

GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP
MONDAY, 11th MARCH, 2013
MEETING OF THE GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP

Members present: Councillor Hendron (Chairman);
Alderman Stoker and Councillors Kyle and Reynolds.

External Members: Ms. A. Chada, Voluntary and Community Sector;
Archdeacon B. Dodds, Church of Ireland,
Mrs. M. Marken, Catholic Church;
Mr. S. Brennan, Voluntary/Community Sector;
Mr. R. Galway, Confederation of British
Industry/Shorts Bombardier;
Mr. B. McGivern, Belfast City Centre Management;
Ms. M. De Silva, Voluntary and Community Sector;
Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
Mr. U. Tok, Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum; and
Mr. P. Scott, Catholic Church.

Also attended: Ms. D. O'Loan, Community Relations Council/Pobal.

In attendance: Mrs. H. Francey, Good Relations Manager;
Mr. D. McGann, Senior Project Development Officer; and
Mrs. P. Scarborough, Democratic Services Section.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Ms. O. Bannon, Mr. P. Bunting and Mr. P. Mackel.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 11th February were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Peace III Implementation Update

The Good Relations Manager provided an update in respect of the implementation of the current phase of the Belfast Peace III Plan. She drew the Partnership's attention to the following:

“ Extension to end date of Phase II Action Plans.

As the Partnership will be aware a written request has been made to the Special EU Programmes Body for additional time for delivery of the Phase II Plan beyond the current end date of

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December 2013 to take account of programme slippage. Correspondence on this issue has been received from SEUPB and is available on the Council's modern.gov website. The key points of the letter are as follows:

- **SEUPB greatly values the work of the Peace Partnerships.**
- **There has been high level agreement on a potential PEACE IV Programme and SEUPB hope that any future programme will enable local councils to build upon the work undertaken through the local action plans in PEACE III.**
- **SEUPB are continuing to consult on a draft Operational Programme and until this is concluded the content or focus of any new programme is uncertain.**
- **SEUPB is aware of the practical difficulties that a potential gap in funding will create and will try to minimise this.**
- **SEUPB will continue to work with the Partnerships to ensure delivery of the current action plans within the budgetary and time constraints currently available.**
- **The relevant Priority of the PEACE III Programme is fully committed so there is limited capacity to extend the timescale for delivery of the Phase II Action Plans.**
- **SEUPB will review the situation in July 2013 both in terms for budget capacity within the Programme as a whole and also on the potential new PEACE IV Programme.**

Consortium Events

The Community Relations Council and POBAL are planning a series of events for PEACE III Partnerships as follows:

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10th April Chair and Managers Forum

Time: 10am-1pm

Venue: To be agreed with the Chair and Managers Preparation Group

14th May Workshop – Sectarianism

Time: 10am-1pm

Venue: TBC

25th June Workshop – Building Institutional Capacity and Thinking Beyond Peace 3

Time: 10am-1pm

Venue: TBC

24th September - Conference

‘Looking at the Legacy’

Time: Full Day

Venue: TBC

A meeting of the Monitoring and Evaluation networking Group will also be arranged and all Partnerships will be notified in due course.”

After discussion, the Partnership noted the information which had been provided.

Follow-up from Councillors visit to Iraq – October, 2012

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

“Purpose

To up-date the Partnership on various issues that have arisen following this visit.

Background

The Partnership will be aware that four elected Members – Alderman Stoker and Councillors Attwood, Kyle and Jones –

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attended a Conference organised by the Forum for Cities in Transition held in Kirkuk, Northern Iraq from 6-11 October 2012.

On their return, Alderman Stoker prepared a report providing an overview of the Conference which was submitted to the Good Relations Partnership at its meeting on 5 November 2012. An extract from the minutes of that meeting summarises it as follows:

‘Each of the attendees provided an overview of the benefits which had been accrued by attending the Forum. They gave an outline of the topics which had been addressed and an insight into the plenary sessions and the outcomes which had been determined. In particular, the Council’s delegates outlined the range of partnerships and contacts which had been established through their participation in the Forum. In addition, the Partnership was advised that a range of actions had been proposed by the Belfast delegation viz.,

- to work with Mr. Hasan Taran from the Kirkuk Provincial Council to establish the feasibility of a delegation from the Kirkuk Police Service participating in the World Police and Fire Games in Belfast in 2013;
- to organise a Policing and Community Relations Seminar for police services attending the World Police and Fire Games in Belfast in 2013;
- to encourage closer economic links between Belfast and Kirkuk by utilising Invest NI’s office in Erbil;
- to share good practice in the promotion of equality with cities in transition;
- to investigate with The Queen’s University of Belfast the feasibility of hosting a conflict resolution conference in 2015.

After discussion, during which the Partnership endorsed the range of actions as outlined and agreed to investigate the feasibility of the Council formalising its future relationships with the Forum for Cities in Transition, the Members noted the contents of the report.’

Key issues

This report sets out the progress made to date against each of the pledges made by the Members.

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- to work with Mr. Hasan Taran from the Kirkuk Provincial Council to establish the feasibility of a delegation from the Kirkuk Police Service participating in the World Police and Fire Games in Belfast in 2013;

The Good Relations Manager has made contact with representatives from the World Police & Fire Games and they in turn have sent full details of the Games to Mr Taran and the Kirkuk Provincial Council, advising them of entry requirements and how to register for the Games which are being held 1-10 August 2013. The Games are open to all serving and retired Police Officers, Fire Fighters, Prison Officers and Border Security Staff.

- to organise a Policing and Community Relations Seminar for police services attending the World Police and Fire Games in Belfast in 2013;

There will be a pre-Games Conference from 31 July – 1 August, organised by the PSNI, the theme of which is 'Partnerships in Safety – Building Just and Safe Societies'. The PSNI have stated that the Conference programme is complete and has been for some time but there is opportunity within one particular workshop, entitled "Engagement with the Community" to include participation from representatives of the new local District Policing and Community Safety Partnerships and focus on building good relations.

However, there will be a charge for this: £250 for early bookings and £395 for standard bookings, though the PSNI have indicated that they may be able to offer a reduction on a large group booking. The possibility of attendance at the Conference has been referred to the District Policing and Community Safety Partnerships for discussion.

The PSNI have also indicated that the Conference would offer an opportunity to promote Belfast and the work of the Council more generally to the international delegates through the provision of exhibition stands.

- to encourage closer economic links between Belfast and Kirkuk by utilising Invest NI's office in Erbil;

A copy of Alderman Stoker's report was sent to the Director of Development, who requested the Head of Economic Initiatives to progress this through Invest NI and their trade contacts. Invest NI have responded saying they are already active in

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Erbil; they have recently returned from a trade mission there and have hosted a return trade and investment visit by the President of the Kurdistan Region to NI last week. (Almost a full page in the Business Section of the Belfast Telegraph on 6 Feb 2013 was devoted to this visit).

- **to share good practice in the promotion of equality with cities in transition**

Good Relations Unit staff have prepared a one page A4 information sheet on this which Councillor Attwood has circulated to the Forum members.

- **to investigate with The Queen's University of Belfast the feasibility of hosting a conflict resolution conference in 2015.**

The Good Relations Manager has spoken to Pete Shirlow, Professor of Conflict Transformation at QUB who has advised that he has met Councillor Attwood to progress this aspect.

Additional information – youth representatives

A representative from the Forum for Cities in Transition contacted the Council's Good Relations Manager last month, enquiring if we might be interested in sending two young people from Belfast to an international Youth Conference to be held in Kosovo later this year. This request has been forwarded to the Council's Human Resources Unit who are going to circulate information to all young members of Council staff aged 18-29 to invite expressions of interest for this worthwhile opportunity.

Recommendations

The Good Relations Partnership is requested to note the information in this report."

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided.

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Letter from the Parades Commission

The Good Relations Manager advised the Partnership that a letter had been received from the Parades Commission which had outlined a number of outreach events which that organisation had arranged. The events would be attended by a number of Commissioners and members of the secretariat and were intended to engage with interested parties, people and organisations about parading issues.

Noted.

East Belfast Proposed Artwork

The Good Relations Manager submitted, for the Partnership's consideration, the undernoted report:

“ Relevant Background Information

Members will be aware that the Arts Council Northern Ireland (ACNI) Re-Imaging Communities programme has been closed for over two years. It was recently re-launched last month under the banner 'Building Peace through the Arts – Re-Imaging Communities'. It will now be managed over two stages and will be at least six months before any proposals will be endorsed.

Following meetings with Arts Council staff the Good Relations Unit has learned that Belfast and indeed mural replacement generally is a low priority within this current programme.

East Belfast did not engage in ACNI's initial mural replacement programme.

The Good Relations Unit has recently been approached by community leaders in east Belfast regarding mural replacement of some of the more aggressive artworks in this part of the city. The organising group, Charter NI, has been leading these discussions and, following a number of robust meetings, agreement has been reached concerning at least 3 mural re-imaging projects at Templemore Street, Kebaun Street and McMaster Street. The mural replacement themes would include for example, depictions of women mill workers, suffrage movement etc.

Key Issues

The Good Relations Unit is keen to work with Charter NI to kick-start a process that will improve community capacity in working with statutory agencies. This proposal is seen as a fore runner to a much larger mural replacement programme which will be directed towards the Arts Council's new funding programme as Charter NI is also now proposing that a significant number of para-military type murals would be replaced. Good Relations staff will work with Charter NI to develop this subsequent Arts Council funding application.

The purpose of this proposal is to prepare community leaders for further engagement in a process that will see significant positive advancement in the physical shared space in the east of the city and contribute to confidence building within this community.

The initial request is for £10,000 which is to cover costs of mural removal, wall preparation, hire of scaffolding, aluminium panels (the artwork will be placed on these panels), erection of panels, cost of paint and associated materials and all artists' costs. It will also cover the cost of the publication of some marketing and publicity material and all related consultation.

Further additional mural replacement work will be completed over the coming months and subject to satisfactory completion of this phase, it is estimated that a further £20,000 will be required; it is likely that the Council may be able to seek match funding with, e.g. the Community Relations Council, for this further amount.

Resource Implications

75% of the funding will be recouped from OFM/DFM through the District Council's Good Relations Programme.

Equality and Good Relations Implications

Funding provided under the Council's Good Relations Grant Aid programme seeks to assist local community and voluntary organisations to develop and deliver Good Relations programmes at a neighbourhood level and therefore this proposal has positive good relations implications since the existence of aggressive murals have a distinct "chill" factor.

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Recommendations

The Partnership is requested to recommend approval for this proposal.”

The Partnership adopted the recommendation within the report.

**Peace III Review – Consultation by Blueprint
Development Consultancy with the Good Relations Partnership**

The Good Relations Manager advised the Partnership that Mr. J. McVey and Mrs. N. McKeagney from Blueprint Development Consultancy were in attendance to conduct a consultation exercise with the Members about the work of the Partnership. Mr. McVey and Mrs. McKeagney were admitted to the meeting and welcomed by the Chairman and those officers in attendance subsequently withdrew.

Chairman