

# East Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 4th May, 2017

## MEETING OF EAST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Alderman Haire (Chairperson);  
Aldermen McGimpsey, Rodgers and Sandford; and  
Councillors Armitage, Copeland, Graham, Hussey,  
Johnston, Kyle, Milne and Newton.

In attendance: Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;  
Mrs. R. Crozier, Assistant Director, City and  
Neighbourhood Services;  
Mrs L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Dorrian, Howard, Jones, Long, Mullan, O'Donnell and O'Neill.

### **Minutes**

The Working Group agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 6th April, 2017, were an accurate record of proceedings.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Alderman Rodgers declared an interest in Item 5, Correspondence, in that he was an honorary member of Belmont Bowling Club.

### **Memorial Garden at Cregagh Road**

The Assistant Director of City and Neighbourhood Services reminded the Working group of previous discussions in relation to a proposed memorial stone to commemorate William McFadzean VC at the turning circle at the top of the Cregagh Road. The Area Working Group had initially expressed support for the project but, through public consultation on the proposal, had since noted reservations by a relative of William McFadzean VC, who felt that there were adequate memorials to him.

The Assistant Director outlined to the Working Group that she had received correspondence from Mr. M. Gibson and members of the William McFadzean VC Commemoration Committee. She explained that they hoped to create a World War I Centenary Garden at the same site with a generic memorial paving stone, as issued by the government, to acknowledge the centenary commemorations.

The Working Group noted the correspondence which had been received and agreed that further consultation on the new proposal was required. The Assistant Director agreed that a report on the outcomes of the consultation would be brought back to the group.

### **Local Investment Fund (LIF)**

The Director of Property and Projects advised the Area Working Group that, through Phase 1 of LIF, seven projects had now been completed. He explained to the Members that the Westbourne Presbyterian Community Church (Titanic People) project which had received partnership funding from the Executive Office, through the Social Investment Fund (SIF), was in the second stage of design team procurement.

He advised that, through the second Phase of LIF, only two projects were yet to pass due diligence, while the remaining ten projects were either preparing for construction or were currently being delivered.

The Working Group noted that £54,009 of LIF funding was still to be allocated, £15,598 from LIF1 and £38,411 from LIF2.

### **Belfast Investment Fund**

The Working Group considered the undernoted report:

#### **“1. Background**

**At the East AWG on Thursday 5 April, 2017 Members requested that an update be provided to the next meeting on the latest status of all projects from East Belfast seeking financial assistance from the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF). The table below summarises the latest status of each project.**

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>STAGE &amp; LATEST STATUS</b>
<b>Willowfield Parish Church</b> – A full refurbishment and extension of the church for youth and community provision.	<b>Stage 3</b> – Committed with a maximum allocation of £560,000.  Hand over to take place 05 <sup>th</sup> May 2017 and Final Account to be agreed
<b>H&amp;W Welders –</b> Re-development of the Blanchflower Playing Fields.	<b>Stage 3</b> – Committed with a maximum allocation of £2,370,000  Match funding (£0.5m) is at risk due to current Executive issues. Procurement of the design team is ongoing with the PQQ currently out to market and due for return by end of May 2017. Due for completion by Dec 2018 but subject to match funding resolution.
<b>Bloomfield Community Association</b> – new building on the existing site, to improve and expand current community service provision (support services to schools, parents and children).	<b>Stage 3</b> – Committed with a maximum allocation of £440,000  Economic Appraisal is completed and due to be presented to Due Diligence next week (11 <sup>th</sup> May). Due for completion Feb 2019 but subject to EA and planning permission.

<b>Strand Arts Centre</b> – Improvement to enhance arts, culture and heritage to include a new open plan foyer, studios, workshop rooms, theatres and cinemas.	Held at <b>Stage 2</b> – Uncommitted (£1.8million ring fenced) to allow discussions to continue regarding securing match funding for the project.
	No further update regarding match funding but possible funders are currently in discussion.
<b>Lagan Village Youth &amp; Community Group</b> – community centre extension	<b>Stage 2</b> – Uncommitted project
	Quotations for Economic Appraisal have been received and the EA consultant is to be appointed by 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2017
<b>East Belfast Mission</b> – development of multi-function drop in centre	Held as a <b>Stage 1</b> – Emerging project
	No further update
<b>Belmont Bowling Club</b> – upgrade to changing pavilion	Held as a <b>Stage 1</b> – Emerging project
	No further update

2. **Willowfield Parish Church**

Members of the Area Working Group have received an invite from Willowfield Youth to the opening of their new facility, recently completed under BIF. The event is scheduled to take place on Saturday 20th May at 11am at Willowfield Church Hall (Woodstock Road/Willowfield Gardens). Members are advised to contact the project sponsor, Michael Collins (ext 3791) to confirm their attendance.

3. **Outer East BIF**

The Council have engaged the Strategic Investment Board to assist with the process of assessing the six projects seeking support through the Outer East Belfast Investment Fund (BIF). SIB are currently engaging project sponsors and the six organisations to develop an understanding of the proposed project, building on information supplied to date, in a number of areas including:

- how the need for the project and any associated activities/ services were identified;
- the potential outcomes, impacts and benefits that the project can deliver including helping to understand the main beneficiaries of the project;
- the current status of the project in terms of what information is available to support an investment decision by Council; and
- identify any areas of support each project may need going forward in order to facilitate an investment decision by the Council e.g business planning, design, costing support etc.

4. **Recommendations**

Members are asked to:

- **Note the progress of all BIF projects being delivered in East Belfast;**
- **Note the invite from Willowfield Youth to the opening of their BIF project; and**
- **Note the progress on Outer East BIF projects ahead of a report being brought to the group in June.”**

The Head of Contracts highlighted to the Working Group that the Willowfield Parish Church project was the first BIF project to have been completed within the City.

The Working Group adopted the recommendations within the report.

### **Correspondence**

#### **Belmont Bowling Club**

The Members noted that an invitation had been received from Belmont Bowling Club, to which the Area Working Group had allocated £200,000 of LIF2 funding, inviting Members to the official opening of the first phase of works which also coincided with the 140th Anniversary of the Club. The Members noted that this would take place on Saturday 3rd June at 11a.m.

#### **Willowfield Youth**

The Working Group noted that invitations had been circulated to all Members of the East Area Working Group to the opening of the new facility, which had received £560,000 of funding through the Belfast Investment Fund. The Members noted that the event would take place on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> May at 11a.m. at Willowfield Church Hall.

#### **C.S.Lewis Square**

The Assistant Director of City and Neighbourhood Services advised the Working Group that a request for the use of C.S.Lewis Square had been received from the East Belfast Protestant Boys Flute Band between 3p.m. and 6p.m. on Saturday, 13th May. She outlined that the request was to hold a small, alcohol-free community event to celebrate their 50th anniversary in association with a number of bands gathering to participate in a celebratory event.

In response to a Member's question, the Assistant Director confirmed that the other groups which had previously asked to use C.S.Lewis Square were mostly Council or Eastside-run events.

After discussion the Area Working Group noted that the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services would grant permission for the event under delegated authority.

#### **Dog Control Areas**

The Working Group noted that a report would be submitted to a future meeting on the Dog Control Areas in Parks in the east of the City.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The Working Group noted that its next meeting was scheduled for 8th June, which coincided with the General Election. The Working Group agreed that the date of the meeting be changed, and that it would take place on Tuesday 27th June at 5p.m.

Chairperson

# South Belfast Area Working Group

Monday, 24th April, 2017

## MEETING OF SOUTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

- Members present: Councillor Dudgeon (Chairperson); and Councillors Craig, McAteer and Reynolds.
- In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services;  
Mrs. R. Crozier, Assistant Director, City and Neighbourhood Services;  
Mr. D. Rogan, Head of Contracts; and  
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

### Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 20th March were approved.

### Matters Arising

#### Belfast Transport Hub

The Working Group was advised that Mr. P. Williams, Director of Planning and Place, and Ms. K. Mills, Principal Planning Officer, were in attendance in order to provide further information around the potential for two separate planning applications to be submitted for the above-mentioned project.

The Director of Planning and Place reported that, in December, 2016, he had received correspondence from the Director of Strategic Planning within the Department of Infrastructure, advising him that the then Minister, Mr. C. Hazzard MLA, was aware that the Council had received a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) for a future planning application for the Belfast Transport Hub and that he was minded to call in the application if/when it was submitted to the Council. In March, 2017, he had received further correspondence indicating that the Minister had, before leaving office, confirmed that the full application would be called in and that the outline application would be submitted to and processed by the Council.

The Director explained that, under the proposal, the Department for Infrastructure would assume responsibility for determining issues such as those relating to the hub building and the creation of a new square, whilst the Council would, through the Planning Committee, be responsible for determining the wider regeneration elements of the scheme and, potentially, any temporary relocation works. He pointed out that, whilst this dual approach had the potential to create difficulties in terms of, for example, the timing of the applications and the need for separate environmental statements, the decision had been taken by the Minister and he had been advised that it could not be reversed. He added that the Council had already expressed its concerns around the decision to call in the full application and assured the Members that it would be consulted as part of the full application process.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed to recommend that the Chief Executive write to the Director of Strategic Planning within the Department of Infrastructure, highlighting the Council's desire to work closely with that Department

around the planning applications for the Belfast Hub Project, with a view to maximising the overall impact of the initiative.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

### **Naming of Entrance from Olympia Drive to Olympia Leisure Centre**

The Assistant Director circulated for the information of the Working Group a letter which she had received from the Blackstaff Community Development Association inviting the Council to name the entrance at the above-mentioned location in honour of the eminent local physicist John Stewart Bell.

The Association had highlighted both Mr. Bell's links to that area and his lasting impact on modern physics and had confirmed that its proposal had received the consent of his family.

The Working Group endorsed the naming of the entrance from Olympia Drive to the Olympia Leisure Centre in honour of Mr. John Stewart Bell and noted that the proposal would now be placed before the People and Communities Committee for approval.

### **Belfast Investment Fund**

The Head of Contracts reminded the Working Group that, in September, 2016, it had received from representatives of Linfield FC, the Belfast Battalion of the Boys' Brigade and Belvoir FC details of a joint project to develop a community sports hub within the Belvoir Park. The following month, it had agreed to add this as a Stage 1 – Emerging Project, under the Belfast Investment Fund, and to ring-fence £250,000 of the additional £500,000 which the Council had made available for projects in those areas which had been transferred in from Lisburn and Castlereagh under Local Government Reform. The Working Group had stipulated that £160,000 of that funding should be used to upgrade Belvoir FC's pitch, which it leased from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, and that the remaining £90,000 should be allocated towards the construction of a 3G pitch on adjacent land owned by the Boys' Brigade.

He explained that it was the intention that the project, which would be developed for the mutual benefit of the three participating organisations and the local community, would be completed in five phases and would cost approximately £5,462,961. A business plan which had been developed for the scheme had identified the following delivery priorities:

- **Phase 1A – Priority A**

The replacement of Belvoir FC's grass pitch, including the resurfacing of car parking and the widening of the access lane (estimated cost £258,143)

- **Phase 1B – Priority B**

The provision of a full size floodlit 3G pitch and a full size floodlit grass pitch with a covered terraced area for spectators (estimated cost £1,304,496)

- **Phases 2 – 5**

The provision of a small nine-a-side pitch, a full size floodlit academy pitch, a cross fit area, an eight lane sprint track and a full size indoor 3G soccer arena (estimated cost £3,900,322).

He reported that, in order to optimise the project's opportunity for delivery, the combined groups had requested that the Working Group revise its previous funding stipulation and agree instead to allocate the entire £250,000 of BIF funding to Phase 1A of the project.

After discussion, the Working Group endorsed that course of action, noted updates which had been provided by the Head of Contracts on the BIF funded projects in South Belfast listed below and agreed that representatives of the Urban Villages initiative be invited to attend a future meeting in order to provide details of its programme for 2017/2018:

- Bredagh GAC (£700,000)
- Gilpins (£1.35million ring-fenced)
- Lagan Gateway at Stranmillis (£2.15 million) and
- Lanyon Tunnels at the Markets (£1.3 million).

#### **Update on Local Investment Fund**

The Working Group noted a report providing an update on the progress of LIF1 and LIF2 projects in South Belfast and agreed:

- i. that the Head of Contracts should facilitate a meeting between the Finaghy Environmental Improvement Association and the consultants engaged in the Finaghy Bridge project to discuss potential designs; and
- ii. that representatives of the Greater Village Regeneration Trust be invited to attend its next meeting in order to outline proposals for the revision of its Blythefield pitch project.

#### **Other Business**

At the request of the Chairperson, the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services undertook to submit to a future meeting a report on the management and control of Japanese Knotweed across the City.

Having been invited by the Chairperson to give consideration to issues which it wished to consider at future meetings, the Working Group agreed that the Council's Car Parking Strategy be placed on the agenda for its next meeting.

#### **Locality Planning – Visit to Belvoir/Milltown Area**

The Working Group noted the itinerary for a locality planning visit to the Belvoir/Milltown area, which was scheduled to take place at 4.30 p.m. on Thursday, 27th April.

#### **Date and Times of Future Meetings**

The Working Group approved the following schedule of meetings for the remainder of 2017:



- Wednesday 31st May 2017 (4.30 p.m.)
- Thursday 22nd June 2017 – 4 p.m.
- Monday 21st August 2017- 4.30 p.m.
- Monday 25th September 2017 - 4.30 p.m.
- Monday 16th October 2017 - 4.30 p.m.
- Monday 20th November 2017 - 4.30 p.m. and
- Monday 18th December 2017 - 4.30 p.m.

Chairperson

# North Belfast Area Working Group

Wednesday, 26th April, 2017

## NORTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Aldermen Convery, L. Patterson, Spence; and Councillors Clarke and McAllister.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services;  
Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;  
Mrs. R. Crozier, Assistant Director, City and Neighbourhood Services;  
Mrs. C. Taggart, Community Development Manager;  
Mr. G. Dickson, Policy Analyst; and  
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

(Alderman Spence in the Chair)

### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of the Chairperson, Councillor McCabe, the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Campbell, Alderman McKee and Councillor Magee.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 29th March were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

### **Declaration of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

### **Decision Tracker**

The Group noted that the Decision Tracker document had been emailed to the Members before the meeting and the Working Group noted the actions which had taken place since the last meeting.

### **Girdwood – Update from People and Communities Committee**

(Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer, attended in connection with this Item)

The Community Development Manager reminded the Area Working Group that, at its meeting on 29th March, it had considered a report on representation on the Girdwood Community Forum and that it had agreed to recommend to the People and Communities Committee that Councillors representing the Oldpark District Electoral Area (DEA) would be invited to attend the Girdwood Community Forum meetings in the first instance.

She outlined that, subsequently, the People and Communities Committee, at its meeting on 4th April, had agreed to the request for political representation on the Forum and referred the matter for the North Area Working Group for it to make a decision in respect of the appointments.

The Community Development Manager assured the Members that, regardless of the number of elected representatives on the Forum, regular updates from officers would continue to be submitted to the North Area Working Group for its information.

The Senior Democratic Services Officer explained to the Members that the method of appointment to the Forum should be by way of proportionality using the Quota Greatest Remainder Method. He explained that this was the method used by the Council, as set out in Schedule 2 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, to appoint Councillors to Committees and other bodies such as the Building Successful Communities Forum.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed that two Members representing the Oldpark DEA be appointed to the Girdwood Community Forum, noting that this would comprise of one representative each from Sinn Fein and the Democratic Unionist Party.

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services outlined to the Area Working Group that the Community Development Manager currently chaired the Forum but that, given the appointment of two elected representatives to the Forum, he would seek advice from Democratic Services as to who should chair the meetings going forward.

### **Girdwood Community Forum (GCF) - Update**

The Chairperson welcomed members of the Girdwood Community Forum to the meeting, Mr. M. Maguire, Ms. R. McGreevy and Mr. I. McLaughlin.

The representatives advised the Working Group that, on Saturday 25th March, more than 1,500 people had attended a cross community event at Girdwood. They advised the Working Group that, compared with feedback from participants one year ago, significantly more people had indicated that they felt 'very comfortable' attending events at Girdwood.

The representatives outlined the contents of the report which had been submitted to the Working Group for consideration, which included the following points for discussion:

- changing facilities for the Girdwood sports pitches;
- toilet facilities for the Girdwood Youth Space;
- fencing around the new sports pitches;
- community management of the Girdwood Community Hub;
- issues with bollards at the raised barrier at the Girdwood Community Hub and along Brucevale;
- Girdwood Project Board – Final meeting required; and
- Governance of Girdwood Community Forum.

In relation to the issues with the electronic bollards at the site, the Director of Property and Projects advised the Members that the former Department for Social Development had installed them and that the Department for Communities held the licence for the Girdwood site. He advised that fixed bollards were an alternative option which they might wish to consider, but advised that these would require someone to manually drop and raise them as needed. The Assistant Director of City and Neighbourhood Services advised the representatives from the Forum that she would be happy to discuss interim arrangements relating to traffic cutting through the site.

In response to a question from the GCF, the Director of Property and Projects advised the Working Group that the Project Board had been established for the duration of the build and that, since the building had been completed, the Board no longer existed. The Working Group noted that a special meeting had been arranged with Ms. C. McStravick, Director of National Children's Bureau NI, on 5th May to enable community representatives to provide their feedback.

The Chairperson advised the three representatives from the Forum that the Area Working Group had earlier in the meeting agreed to appoint two Members representing Oldpark to the Girdwood Community Forum.

The Chairperson thanked the GCF representatives for their attendance and they retired from the meeting.

### **Belfast Zoo**

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services provided the Area Working Group with a summary of the discussion from the recent Workshop with Members on the future of the Belfast Zoo.

The Director confirmed that, regardless of which option the Council chose to proceed with, animal welfare would be paramount. He also explained that a visit to Exploris was being arranged for Members, given that it was the only Aquarium in Northern Ireland and had suffered similar sustainability issues.

The Director advised the Working Group that he would continue to provide the North AWG with updates on the Zoo.

In response to a Member's question, the Director confirmed that he was available to provide an update on the Zoo at Party Briefings as requested.

### **Request for Use of Cavehill Country Park**

The Area Working Group noted that the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, under delegated authority, was minded to accede to a request from Belfast Orangefest to film a lodge and band in Cave Hill Country Park on the morning of 20th May, 2017.

The Working Group noted that around 50 people would be taking part and that, although the band would have instruments, these would only be used for effect and no music would be played while the band and lodge were on site.

The Working Group raised no concerns and noted the request for the use of the Park.

### **Alexandra Park Steering Group**

(Mrs. E. Black, Policy and Business Development Officer, attended in connection with this Item)

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. J. McVey, Blueprint Development Consultancy, to the meeting. He provided the Area Working Group with an overview of progress which had been made in relation to the main tasks which included the progression of a Park Development Plan, agreeing revised governance arrangements and agreeing a consultation/engagement framework.

In relation to the Development Plan, he advised the Members that the Green Flag themes had been accepted as providing a solid foundation and that the unique qualities

of Alexandra Park, with the potential to being a transformative park for the City, would be stressed, particularly as a shared space.

He also outlined that governance discussions were underway and highlighted two options for the structure of a new Development Association.

The Working Group thanked Mr. McVey for the update and he retired from the meeting.

Noted.

### **Future Agenda Items**

The Working Group noted the following future deputations and agenda items:

- Greenwich Leisure Limited Annual Report – Tuesday, 30th May;
- Queens University – Outreach Programmes -Tuesday, 30th May;
- Update on ASB work across north Belfast:
- Update from Belfast Hills;
- Harbour Commissioner Update;
- Yorkgate Interchange Update; and
- Update on the work of the support services/youth workers implemented by the DPCSP.

The Working Group agreed that Mr. D. Morrow, Director of Community Engagement at the Ulster University, be invited in to attend a future meeting.

The Working Group noted that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday, 30th May at 4p.m.

Chairperson

# West Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 28th April, 2017

## MEETING OF WEST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor Magennis (Chairperson);  
The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Alderman  
Kingston);  
Alderman McCoubrey; and  
Councillors, Austin, Beattie, Bell, Corr,  
Collins, Garrett, Heading, McConville, O'Hara and Walsh.

In attendance: Mr. G. Millar, Director Property and Projects;  
Mrs Rose Crozier, Assistant Director;  
Mr. C. McCabrey, Economic Development Manager;  
Mr. G. Dickson, Policy and Performance Analyst; and  
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors Attwood, Bunting, Hutchinson and McVeigh.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 26th January and the special meeting of 6th April were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

### **Declarations of Interest**

- Councillors Magennis and O'Hara declared an interest in respect of agenda item 7, viz., Update on Local Investment Fund, as volunteers at Saints Youth Club; and
- Councillor Beattie declared an interest in respect of agenda item 7, viz., Update on Local Investment Fund, as an employee of Blackie River Community Group

### **Outstanding Actions – Decision Tracker**

The Director of Property and Projects explained that the Decision Tracker document had been emailed to Members before the meeting and provided the Working Group with a brief overview of actions taken since the last meeting held on 26th January.

Noted.

### **Planning Update**

The Chairperson advised that unfortunately no one from the Planning Department was available to attend tonight's meeting, however, an update briefing paper on the Casement Park Planning Application would be e-mailed to the Members.

Noted.

### **Innovation Factory Update**

The Economic Development Manager provided the Working Group with a status update on the Innovation Factory since it had opened in October 2016. This included detailed performance updates in respect of the occupancy rates at the new facility, details regarding the sectors from which the tenants originated, the tenants employability and skills, an update in respect of business growth and innovation services which were provided for occupants of the facility, foreign direct investment to the facility, marketing promotions, social regeneration and details regarding the overall management of the facility.

The Members noted the following facts:

Occupancy:

- 69 enquiries, 56 qualified, 41 viewings, 14 licenses;
- 12.4% occupancy (3,709 sq ft of Net lettable area of 35,000 sq ft);
- a further 3 tenants signed for a collective total of 892 sq ft for April 2017 and a further 4 (also totalling 892 sq ft) had agreed in principle for May 2017;
- that Belfast City Council's first funding occupancy related target was to achieve 55% occupancy by 31st December 2018; and
- no customers had left the centre and 1 company had expanded to date.

The Economic Development Manager advised that the centre had the scope to accommodate 382 workstations across 111 business units when at full capacity and would support 145 jobs by December 2018 and 187 by December 2020. He concluded his presentation by advising that Heron Bros Ltd. were currently undertaking some facility improvements to the centre in order to accommodate the growing needs of the facility.

Noted.

### **Dog Enclosure – Falls Park**

The Assistant Director informed the Working Group that the Clean Neighbourhoods Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, which had come into effect in April, 2012, provided councils with additional powers to deal with, amongst other things, dogs related issues. The Council had, subsequently, introduced two of four Dog Control Orders, prohibiting dog fouling and limiting to four the number of dogs which a person could be in control of at any time. Following feedback from a City-wide consultation exercise in 2012, the implementation of the two remaining orders, namely, making it an offence to allow dogs off their lead in designated areas and excluding dogs from designated areas, had been delayed, to allow for further consultation and a wider analysis of users' needs.

She reported that the additional consultation had highlighted a requirement for facilities to be made available in parks to allow for dogs to be exercised off-lead. As a result, a pilot exercise had been operating for over two years within the Grove Playing Fields, which had provided an enclosure specifically for that purpose. She pointed out that the continued consultation process around the pilot initiative had provided Council officers with a greater understanding of the issues which needed to be addressed in advance of the two remaining Dog Control Orders being implemented. As part of that process, officers had identified a number of parks across the City as being suitable for

the location of a permanent off-lead enclosure, one of which was Falls Park in West Belfast.

She advised that, if approved, it was estimated that the initial proposal for Falls Park would cost approximately £21,500. This would allow for an area 90 metres by 50 metres, secured by a ranch style fence with one entrance gate, the area would contain a path network, several bins and 3 park benches and appropriate signage would be erected to reinforce the for key rules for the area as follows:

- no children under sixteen;
- only two dogs per person;
- people must supervise their dogs at all times; and
- no food permitted.

She confirmed that an extensive local engagement process would be required beforehand, which would be publicised through, for example, the media, retail outlets, awareness sessions and City Matters and would provide an opportunity to highlight the importance of effective dog control and the adverse impact of dog fouling.

After discussion, the Working Group noted the information which had been provided and that it would receive an update once the consultation exercise had concluded.

### **Leisure Transformation Programme**

The Working Group considered the following report:

**“1 Purpose**

**To update the West AWG Members on the current status of the Brook and Andersonstown projects following the recent special on 6th April and SP&R on 21st April.**

**2 Main Report**

**Brook – Pop-up gym facility**

**The SP&R Committee agreed at its meeting on 21 April that the decision in relation to a pop up gym facility in part of the main hall at Brook be deferred to enable it to be considered again by the West AWG.**

**In relation to the issues previously raised, Members were updated that all affected groups had been spoken to and officers/GLL are satisfied that all groups can either continue to be accommodated within the existing hall and/or alternate provision in the surrounding area can be secured including the 5 a side team. Officers have also confirmed that Brook can continue to be used as an emergency centre if this is required and confirmed that car parking would be kept under review.**

**A number of subsequent concerns have been raised including the impact of noise coming from the gym space into the remaining hall space while groups are holding sessions; that the hall was used for birthday parties and that there was no alternate provision available and the impact on the 5 a side**



groups. Officers have now investigated these issues and Members are asked to note the following:

- Noise impact – the current plan is for a  $\frac{3}{4}$  length wall which would leave a gap between the partition and the roof however due to the curved roof it would not be possible to bring any wall right up to the roof. The proposed wall can be sound proofed which will cost an additional £20,000 (approx.) bring the total conversion costs to £95,000. However given the curvature of the roof there may still be some noise transfer. Officers/GLL are therefore proposing that a number of options could be looked at:
  1. Turn the music off in the gym while any sessions are running in the studio space
  2. Close the gym while any sessions are running in the studio space – this is however limiting for the gym users
  3. Programme specific activities only in the gym while sessions are running in the studio space (e.g. junior gym) which would cap numbers and therefore reduce noise levels
- Party/birthday facilities – last year Brook hosted 55 birthday parties. Officers have investigated the feasibility of converting the upstairs space into a dedicated party room however it is too small and would not allow adequate provision for a good customer experience. Officers’ advice is therefore that this is unfeasible. Officers have also investigated alternate provision in the local area including local school halls and alternate council provision (Sally Gardens/Whiterock LC etc.). Officers are satisfied that the demand for birthday parties can be met through this alternate provision.
- 5 a side team – 5 aside bookings can be accommodated on the outdoor pitches at the centre.

**Alternative gym premises**

Members will be aware that Andersonstown gym is very heavily used with over 40,000 visits and in the coming weeks these users will be receiving a notification letter regarding the closure of the gym. Members have also been extremely clear in their desire to ensure that the effect of the closure on users is minimised and in light of this officers had considered a number of other options for alternate gym provision including for example the use of St. Agnes’s Parish Hall but no alternative was as feasible as Brook. In relation to alternate provision Members are asked to note the following -

OPTION	SUMMARY
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<b>Option 1 – Use Brook as a pop up gym facility</b>	+ +	Ensures continued business continuity for a key user segment of the existing Andersonstown  Builds additional usage at Brook in advance of the new centre opening and significantly enhances the current facilities offering
	+ + + + +	Seamless customer experience – gym can be up and running immediately following the closure of A'town and the transfer of equipment so minimal disruption (if agreed now)  Minimal additional operational cost impact (staffing, rent, utilities etc.)  No planning issues or lease issues to be resolved  Minimises risk that users will be lost to private facilities  Positive media feedback
	-	Potential disruption to users in the remaining hall space – see mitigating options above
<b>Option 2 – Secure alternate premises on Andersonstown Road</b>	+ + -	Potentially closer to existing centre  Ensures continued provision of the main hall space at Brook  Size of space required – will require at least 6,000 sq ft. This means that smaller retail premises etc. will be unsuitable and will require a smaller warehouse/industrial unit – it will take approx. 3 weeks to do a site search and if suitable alternate premises are found then it will take a minimum of three months for the lease to be resolved (this is subject to all necessary consents etc.)
	-	Planning – it is likely that any existing industrial/warehouse space would require planning consent to change this to gym usage – approx. 4 weeks

	for planning prep and 10 weeks to process
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interrupted provision – Fit out can only happen once all lease issues are resolved and planning in place</li> <li>- (minimum of at least 7/8 months). If it is a warehouse space then additional fit-out may be required. Risk that users will be lost to other/private facilities in the interim</li> </ul> <p>Cost – will require additional operating costs – utilities, rent, staffing etc. The scope of the project would also need to be examined to ensure it is not considered as capital which would mean it could not be funded from mobilisation budget (see below)</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Risk of negative press coverage and community feedback for not replacing provision</li> </ul>

**Members are asked to note that in respect of alternate premises officers also considered the potential of local schools however this is not feasible due to the lack of gym facilities within schools in the catchment area and child protection issues.**

### **Mobilisation budget**

**A £2m leisure mobilisation budget has been agreed for to support the leisure programme. Principally this was established to support communications and engagement activity and to support business continuity throughout the leisure programme (e.g. hiring of transport to bring groups to alternative facilities). Members are asked to note:**

- **The Mobilisation budget is revenue money and cannot be used for capital purposes**
- **The fund is a city wide fund designed to support all projects under the leisure programme**
- **The mobilisation budget has to last for the duration of the leisure programme. Due to its financing this cannot be topped up.**

**Decision required – on the basis of the above information**  
**Members are asked to consider if they wish to progress with**

**the installation of the pop up gym at Brook – if this agreed by Members now this will ensure continued business continuity.**

### **Andersonstown Update**

**Movable floor – Members agreed not to relook at the agreed facilities mix given the implications on the cost, design, planning and programme. Instead they have requested officers bring back an options paper to a future meeting which would consider all options available for securing the required additional resources for a moveable floor to be included within the existing proposal including details in respect of discussions with the DfC regarding community benefit monies and the mobilisation budget.**

**Members are asked to note this paper is currently under development and that further information will be brought back to Members on this.**

**Mobilisation workshop – organised for Monday 8 May at 6.30pm in Olympia Leisure Centre.”**

The Working Group considered and discussed the various advantages and disadvantages of the two options, following which it was:

Moved by Councillor O'Hara;  
Seconded by Councillor Beattie; and

Agreed that a paper be submitted to a future meeting which would consider all options available for alternative pop-up gym facilities, to include the Westwood Centre, St Gerard's and the Falls Park Pavilion.

### **LIF Update**

The Director of Property and Projects provided an update on the status of those projects which had yet to be completed under LIF1, together with those which had been approved recently for funding under LIF2.

He reported that, through the original LIF1 allocation, the Members of the former West and Shankill AWGs had supported 24 projects, to date, through the full allocation of £1,617,500. Of the 24 projects, 22 projects (totalling over £1.1 million of LIF investment) had been completed and the remaining 2 were all at delivery stage.

He continued that, when the second phase of the LIF had been agreed, £1,200,000 was allocated to the West AWG. To date, a total of 17 new projects had been agreed for in principle support, as well as additional support to two LIF 1 projects. Of the 17 projects, 5 were preparing for due diligence, 4 were currently going through due diligence or had recently passed due diligence and were awaiting contracts to be drawn up, 2 were at the pre-construction stage, 5 were currently on the ground being delivered and 1 project had been completed.

The Working Group was advised that the Falls Community Council (FCC) had recently approached the Council seeking it to support the St James Forum in the development and implementation of its community farm project.

The Director of Property and Projects asked the Working Group to consider if it wished to approve the project proceeding as a partnership project between the St James Forum and the FCC. He advised that, if this was agreed, due diligence would be undertaken on both organisations and joint signatures would be required on any future legal agreements going forward.

The Working Group agreed to the project proceeding as a joint initiative between St James Forum and the FCC.

The Director of Property and Projects concluded by drawing the Members' attention to the list of all 41 projects which highlighted the projects where there had been significant progress.

### **Future Agenda Items**

The Working Group noted the following future deputations and agenda items:

- Greenwich Leisure Limited Annual Report;
- Queens University – Outreach Programmes; and
- Translink - Update on Transport Hub.

At the request of a Member it was agreed that the St John's GAA Club would be added as a future agenda item.

### **Date of Next Meetings**

The Working Group approved the following schedule of meetings and agreed that it would meet at 4.30 p.m. on those dates:

Thursday, 25th May;  
Monday, 26th June;  
Thursday, 24th August;  
Thursday, 28th September;  
Thursday, 26th October;  
Thursday, 23rd November; and  
Thursday, 21st December.

Chairperson