Mr. P. Mackel.

#### **Election of Chairman**

The Partnership agreed that Councillor Hendron be elected Chairman of the Good Relations Partnership.

Councillor Hendron thanked the Members for her election.

(Councillor Hendron in the Chair.)

#### **Election of Deputy Chairman**

The Partnership agreed that Councillor Maskey be elected Deputy Chairman of the Partnership.

Councillor Maskey thanked the Members for his election.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 5th April were taken as read and signed as correct.

**Summer Intervention Funding**

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

**“Relevant Background Information**

Members will recall that at its last meeting on 5th April 2011, the Partnership granted approval for the Good Relations Unit of the Council to take on the management and administration of the Summer Intervention Fund on behalf of the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister, as it had done in 2010. This was subject to the Council receiving a formal written letter of offer from the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister.

The Partnership agreed that the Fund of approximately £100,000 would be open to all areas of the city, but priority would be given to groups/organisations working with young people who live at or near interface areas on programmes specifically being delivered during times of heightened tension over July and August 2011.

OFM/DFM has requested that £5,000 of this fund be set aside for a comprehensive evaluation of city-wide interventions. This is likely to be supplemented by £5,000 from the Community Relations Council (CRC) (to be confirmed). The total fund available for allocation to groups is therefore £95,000.

Partnership Members are requested to note that the feedback from this evaluation will be used in developing a longer term strategy round youth intervention. The Council has collaborated with a range of other agencies in Belfast in strengthening its criteria and developing a clearer focus on diversionary activities this year, in support of ongoing work led by the Department of Justice and PSNI.

Information about the Fund and application process was distributed as widely as possible through the Good Relations Unit's mailing list, as well as publicly on the Council's website. Information was also disseminated via other Council Departments, the Belfast Education and Library Board (BELB), CRC and OFM/DFM, who also distributed the information through their mailing lists and websites.

The application process opened on Friday the 20th of April 2011, with a closing date of Friday 6th May at 12.00 noon.

### Key Issues

By the closing date, the Council had received 86 applications requesting a total of £342,722.30. Applications were assessed by a panel of Good Relations Officers, plus representatives from the Council's Community Services and Community Safety Sections, the CRC, BELB and the OFM/DFM. The assessment process was extremely competitive, as expected, and all applications were scored against the pre-agreed scoring matrix, which is attached for information.

Fifty-three applications are being recommended for funding of varying levels, according to the quality of their applications. The total amount of funding being recommended is £94,975. In addition, successful applicants will be able to avail of free Leisure Services provision, subject to availability, as agreed by Council at its May meeting.

Summaries of the successful applications are attached as an Appendix.

Nine groups failed to meet the criteria and were not awarded any funding on this occasion. These groups were either not working directly with children and young people in and around an interface area or they were not delivering the programme during times of heightened tension.

Eighteen applications were deemed ineligible as they were groups registered with BELB. Both the Department of Education and Belfast Education and Library Board agreed that such groups should not be considered as eligible for funding by the Council since they had direct access to a separate fund of around £300,000 for summer intervention work.

Six applications were not specifically diversionary in nature. However they did demonstrate positive community relations content and will be referred to the CRC's cultural diversity small grants programme.

### Resource Implications

All the funding under the Summer Intervention Fund will be recouped at 100% from OFM/DFM.

**Equality and Good Relations Implications**

The purpose of the Summer Intervention Fund is to support diversionary for young people activity within communities during times of heightened tension. This particular element of funding is part of a wider resource allocation that is also administered by the BELB, CRC and OFM/DFM. The Council's allocation seeks to prioritise those communities that have the potential for conflict and therefore this fund seeks to ensure that there is minimum negative impact on Community Relations throughout the City over the summer period.

**Recommendation**

**To recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the projects listed below receive funding as outlined in the recommendations."**

The Good Relations Manager provided the Partnership with an overview of the criteria which had been used in considering the applications for funding. In addition, she referred to the proposed evaluation of the project and reported that the Belfast Education and Library Board and the Community Relations Council had both confirmed that they would each be contributing £5,000 towards the evaluation. She pointed out that a briefing session for the successful applicants would be held in the City Hall on Friday, 10th June, and extended an invitation to attend to all the Members of the Partnership.

The Chairman (Councillor Hendron) welcomed the steps which had been taken to undertake the evaluation and suggested that this would enable the funding to be utilised in an even more effective manner in future years. Other Members suggested that the evaluation should establish if similar need existed beyond the interfaces and at "hot spots" and, if so, the programme should be extended to address such additional requirements.

After further discussion, the Partnership agreed that funding be awarded to the following organisations:

<b><u>Group Name</u></b>	<b><u>Amount Awarded</u></b>
Wishing Well Family Centre	£1,000.00
Carrick Hill Residents Association	£2,675.00
174 Trust	£2,000.00
God Loves You	£700.00
Glenbank Community Association	£2,000.00
North Belfast Women's Initiative and Support Project	£700.00
Upper Springfield Resource Centre	£4,000.00

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South Belfast Community Resource	£3,000.00
Greater New Lodge Youth Forum	£1,300.00
Markets Development Association	£2,000.00
Short Strand Community Forum	£2,000.00
Youth Initiatives	£1,500.00
Star ABC	£1,000.00
The HUBB	£1,500.00
Dee Street Youth Support	£3,200.00
Fortwilliam and McCrory Presbyterian Church	£1,000.00
Roden Street Community Development Group	£3,000.00
Greencastle Community Association	£1,250.00
St. James's Community Forum	£1,500.00
White City Community Development Association	£1,250.00
GVRT	£2,500.00
St. Vincent de Paul	£1,500.00
Concerned Residents of Upper Ardoyne	£1,000.00
Crosscollyer Street Church Sunday School	£1,000.00
North Belfast Play Forum	£2,000.00
Cavehill Antrim Road Regeneration	£1,500.00
Skegoneill Community Group	£1,500.00
Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum	£3,000.00
Greater Shankill Alternatives	£1,500.00
Lower Castlereagh Community Group	£1,500.00
Westlands Community Group	£2,500.00
Ardoyne Women's Group	£2,500.00
Interaction Belfast	£2,200.00
Basement Youth Centre	£1,500.00
Tiger's Bay Concerned Residents Association	£1,500.00
North Belfast Interface Network	£2,000.00
Ligoniel Improvement Association	£1,500.00
Donegall Pass Community Forum	£1,000.00
Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre	£3,000.00
Ardoyne Kickhams GAC	£2,000.00
Seaview Enterprises	£3,500.00
St. John Bosco ABC	£1,500.00
Woodvale Football Club	£1,000.00
Welcome Community Group	£700.00
Clonard Residents Association	£2,000.00
Ardoyne Youth Providers Forum	£1,500.00
BCDA	£1,500.00
New Lodge Arts	£2,000.00
Falls Youth Providers	£1,500.00
The Dean Clarke Foundations	£1,500.00
Lower Shankill Community Association	£1,500.00
Embrace Ballysillan	£1,000.00
Suffolk Lenadoon Interface Project	£2,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£94,975.00</b>

**Migrant and Minority Ethnic Support Project**

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Partnership that one of the objectives of the Shared Cultural Space Programme was “to lead a project in association with a range of agencies to establish a City-wide forum and support network for migrant workers in Belfast, and support advice groups to ensure that adequate information and advice on a range of issues is available for migrant workers.” She advised the Partnership that the Good Relations Unit was organising, in association with Migrant Help and the Belfast Migrant Forum, together with a number of other key agencies, a half-day seminar to raise awareness of issues relating to human trafficking, which would take place on Wednesday, 22nd June at the Mount Conference Centre, 2 Woodstock Link. She added that Migrant Help was a United Kingdom-wide charity founded in 1963 which provided support and advice for migrants in distress and was the principal provider of care for victims of human trafficking in Northern Ireland.

It was reported that the aims of the seminar would be:

- to increase knowledge of the size, scope, extent and nature of human trafficking;
- to increase skills in identifying victims of trafficking;
- to suggest and generate ideas for future action at community level; and
- to encourage information sharing amongst partner organisations.

It was reported also that a wide range of bodies and agencies, including Migrant Help, Women’s Aid Federation Northern Ireland, the Department of Justice, the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the United Kingdom Border Agency, Gangmaster’s Licensing Authority and An Garda Síochána, would be partaking in the event and that the costs associated in hosting it would be in the region of £1,300, which would be recouped by the Council in full from the Peace III Programme.

After discussion, the Partnership agreed that financial support in the sum outlined be provided to host the seminar and that an invitation to attend be extended to all Members of the Partnership.

**Bonfire Management Programme**

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

**“Relevant Background Information**

**Members will be aware of the ongoing work by the Council in relation to this Programme and may recall that at its meeting on 12th November, 2010, the Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to continue with the programme for a further three years, with funding being provided through both Council and the Peace III programme.**

The Good Relations Partnership also agreed at that meeting to “submit a list of all proposed funded groups for either bonfire festival or diversionary programmes to the Good Relations Partnership and to Committee in June each year”.

### Key Issues

Over the past four months, there have been a number of meetings, information sessions and informal contacts with a number of groups throughout the City with a view to developing positive engagement with regard to managing bonfires over the summer period. A number of these groups have subsequently decided to ‘sign-up’ to the programme for this year and the list of these groups is attached for the Partnership for information.

### Resource Implications

Financial: The overall budget for the programme has already been agreed.

Human Resources: Continued Good Relations Unit staff engagement with the programme, along with staff from various Council Departments and staff from Groundwork NI.

### Equality and Good Relations Implications

The Council’s Programme is designed to support positive expressions of cultural heritage throughout the City, ensuring that community celebrations and commemorations are delivered in a more positive way that threatens no-one.

### Recommendations

That the Partnership recommends to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the groups listed below be approved for participation in this year’s programme.

### List of proposed groups for the Bonfire Engagement Programme 2011

#### North Belfast (9)

Glenbank  
Grove Park, Friends of  
The Hubb  
Shore Crescent  
Sunningdale  
Tiger’s Bay  
Westlands Estate

#### East Belfast (15)

Ballarat Street  
Chamberlain Street  
Clara Street  
Cluan Place  
Clarawood  
Inverary  
Island Street  
Isthmus Street  
Loop River

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<b>Wheatfield Community</b>	<b>Lower Castlereagh Community Group</b>
<b>White City</b>	<b>Orangefield</b>
	<b>Pitt Park</b>
	<b>Tamar Street</b>
	<b>Templemore Avenue Residents Action Group</b>
	<b>Walkway Community Association</b>

**South Belfast (10)**

**Annadale**  
**Donegall Pass**  
**Donegall Road (Milner Street)**  
**Dunluce Avenue/Lisburn Road**  
**Donegall Road (Monarch)**  
**Finaghy/Benmore**  
**Flush Park**

**Sandy Row**  
**Suffolk**  
**Taughmonagh**

**West Belfast (8)**

**Browne Square**  
**Conway Street**  
**Dover Street**  
**Glencairn Community House**

**Highfield**

**Springmartin**  
**West Belfast Athletic & Cultural Society**  
**Woodvale**

**Diversionsary/alternative programmes in August (7)**

**Greater Falls Community Safety Partnership**  
**Ligoniel Improvement Association**  
**Lower Ormeau**  
**Markets Development Association**  
**Parkside**  
**Short Strand Community Forum**  
**Upper Springfield Community Safety Partnership"**

The Senior Good Relations Officer provided an overview of the arrangements which had been put in place to manage the Programme over the forthcoming summer months. He reported that he had undertaken a significant number of meetings with key individuals and agencies and had engaged also with the organisers of a contentious bonfire which was to be erected on vacant property at the entrance to the City Hospital on the Donegall Road. He indicated that, whilst the organisers of that bonfire were not part of the Council's Bonfire Management Programme, in view of the progress which had been achieved to date, he suggested that further discussions with the organisers might prove beneficial.



In response, a number of Members suggested that there existed a greater onus on the Belfast Health Trust to address the bonfire site arrangements at the City Hospital/Donegall Road site, given that; ultimately, they were the owners of the property on which it was located. The point was made that since widespread re-development of the Village district was due to be undertaken by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, it might be feasible that a suitable alternative site could be secured in future years to host the bonfire.

After discussion, the Partnership agreed to note the information which had been provided and authorised the Senior Good Relations Officer to continue to engage with the organisers of the bonfire at the Donegall Road entrance to the Belfast City Hospital.

### **Forthcoming Events**

#### **Peace III in Belfast**

The Partnership was reminded that a conference, to which all Members were invited, involving representatives of projects supported under Phase 1 of the current Plan would take place on Tuesday, 21st June at the Belfast Waterfront Hall. Accordingly, the Good Relations Manager circulated an invitation for the event and advised Members that the conference would celebrate the success of the project over the previous two years and discuss issues pertinent to the second phase of the Peace III programme which would run from 2011 to 2013. She outlined the proposed programme for the event and indicated that the aim of the conference was to encourage participants to build linkages and generate ideas for the next phase of the initiative.

Noted.

#### **Day of Reflection**

The Good Relations Manager informed the Partnership that Healing Through Remembering would be marking the Day of Reflection on Tuesday, 21st June at The Linen Hall Library. She explained that the Day of Reflection was an opportunity for personal and private reflection on the conflict in Northern Ireland and a day also to acknowledge the deep hurt and pain which had been caused. She reported that the event was open to all members of the public, who were welcome to attend anytime between 10.30 a.m. and 2.00 p.m., where there would be a space provided for reflection, together with an exhibition, as well as guest readings and song.

Noted.

Chairman