

Best Practice Visits – Community Development in Unionist Areas

Background

The Committee, at its meeting on 23rd September, 2011, agreed to organise site visits to several locations to examine Irish language initiatives in the city. I think that it would be useful for the Committee to agree to also undertake visits to several best practice organisations in the field of Community Development in Unionist areas of the city.

I have set out below several organisations which the DUP Members on the Council feel would be ideal for such visits:

East Belfast

Pottinger DEA

- East Belfast Alternatives – Andy Moorehead - formed in 1998, the aim of the project is to reduce the number of “punishment beatings” carried out against young people by both loyalist and republican paramilitaries.
- East Belfast Community Development Association – Michael Briggs – the membership is drawn from community groups representing a population of 109,000. Its role is to add value to the activities undertaken by groups in local areas and to work with key organisations to ensure the continued development of a community sector in East Belfast that is recognised, valued and effective.
- Willowfield Parish Church – Canon David Mclay – the aim is to be a church in the community, for the community; in the city, for the city (see attached information).
- Walkway Community Centre

Victoria DEA

- Connswater Community Greenway
- Wandsworth Community Centre (see attached information)
- Victoria PACT (see attached information)
- East Belfast Partnership

North Belfast

- Crusaders Football Club
- Good Morning Ballysillan

Oldpark DEA

- Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre – Jimm Potts – the Centre ran on a voluntary basis for 10 years operating out of portacabins before finally getting new purpose-built accommodation
- North Belfast Alternatives – Joan Totten – engages with restorative justice programmes in the area.

South Belfast

- Sandy Row Development Association
- GVRT Ballynafeigh CDA

Shankill

- Shankill Women's Centre – formed in 1987 as a locally based group to provide education for women. Since that time it has flourished and developed to its current position as a key provider for training, health awareness, childcare and young women's activities in the Greater Shankill and beyond.
- Spectrum Centre – is a major landmark in the Shankill area. It has developed as an Arts and Culture venue which lies at the heart of the community.

The Vision of Willowfield Parish Church

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Our Common Purpose

I appeal to you brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.

1 Corinthians 1:10

Why do we exist as a Church?

To be a church:

In the community, for the community; in the city for the city.

We are united in the cause of Christ to pursue three basic purposes together:

We have a passion to gather searching hearts into the saving embrace of God's love in Jesus Christ. To that end we bless those around us inside and outside of the Church.

We have a passion to grow as people in the truth and transforming power of the gospel. To that end we keep on running discipleship and training classes and events.

We have a passion to give ourselves to our families, our church, our community, and our world in a way that honours and exalts Jesus Christ. We call our members to generosity.

The W Club

For Adults 18+

The 'W Club' was formed in 2003 when Brian Dawson, Colin Robinson (Bridge), Christine Acheson (Engage with Age), Joe Watson (Belfast City Council) and Alan Higgins (Willowfield Parish) discussed the need for a men's group in Woodstock/Willowfield/Lower Ravenhill Area.

Life Groups

There are currently 24 small groups which meet each week at various times and on different days, catering for teenagers through to seniors, but all come under the collective name of Life Groups. These gatherings are a vital part of the heartbeat of church life in Willowfield and it is through these groups that individuals can get connected with others that are at similar stages of life and build positive friendships that will help them grow. We call them Life Groups at Willowfield because we:

Help people to experience the abundant life of God

Support each other through real life issues

Bring life to others

Groups meet in homes and have tea, cake, discussion, a chance to pray for each other, practise spiritual gifts in a safe environment and invite one another into each others lives. Life Groups don't merely exist for those within the group but for those beyond the group, so there are opportunities to serve Him together in the church, community and beyond.

If you would like to know more about Life Groups or want to be part of a group then please speak to Richard Gough (9079 9826), Erika Frank, or Hilary McClay.

You can also email: lifegroups@willowfieldchurch.co.uk

Prayer Ministry

Each Sunday at the 10am, 11.30am & 7pm services we offer prayer ministry at the end. We have what is called a Prayer Ministry Team who are a group of people who have been trained in praying for others. They go to the front of the church at the end of the service and are there to pray for any need that you may have. People come for prayer for all sorts of things, for physical healing, for guidance, for healing from past hurts & traumas etc. Sometimes people ask for prayer for loved ones & illnesses in their families. Others just want to meet afresh with God. Sometimes people come looking for God's forgiveness and sometimes needing help to forgive others.

The team try to pray for people as they themselves would like to be prayed for, with compassion, respect, being treated with dignity, making people feel safe, always with confidentiality the key.

When people come forward for prayer they are asked what they want Jesus to do for them. He is the only one who can bring true healing, peace and hope in our lives and our aim is that as people come for prayer they will experience his presence & healing, know that he loves them and is interested in what is happening in their lives.

Life at times can be difficult and not always go the way we would desire and plan. While we can pray ourselves sometimes it is good to have the prayers and support of others, this is what the prayer ministry team are there for.

Healing on the Streets

We believe God Heals today! Do you suffer from Back Pain, Arthritis, Addiction, Cancer, Ulcers, Depression, Allergies, Asthma, Paralysis, Crippling Diseases, Phobias, or any other sickness?

Saturday mornings from 9.30am - 12noon, Cregagh Road, East Belfast. We would love to pray for you. It will not cost you a thing - just a moment of your time.

Refresh

Refresh is community space based at 91 Ravenhill Road, Belfast and part of Willowfield Parish Church. We want Refresh to be a place where people feel welcome and safe to experience God's love.

Regular Activities:

Refresh Sunday Lunch

Sunday // 1pm - 2.30pm

Every Sunday a two course meal is made available to support local people who are finding it harder to 'make ends meet' and to meet new friends. Suggested donation £3.00

Just Drop In

Friday // 10am - 12pm

Every Friday Refresh opens it's doors for local people to 'Just Drop In' for a cup of coffee and a chat.

Organised with Christians Against Poverty (CAP) a debt counselling charity that works within the local area to help people who are struggling with debt, the local centre is based in Refresh.

Just 55

Lagan Village Hall

Sunday // 5pm - 5.55pm

Just 55 is 55 minutes for Children (P1 - P6) which includes crafts, fun, games, friendship and learning to live as a Friend of Jesus.

Just 55 takes place in the Lagan Village Hall, Ballarat Street

Ethnic Minority Ministry

at Willowfield Parish Church

Current Programs:

Laduma (Football and keep fit club)

Leadership Bible Class (Life Group)

Connect (Relax, Reflect and Rejoice)

Diversity Celebration Service (First Sunday of each month)

In Details:

LADUMA

Men's indoor football and keep fit club on Thursdays at Willowfield Church Halls.

Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Contact: Fred Wepions on 07522 661148 or Ezekiel on: 07500 679512

LBC (Life Group)

Bible based training program aimed at developing leadership potentials within people.

Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm.

Contact: Mrs. H. Karanda on: 07766387099 or email: hlaleleni@yahoo.co.uk

CONNECT

It's a twice a month social networking events for the Afro Community held on first and third Saturday of each month. A night of great entertainment, food, table quiz, and conversations.

Time: 6:00pm

Contact: Francis on 07940 208693 or email Franciswme@yahoo.co.uk , or Ezekiel on 07500 679512

DIVERSITY CELEBRATION SERVICE

Multicultural church service held at Willowfiled Parish church on the first Sunday of each month.

Time: 10 am

Wandsworth Community Association

Wandsworth Community Association was established back in October 1994 to serve the East Belfast areas of Belmont and Ballyhackamore.

The Association is run by a small management committee made of of men and women who oversee the general running of the community centre in a voluntary capacity and we have a Voluntary Community Development Worker (VCDW) who looks after the day to day business, attends network meetings, oversees the centres programme of activities and acts as the main contact between the committee and users of the centre.

Wandsworth Community Association has no paid workers but rather relies heavily on the support of over 40 volunteers to run the community centre buildings and its full 7 days a week programme of activities.

Wandsworth has strong links with other established community groups and community centres across East Belfast, good relationships with all local schools and churches and is actively involved in working together with PSNI, Housing Executive, the local business community and Belfast City Council to build strong community cohesion.

Wandsworth has been working very closely with Beat Initiative (Belfasts Community Arts Team) for several years now and for the past two years Wandsworth have branched out from this relationship and established their own carnival arts programmes and run their own festivals, carnivals and lantern parades for the local community. At its recent Lantern Parade (10th Dec 2011) Wandsworth worked in conjunction with Strandtown Traders to bring "A Victorian Christmas" to the area and after running several lantern making workshops both at the centre and in local schools and churches were amazed at the public support for the event. Again the whole show could not have gone on the road without the support of volunteers who ran the workshops, helped create the various carnival floats and costumes and with over 350 participants of all ages arriving back at the community centre it was no mean feat trying to cater for all yet a willing band of volunteers worked throughout the afternoon cooking and organising hot food and refreshments for everyone. Carnivals have helped us bring the whole community together and indeed it is great to see so many families from across the divide sharing fun times together. Wandsworth prides itself on being a community centre where everyone is welcome regardless of religion or nationality and all our activities, events and classes have a strong mix of religions and cultures.

Wandsworth has an established youth group again with good cross community links and our youth are encouraged to get involved in volunteering and giving back to their own community what they get from it. We currently have 57 young people aged 12 - 25 enrolled, some of whom practice on a regular weekly basis playing the carnival drums and learning to lead at the front of our carnivals and parades. We are registered with Belfast Education & Library Board and through them provide Duke of Edinburgh's Award and currently we have 8 young people doing their Bronze award and 6 going for Gold. This month they will all start formal training for their canoeing expedition with a residential at Delamont Outdoor Pursuits Centre. Wandsworth Youth also incorporates a 25 strong team of young people who work closely with PSNI as the Youth Independent Advisory Group, meeting up with PSNI regularly for discussion, advice and teambuilding sessions along with intergenerational programmes with elderly victims of crime. One of our youth members has joined the management committee this year, has completed his DofEd Gold Award and been to Kenya to represent Northern Ireland at the International Gold Event. Aaron is currently working on BELB's LIDS (Leadership in a Diverse Society) Project and is going off to Malaysia and Cambodia this April to complete the project. Wandsworth provides for elderly residents also and has various classes and groups for the over 50's. Volunteers prepare, cook and serve a healthy 3 course lunch every Monday and our VCDW also runs a programme of activities for them on a monthly basis. With many getting to grips and learning how to work computers in our computer suite, being encouraged to get involved as volunteers and in intergenerational work projects there is something for everyone at Wandsworth.

Our weekly programme -

Mondays 10am- 11.30 Wandsworth Mums & Chums (Tots group), 10am-12 Creative Writing
12.15 - 1.30 Seniors Lunch Club, 3.45 - 4.45pm After schools multisports club
5 - 6 Class Act Drama Academy, 6 - 7pm Zumba, 7 - 8pm Aerobics, 8-9.30pm Yoga,

Tuesdays 10am - 11am Yoga, 2-4pm Knock Retirement group, 4-7pm Irish Dancing
7 - 8pm Aerobics, 7 - 8pm Youth carnival drumming, 8.15- 9.30pm Tai Chi

Wednesdays 10am - 12noon Needlework Hobby Class, 1.30-3.30pm Flower Arranging Hobby Class
3.45 - 4.45pm Afterschools multisports club, 7-8.30pm Yoga

Thursdays 10am - 12noon Creative needlework, 5-6pm Hip Hop Dancing Class, 7-8pm Aerobics,
7-10pm Sugarcraft Guild (monthly), 8 - 10pm Core combat

Fridays 10am- 12noon Computers for Beginners, 12 - 2pm Lunchtots, 1-3pm Computers for Fun,
3 - 5pm Playball Tots 7-8pm Childrens Ju Jitsu 8.30-10pm Boxing

Saturdays 9.30am-12.30pm Jump Jiggle & Jive (Baby Dance), 10am - 12 Little seedhead arts
1pm - 3pm Ignite Dance school,

Sundays 11am & 7pm Christadelphian Church Group

Youth meet on various nights usually twice monthly

Wandsworth also organise month by month Ladies nights out (cinema, theatre etc), youth events,
elderly events etc.

Our VCDW is also involved with PACT (Police, Partners & Community Together) being vice-
chair of this group. Alison also leads the youth groups, tots groups, our seniors activity sessions
and organises the monthly nights out/events.

Our annual summer scheme attracts 170 children aged 4-18yrs and is usually held throughout
August and is staffed by 35+ volunteers for our programme morning, noon and nighttime.

Wandsworth has its own newsletter which we put in print 4 times a year. Printed free for us by
the Northern Ireland Housing Executive this 20 page newsletter is distributed by volunteers to
1400 homes locally. The newsletter is a means of keeping the community informed of what we
are doing, what classes and groups are available and also advertises for local businesses in
exchange for work done for the centre.

We have our own 17seater minibus, insured for anyone over 25 with the required licence.

Our premises - a main hall with toilets and kitchen facilities, a portacabin with integral computer
suite/teaching area, an upstairs youth snug/storage facility, an external garage storage space for
housing our large carnival floats etc and a community play area/garden space with decked BBQ
area and vegetable gardens with shed storage space.

Our funding - Just under half our funding is self generated through recycling facilitation, hire of
premises to groups and fundraising efforts. Our main revenue funding, occasional projects and
summer scheme are funded by Belfast City Council, youth funding and minibus upkeep are funded
by Belfast education & Library Board and HSC provide funding for seniors lunchclub, tots groups
and Knock Retirement Group. We have had 2 large grants in recent years from BCC for our
festivals but fund the lantern parade ourselves.



Introducing Victoria PACT

PACT stands for Police, Partners and Community Together.

It is an exciting community initiative which is being developed in the Victoria Neighbourhood Area of East Belfast. PACT welcomes local participation and engagement from the public on how local communities are managed and developed.

Vision Statement

PACT aims to:

Identify, address, and resolve the root causes of community problems and concerns in partnership with community groups, elected representatives, key stakeholders and the police through the use of collaborative problem solving and joint strategies.

Victoria PACT welcomes visitors and observers who wish to learn more about PACT and observe PACT in action.

For further information on PACT Contact:

Peter Quigley Chairman

peter.s.quigley@gmail.com

Mobile: 07818062370

PACT Meetings

PACT meetings, normally take place every two months, are open to the public and aim to:

- Obtain the views and concerns of the community.
- Work together to deal with community issues.
- Support Active Citizens Networks and Neighbourhood Watch Schemes.
- Refer important issues to the Victoria PACT Panel* for action.
- Give access to partner organisations including Elected Representatives, Police, Belfast City Council, NI Housing Executive, District Policing Partnership, Youth Justice Agency, Belfast Education and Library Board.
- Provide regular updates on action taken to address issues raised.

Details of PACT Meetings are available at

http://www.psni.police.uk/index/bdistrict/east_belfast/victoria_pact.htm

**The PACT panel meets immediately after PACT Public Meetings and consists of all key partner organizations.*