

North Belfast Area Working Group

Tuesday, 31st October, 2017

NORTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor McCabe (Chairperson);
Aldermen Browne, Convery, Patterson and Spence;
Councillors Campbell, Clarke, and Magee.

In attendance: Ms. S. Toland, Assistant Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. G. Dickson, Policy Analyst; and
Ms E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of the Lord Mayor, Councillor McAllister, and Alderman McKee.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 27th September 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 Members before the meeting and provided the Working Group with a brief overview of actions since the last meeting held on 27th September.

Presentation – Uunitorah

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mr. B. Jaffa, Mrs. S. Jaffa and Mr. C. Fisher representing Uunitorah Trust.

With permission of the chairperson, Mr. Jaffa, Director of Uunitorah Trust, tabled a copy of a Business Plan in relation to a proposal for a cross community enterprise called the Centre of Tolerance at the old synagogue in Annesley Street. He provided an overview of the proposed development which included an entertainment and education facility, concert hall, roof garden, school of healthy eating and kosher restaurant, together with the creation of a school of comedy and council of elders and young people. He advised that future plans for the site also included a heritage trail and museum.

He informed the Working Group that the aim of the centre was to prevent conflict and reduce the need for conflict resolution, teach tolerance, compassion and forgiveness. He advised that they intended the centre to be an inspirational, safe and neutral place for the community to use. He advised that the building was currently owned by the Health and Social Care Trust, however, there was the potential for the Uitorah Trust to acquire the building under community asset transfer.

He pointed out that they wished to run the Centre of Tolerance as a fully sustainable business where all profits would be reinvested through the Uitorah Trust back into the community. He emphasised that the Uitorah Trust would also work with other organisations as part of the North Belfast Heritage Partnership to make environmental improvements for the immediate benefit of the local people. He reported that the development would create jobs and attract benefactors and businesses to the area, as well as academic partnerships to create new educational courses.

He advised that, as the total project was estimated to cost £2 million, they required £1 million in capital investment and would endeavour to source the remainder through match funding.

During discussion, Mr. Jaffa provided further information on the potential of benefactor investment, heritage lottery funding, and the transfer of the building asset.

Following discussion, the Working Group noted the information which had been provided and the Chairperson thanked the representative's for attending and they left the meeting.

Local Investment Fund Update

The Policy Analyst provided an overview of the report which included an update on the progress of those projects which had yet to be completed under the Local Investment Funds (LIF phase 1 and LIF phase 2). He informed the Working Group that the Ballysillan Youth for Christ project and the Cavehill Bowling Club project had been completed and there were two projects still under consideration by the Working Group:

- Ardoyne Shankill Health Partnership; and
- North Belfast Alternatives and Good Morning North Belfast.

Noted.

Belfast Investment Fund

(Martin Doherty, Project Manager, Property and Projects Department attended in connection with this item.)

The Project Manager outlined the contents of the report regarding the progression of two Belfast Investment Fund Projects for North Belfast. He advised that, in relation to the Old Grove Site for the for a new community facility, initial projections had indicated that a facility could be delivered on the site for between £1.3 - £4.3 million. He reported there were a range of options to consider, which would provide a mix of space options that could benefit the local community.

He also provided an update on the Lidl Site, Ballysillan Road project, and advised that the scope of the proposal had not yet been fully developed, therefore it was not possible, at this stage, to assess the feasibility, deliverability and sustainability of the project.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the Old Grove Site project be progressed to Stage 2 of the Belfast Investment Fund.

Carlisle Memorial Development and Technical Study request

The Policy Analyst advised that correspondence had been received from the Belfast Buildings Trust and the Ulster Orchestra in relation to its emerging plans to develop the Carlisle Memorial Methodist Church into a rehearsal and outreach space.

He explained that the Ulster Orchestra wished to commission a Development and Technical Study from a heritage architect which would give them fundamental financial information to approach major funders who specialised in funding arts and heritage projects. He advised that the Ulster Orchestra had estimated that the cost of the Study would be £25,000.

The Working Group agreed to defer consideration of the report so that the item could be added to Party Group Briefings for discussion.

Future Agenda Items

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

- Information sessions on Inner North Belfast Projects;
- Zoo Update;
- Harbour Commissioner Update;
- York Street Interchange Update;
- Update on the work of the support services/youth workers implemented by the DPCSP;
- Alleygate Update;
- University of Ulster – Outreach; and
- Doggy Dynamo (pop up dog park).

Chairperson

South Belfast Area Working Group

Wednesday, 25th October, 2017

MEETING OF SOUTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor Dudgeon (Chairperson); and
Councillors Boyle, Craig and Lyons.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Toland, Assistant Director, City and
Neighbourhood Services; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 25th September were approved.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Update on Alleygating Programme

(Ms. A. Allen, Safer City Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Working Group considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the Working Group with an update on the progress of Phase 4 of the Alleygates Programme to date and the next steps.

2.0 Background

As part of the Phase 4 Alleygates (Capital Programme), South Belfast was allocated a budget of £140,000 (60 gates approximately).

£47,900 of additional funding was allocated to the South Belfast Phase 4 Alleygates by the Working Group in April 2017.

3.0 Key Issues

Update on Progress to Date

The Road Traffic Order for the first batch of South Belfast Phase 4 Alleygates has been processed and finalised.

The South Belfast Alleygates (as per Road Traffic Order attached) have already started to be manufactured and are being installed during September, October and November 2017.

Residents affected by these gates will receive correspondence from Council inviting them to attend key distribution sessions in due course.

Members will recall that, at its meeting on 23rd January, the Working Group approved the following additional gates:

- Moonstone/Mowhan Street (11 gates)
- Jameson/Raby Street (4 gates)
- University Street (2 gates)

Members will also recall there were some remaining technical/legal issues for a number gate locations proposed by Members in the first batch of South Belfast Phase 4 Alleygates. An update is provided below:

Gate Location	No. of Gates Affected	Issue	Potential for Resolution
To the rear of 9-129 Wellesley Avenue and to the side of 27, 29, 35, 37, 87, 113 and 115 Wellesley Avenue	8	Proposed gate locations very narrow and current gate specification will not meet legal minimum (DDA)	This gate can proceed, as gating solution found to ensure compliance with legal minimum width
To the rear of 206 – 216 Tate's Avenue and to the rear of 2-78 Olympia Drive	3	Existing community gates in place and Council due diligence is required before gates can proceed	Due diligence complete and this gate can proceed to next Road Traffic Order
To the rear of 9-31 Upper Stanfield St and 8-26 Eliza St Close and to the rear of 41-61 Upper Stanfield St and 34-54 Eliza St Close	5	Additional work is required by NIHE to make these proposed gate location suitable	Officers working to secure commitment from NIHE to progress additional works required to enable gate installation

Gate Location	No. of Gates Affected	Issue	Potential for Resolution
To the rear of 40-64 Ulsterville Avenue, 2-40 Mount Prospect Park and 1-11 Ulsterville Place and to the side of 12 Ulsterville Drive and 1 and 11 Ulsterville Place	3	Objection received as part of pre consultation highlighting potential land ownership dispute	Removed from proposed list, further to Members decision on 23rd January 2017
To the rear of 19-83 Wellington Park, 18-104 Wellesley Avenue and to the side of 18, 104 and 106 Wellesley Avenue	2	The alleyway cannot be secured (by alleygates) in its current form due to alternative access along the alleyway from private properties	Removed from proposed list, further to Members decision on 23rd January 2017

Updated Spend against Available Budget

As detailed above, South Belfast has a total available budget of £187,900 for the installation of alleygates as part of Phase 4.

The Working Group will recall that, at its meeting in April 2016, the inclusion of the full reserve list would slightly exceed the South Belfast allocation of £187,900 but it was expected economies of scale during the manufacturing and installation process would rectify this.

If all proposed alleygates proceed as expected, South Belfast has fully committed its available budget.

Next Steps

Members are advised that the key next steps are:

- the advertisement of the next draft Road Traffic Order for South Belfast (30 days from 27th January, 2017) as the formal consultation stage;
- legal scrutiny in respect of formal consultation responses;
- subject to legal approval, submission of the final Road Traffic Order for South Belfast to SP and R Committee end March 2017. This provides the legal basis for alleygates to be installed at the named locations; and

- from April 2017 onwards, the manufacture and installation of alleygates. This will complete the Phase 4 Alleygates scheme for South Belfast.

4.0 Resource Implications

£700,000 of Capital Programme funding has already been allocated for the delivery of Alleygates Phase 4 across Belfast.

£140,000 of this capital funding was allocated to South Belfast.

£47,900 of additional funding was allocated to South Belfast Phase 4 Alleygates by the Working Group in April, 2017.

5.0 Equality and Good Relations Implications

There are no equality or good relations implications at this stage, however, this will be reviewed on an ongoing basis as key decisions are taken.

6.0 Recommendation

The Working Group is requested to note the report.”

The Safer City Manager provided an update on the alleygating programme for South Belfast and confirmed that, in addition to those technical/legal issues referred to within paragraph 3.0 of the report, a significant objection had been received from a resident in Elaine Street to the installation of two approved gates, which officers were working to resolve.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided and that it would receive a further update on the alleygating programme in due course.

Request to Provide a Temporary GAA Pitch - Lower Botanic Gardens

The Working Group considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

The purpose of this report is to seek the views of Members regarding a request from local Gaelic clubs to provide temporary accommodation.

2.0 Recommendation

The Working Group is requested to note the request and considers whether it would support a request being made to People and Communities Community with a recommendation to approve.

3.0 Main Report

Members will be aware of proposed works at Cherryvale Playing fields as previously agreed by Council as part of the Pitches Strategy. Members are asked to note that work is scheduled to commence by the end of October, 2017 and should complete, subject to weather and potential unforeseen technical issues, by the end of March. During the works, the three main sporting codes who use the facility will see a reduction in the availability to them. Rugby will have no facilities, there is currently one marked rugby pitch, and Gaelic Games and Association Football will both see a reduction of one playing pitch. Disruption and displacement is an issue across all developments and in delivering the Pitches Strategy at other sites clubs have had to seek alternative accommodation during the works.

Members will be aware that the GAA is a significant user of the facilities, indeed demand from the two main Gaelic clubs who are regular users of the facility exceeds the Council's provision.

At a meeting in September with the Gaelic clubs, officers were asked to consider whether the Council would erect Gaelic posts and line out an area of Botanic Gardens at the rear of Queens Sport adjacent to Ridgeway Street / Stranmillis Embankment. A copy of the site plan has been circulated to the Working Group. The purpose would be to provide a temporary pitch to address the issue of displacement.

Officers have visited the site and have concluded that a full size GAA pitch (140m x 90m, including run off) could not be accommodated. However, it might be possible to provide an area of approximately 130m x 80m including run off. The pitch is bordered by a fenced off area and a pedestrian path. It will necessary to enter into a key arrangement with the clubs to facilitate ball retrieval.

Members are asked to take into account the following points:

- i. the Council has not provided temporary facilities in the past to offset displacement, Members are asked to be mindful of the precedent being set should this be approved;
- ii. the cost of establishing the pitch including the erection of the goal post is estimated to be in the region of £5,000. This would need to be found from within existing budgets;
- iii. the site has natural drainage and retains rainwater particularly during the autumn and winter months.

At times grass cutting cannot be undertaken owing to the ground conditions. Officers have concerns about the playability of this facility over the autumn and winter period, however, the clubs believe the pitches will be playable;

- iv. members are asked to note that, if the facility is used in the autumn and winter, it will not be available for use over the spring / summer.**
- v. members are asked to note that owing to the site conditions and operational difficulties it is unlikely that other sports could be accommodated on this site although no formal request has been received from the sports.**
- vi. unauthorised use is likely to be an issue.**
- vii. this is an area of open space which is used casually by dog walkers and other casual users. There has been no consultation with other users of the facility.**
- viii. there is no Council car parking or changing facilities available on the site; and**
- ix. a charge will be levied for use of the facility.”**

During discussion, a Member expressed the view that the Council should facilitate the request from the local GAA clubs for the use of the area of land, given the number of teams which they needed to accommodate and the fact that they might be unable to use the Cherryvale Playing Fields to its full potential until the spring at the earliest. However, other Members highlighted the issues which had been identified within the report and suggested that those should be addressed before any decision was made.

Accordingly, the Working Group agreed to note the request for the use of the land in Botanic Gardens and recommended that the People and Communities Committee should, when determining the request, be provided with clarification around the requirement for planning permission and consider fully those issues which had been highlighted within section 3.0 of the report.

Update on Local Investment Fund

(Mr. D. Logan, Project Manager, Property and Projects Department, attended in connection with this item.)

The Working Group considered the following report:

“1 Background

At the Working Group’s meeting on 25th September, the Director of Property and Projects provided an update on the current status of those LIF and LIF2 projects which it had approved for South Belfast. In particular, its attention was

drawn to issues arising from three projects, namely, Sandy Row Orange Hall, Sólás and Belfast South Community Resources.

The Working Group agreed that officers should provide further information around those projects, confirming whether the Sólás and Belfast South Community Resources projects would qualify for LIF funding.

Members will also be aware that, at the meeting on 23rd January, the Working Group agreed to decommit £43,900 of its LIF1 budget and £4,000 from LIF2 to fund a number of reserve alleygates.

2 Sandy Row Orange Hall (SLIF2-05)

Members were advised that a tender price of £70,000 over the contract sum had been returned in comparison to the amount which had been set aside in the allocated £100,000 funding allocation.

Following meetings with the group, officers working in partnership with Sandy Row Orange Hall, this work has been re-scoped to remove some non-essential works packages which do not impact on the overall works, i.e. desirable works as opposed to necessary work.

This leaves a contract sum of £93,500, i.e. £23,500 over the £70,000 of LIF funding which was available for the project, once all fees and costs had been deducted.

The Sandy Row Orange Hall Management Committee has indicated that it will match fund any additional contribution provided by the South Area Work Group. It has requested that an additional £10,000 be made available from the South Area Working Group, with Sandy Row Orange Hall contributing £13,500. This would allow the essential works to proceed and be completed in time for Christmas 2017.

3 Sólás (SLIF2-04)

Members will be aware that Sólás was awarded £100,000 towards the establishment of the Children's Autism Centre on the Ormeau Road and that the group requested an uplift of approximately £10,000 towards the installation of two accessibility ramps to external portable buildings.

Officers have confirmed that they are in receipt of a specification for DDA accessible ramps to external portable buildings and have confirmed that an additional funding allocation of £10,000 would cover the cost of installation. Quotations will be sought in line with Council's procurement guidelines should the additional funding be made available.

4 Belfast South Community Resources

Members previously recommended funding of £20,000 towards the development of Blythefield pitch. The Working Group had since agreed, due to security of tenure requirements, that the Greater Village Regeneration Trust should assume the role of lead organisation for the project and that the funding should transfer to it. The Greater Village Regeneration Trust had confirmed that the project could be delivered without that funding and the Belfast South Community Resources (BSCR) had requested that it be transferred back to it for use on an alternative proposal.

At its meeting on 25th September, the Working Group agreed that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to approve the transfer of the £20,000 back into the LIF2 fund. Officers were tasked with providing further information around the alternative BSCR proposal, confirming whether it would qualify for LIF funding.

The costs relate to a current SIF/LIF project the group have delivered in the purchase (& refurbishment) of retail units and office space as a community enterprise. Further to this the group now have unforeseen costs and wish to utilise further LIF funding to cover these costs.

They include:

Item	Cost	Vat	Total
Roof	3500		3500
Shutters	7000	1400	8400
CCTV	4500	900	5400
Operator Chairs	1580		1580
Contingency			220
			<u>£20,000</u>

Members should note that in relation to the above costs, the Group wish to put these costs into context.

Roof Works

Even though SIF funded the centre refurbishment at Sandy Row, it failed to fund repairs to the roof. The leaks were not discovered by the architect on his initial inspection (due to them being masked by the state of the building) and, therefore, were not priced into the SIF contract. The result is that the group now have an excellent facility with new ceiling tiles and carpets in danger of being ruined by leaks.

Security (Shutters and CCTV)

These costs were not included in the original contract with SIF. Belfast South Community Resources has recently been successful in its bid to deliver a new digital hub for South Belfast, to be funded by the Department for Communities. This will involve purchasing just over £100K of hi-tec digital equipment which will be stored in the building. This will include 3d printers, laser cutters, printers etc. and the groups are concerned that security issue need to be addressed.

Members will also be aware that BSCR has previously received funding in the sum of £51,000 (SLIF-011).

5 Recommendation

The Working Group is requested to consider how it wishes to proceed with the above projects and whether it will reallocate any or all of the £20,000 remaining budget.”

The Project Manager reviewed the report and confirmed that the proposal by Sólás would be eligible for funding under the Local Investment Fund and that projects similar to that being proposed by Belfast South Community Resources had been funded previously. In terms of the Sandy Row Orange Hall, it was confirmed that the reduction in the cost of the project to £93,500 would be achieved through, for example, renewing only the pointing to the front wall of the building.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that, of the £20,000 remaining within South Belfast’s LIF budget:

- i. £10,000 be allocated to Sólás to provide for the installation of two accessibility ramps to two portable buildings at the Children’s Autism Centre, Ormeau Road; and
- ii. £10,000 be allocated to Sandy Row Orange Hall, on the basis that the Management Committee had undertaken to contribute £13,500 towards the cost of the project.

Update on Lagan Gateway Project

(Ms. S. Kalke, Project Sponsor, Property and Projects Department, attended in connection with this item.)

The Working Group was reminded that, in 2013, it had identified the Lagan Gateway as being one of its priority projects under the Belfast Investment Fund and that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 13th February, 2015, had agreed to advance that project.

The Project Sponsor explained that the proposal, which would seek to restore and revitalise the Lagan Canal corridor, would involve the development of a navigation lock and an iconic foot and cycle bridge, the refurbishment of the existing weir and the provision of high quality landscaping, with associated path connections. She reviewed the

funding arrangements for the project, which included an allocation of £2.15m from the Belfast Investment Fund and of £950k from Ulster Garden Villages and pointed out that an application for funding was being assessed by the Department for Communities. The Department for Infrastructure's Rivers Agency would be meeting the cost associated with the refurbishment of the weir.

She reported that planning approval had been granted in June, 2017 and that, following a two stage assessment process, the Project Board had now appointed a contractor to deliver the project. It was anticipated that work would begin in November and communication activity would include a media release/photo call, the provision of on-site information advising of the commencement of work, neighbour and stakeholder notification and regular social media and website updates.

After discussion, during which it was confirmed that the Director of Property and Projects would be submitting to a future meeting a report providing further details around the project, including the location, width and illumination of pathways, the Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

Other Business

Shaftesbury Square

The Working Group agreed that officers should continue to seek to identify the owner of the former public toilets on Shaftesbury Square/Dublin Road, with a view to having the unsightly fencing/hoardings around them removed.

Date of Next Meeting

The Working Group agreed to move its next meeting from Monday, 20th November to 4.30 p.m. on Monday, 27th November, in order to facilitate the attendance of the Chairperson. It was noted that representatives of the Belfast Islamic Centre, who had been unable to attend this meeting, would be available in order to outline the Centre's plans for a new place of worship and community centre.

Chairperson

East Belfast Area Working Group

Wednesday, 15th November, 2017

MEETING OF EAST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: The High Sheriff of Belfast, Alderman Haire (Chairperson);
The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Copeland;
Aldermen McGimpsey, Rodgers and Sandford; and
Councillors Armitage, Dorrian, Kyle, Long, McReynolds,
Mullan, Newton, O'Donnell and O'Neill.

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

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Howard, Johnston and Milne.

Minutes

In response to a request from a Member, the Working Group agreed that an amendment be made to the minutes of 5th October, under the heading Alleygates, in that the decision be amended as follows:

The Working Group agreed that the sixteen gates which had already been granted approval by the Working Group for Harper Street, Madrid Street and Roseberry Road would proceed *and that a report be submitted to the next meeting identifying the areas of 'highest need' by the PSNI.*

The Working Group noted that, as the previous minutes had been approved and adopted by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and subsequently ratified by the Council, in accordance with Standing Order 26(a), the amendment would be submitted to the next meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for its consideration and with a recommendation that it rescind the previous decision and approve the amendment.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Presentation from Belfast City BMX Club

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. G. Doherty, Youth Development and Race Co-ordinator of Belfast City BMX Club (BCBC), and Mr. P. Manton, Chairperson, to the meeting, along with a number of youth members.

The Working Group was provided with an overview of the Olympic Sport of BMX racing and the representatives highlighted that it was a fully inclusive sport for all ages with children as young as 3 years old taking part. He outlined a number of the benefits for the children who participated in BMX racing, including increased fitness, transferable bike skills and learning about healthy competition.

The Members noted that BCBC had been the first cycling club to be accredited with the Council's "Clubmark", which supported clubs to become best practice sports clubs.

Mr. Doherty advised the Members that their club had over 70 members and that they regularly travelled to compete in various competitions within Ulster, Ireland, the UK, European and even World Championships. He described to the Working Group that the Irish Series brought over 180 riders and their supporters to a city, which included staying overnight in a host city. He advised the Working Group that there was a National Standard track in Lisburn, with another being built in Armagh in 2018. The Members were advised that, if additional BMX tracks were built in Northern Ireland, an NI Series would grow.

Mr. Doherty provided the Members with a detailed overview of the Club's plans to develop a National Standard BMX track at a site within the Henry Jones Playing Fields in the east of the city. He advised the Working Group that the gravel pitches at the Henry Jones Playing Fields had been unused for some time and that a BMX track would bring it back into use.

The representatives from BCBC provided an overview of their proposed plans for the site, which they advised the Members that the Council's Parks Department had suggested as a suitable location. The estimated costs for the project amounted to £245,000.

The Members noted a letter of support for the development of a BMX track at the site from the adjacent Loughview Integrated Primary School.

In response to a Member's question, the representatives confirmed that the track would be an open facility and would, therefore, be available for other clubs to use.

In response to a further Member's question as to whether the plans could be scaled down to reduce costs, Mr. Doherty advised the Working Group that, while they could remove some aspects of the plans, such as the pump track and training ground, it would remove training opportunities for the youngest members.

Further Members expressed their support for the project, particularly in relation to attracting major competitions to the city and that cycling had become an increasingly popular sport.

The Chairperson thanked the Members for their presentation and they retired from the meeting.

During discussion, the Director of Property and Projects advised the Working Group that, as the land for the proposed project was Council-owned land, the Council would operate it and it would therefore be a capital project.

The Assistant Director advised the Members that, if the Council was to progress the proposals, the People and Communities Committee would determine the operating model.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed that officers would investigate ways in which the Council could assist Belfast City BMX Club, through its capital programme, and that a report be submitted to a future meeting.

WWI Commemoration Proposal

The Assistant Director of City and Neighbourhood Services advised the Members that, at its meeting on 4th May, the Working Group had considered a request from the Rev. Mervyn Gibson seeking Council support for a small World War One Centenary Garden at the newly refurbished turning circle at the top of the Cregagh Road.

She explained that the proposal was that the small area of ground be developed as a Garden with appropriate planting, the addition of a small commemorative stone and information panels to highlight the contribution of the 41 Victoria Cross holders from the Island of Ireland. The Members were advised that the intention for the site was to provide an opportunity for quiet reflection and an addition to the local tourism offer given its proximity to the House of Orange and Cregagh Glen.

At the Working Group's meeting in May, it had agreed that further consultation be carried out on the proposal and the Assistant Director advised that independent consultation had taken place over the summer with a small group of interested parties.

The Working Group considered the undernoted findings and summation from the consultation:

"Areas of Support /Positive Responses

- **There was support for the concept of marking the centenary of WW1, particularly in an All Island context, reflecting the contribution made by those engaged in the War from all parts of the Island.**
- **If developed sensitively the space may also add to the Tourism offer, complementing the House of Orange and possibly supporting an increasing number of walking Tours.**
- **The local interest in and connection with WWI and the connection with a local V.C winner (William McFadzean) would likely generate local support and have resonances for local people in Cregagh area.**
- **School Links: Again, a local focus could provide opportunities for local primary schools to develop schools related projects as part of the curriculum.**

Areas of Concern

- **The turning circle is a very small area of ground on a very busy road adjacent to local facilities including a doctor's surgery, which currently has considerable traffic issues. This raises an obvious question of what it might be feasible to place on a space of this size and raises questions in terms of suitability in terms of quiet reflection.**
- **If the space was going to be further developed this would require discussions with PSNI and Dept. of Infrastructure re traffic and safety. Additional consultation would also be required with local residents in the flats and apartments overlooking the turning circle.**
- **The local residents group representing households adjacent to the proposed site are not supportive due to the location and**

underlying concerns re future use or abuse of the space in relation to unofficial commemoration gatherings or marches.

- The Group proposing the concept have no funds and therefore the Council would have to foot the entire bill re design, erection, planting out and maintenance
- Concerns were raised that such a development could be provide an opportunity for additional marches and gatherings both formal and informal, at a time when marches can be a source of contention.
- Alternative sites might be more appropriate e.g. on Montgomery Road, outside the House of Orange or in Cregagh Estate
- There is a need for additional people on the Committee /group sponsoring the project.
- Commemorations and memorials are currently a source of contention and therefore any additional sites or erections need to be developed sensitively, mindful of this context and the potential to be contentious and erode community relations.

Conclusion

It should be noted that there was no objections or negativity arising from the concept of commemorating the end of WW1 appropriately. However as reflected above, the current proposal brings with it a number of practical challenges and the potential to impact negatively on community relations if not progressed sensitively.”

The Assistant Director of City and Neighbourhood Services advised the Members that the Working Group was to consider if any further action should be taken.

The group made the following points:

- A Member indicated that it was not necessary to erect a Memorial in the proposed location, given that there was already a War Memorial nearby, on Thiepval Avenue. He also questioned whether the location was fitting, given its location on a main road;
- Other Members voiced support for the Memorial and that the area was only affected by heavy traffic at certain times of the day;
- It was suggested that the Memorial could be placed at another location, perhaps within the grounds of the House of Orange;
- The turning circle in question had recently been refurbished as part of the final phase of the Connswater Greenway Development;
- A Member pointed out that those who lived adjacent to the proposed site were not supportive of the proposal, due to underlying concerns regarding potential unofficial commemoration gatherings or marches; and
- A Member questioned why consultation had only taken place with a small group of interested parties.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed that officers would encourage the proposer to identify a more suitable site in the area and that a report be submitted to a future meeting.

Local Investment Fund (LIF) Update

The Director of Property and Projects provided an updated list of the status of each LIF project. He outlined that, of the initial allocation, 7 of the 8 projects had now been completed. The eighth project, namely the Westbourne Presbyterian Community Church project, which had received partnership funding from The Executive Office, through the Social Investment Fund, was in the second stage of design team procurement.

The Members were advised that, through the second phase of LIF, all projects had now passed through the due diligence stage, with project works being delivered or completed at 9 out of the 12 projects.

He explained to the Members that Dundela Football Club (Dundela F.C.) had been awarded £135,000 through LIF2, towards the development of a new 3G pitch to include floodlighting and spectator stands. The Working Group was advised that this amount represented approximately 20% of the total project costs and was required in order to secure partnership funding from the Department for Communities' (DfC) Sub-Regional Stadia Programme for Soccer.

He advised the Working Group that the Council's funding agreement contained a condition stating that the funding should be drawn down by 30th November 2017.

The Members were reminded that the Department for Communities' Sub Regional Stadia Funding programme had not progressed but that Dundela F.C. wished to proceed with its project by using the LIF funding for the installation of floodlighting. The Director confirmed that this would not hinder the overall project.

The Working Group agreed to accede to Dundela Football Club's request to proceed with its project, using the £135,000 LIF allocation for the installation of floodlighting.

Special Meeting on Leisure

The Working Group noted that a Special East Area Working Group meeting on Leisure would be held on Wednesday, 22nd November at 4.30pm.

Request to present: Urban Villages

The Working Group agreed to receive a presentation at its next meeting from Urban Villages on the EastSide Urban Village initiative.

Date of Next Meeting

The Working Group noted that the next meeting would take place at 5.30pm on Thursday, 7th December.

Chairperson

West Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 26th October, 2017

MEETING OF WEST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor Magennis (Chairperson);
Alderman Kingston;
Councillors Beattie, Bell, Bunting, Carson,
Collins, Corr, Garrett, Hutchinson,
Heading, Nic Biorna, McConville and O'Hara.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mrs Rose Crozier, Assistant Director;
Mr. G. Dickson, Policy and Performance Analyst; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

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

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 28th September were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor O'Hara declared an interest in respect of agenda item 3, viz., Presentation – Conway Education Centre, as she was associated with the Centre.

Outstanding Actions – Decision Tracker

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services 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 28th September.

Noted.

Presentation – Conway Education Centre

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting, Ms. P. Kersten, Centre Manager, representing the Conway Education Centre.

Ms. Kersten provided the Working Group with a brief background to the Centre and its services. She advised that the Centre's Vision was to 'transform lives through learning' and its Mission Statement was 'Empowering people through providing learning opportunities in a supportive environment'. The representative explained that this was achieved by:

- supporting the development and regeneration of the community through learning, capacity building and providing opportunities for educational progression and skills development;
- championing community education as a tool for community engagement;
- actively promoting a creative and safe reflective space to facilitate community dialogue, cultural expression and diversity; and
- ensuring the maintenance of an accountable, transparent, participative and sustainable organisation.

The representative provided greater detail in respect of the range of courses available, which included adult education courses (both accredited and unaccredited courses), workshops, homework support, refugee support and complementary therapy courses.

A representative commended the Centre on the valuable support and assistance that it offered for refugees living in the surrounding area.

Ms Kersten stated that she was aware that currently no funding was available, however, she detailed how the Council could assist should funding become available and also in terms of support via Council expertise and contacts as the organization explored its plans to refurbish, renovate and extend.

The Working Group noted that no funding was available at present, however, agreed that an officer from the Property and Projects Department would meet with representatives from the Conway Education Centre to discuss its plans and, if possible, provide technical support.

The Chairperson thanked the representative for attending and for the excellent work that the Conway Education Centre undertook with the local community and she retired from the room.

Social Innovation Pitch

(Mr. S. Lavery, Programme Manager, was in attendance for this item.)

The Working Group considered the undernoted report.

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

To provide members with an update on the Whiterock Social Innovation Challenge Programme.

2.0 Recommendations

- To seek approval that Upper Springfield Development Trust receive £30,000 of funding from the Social Innovation Challenge Programme on behalf;
 - 1) The Social Prescribing Programme (£15,000);
 - 2) Community Safety Intervention Programme (£15,000).

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Belfast City Council agreed to do Locality Planning pilots to test how Community Planning might be applied at the local area level and to help inform future neighbourhood working. Currently, there are four locality planning projects being delivered across Belfast as follows;

1 Whiterock, 2. Inner East, 3. Belvoir & Milltown, 4. New Lodge

To support this work, Council agreed to commission the Young Foundation to work with officers to develop a 'social innovation model.' The term 'social innovation' refers to new ideas or ways of working that aim to fulfil unmet social needs or tackle social problems.

As part of this model, a Challenge Programme is being implemented with funding available in each locality planning area for up to four projects that can be delivered within the area with a maximum £15,000 per project to allow them to be delivered to see if they have potential to become self-sustainable and / or can be scaled and replicated elsewhere.

For the purposes of this report we want to outline to members the current status with regards to Whiterock and seek authority to award funding to the two groups, subject to carrying out the relevant due diligence processes on the group receiving funding.

Whiterock Current Status

Through the locality planning process, local groups have been working with the Young Foundation and Council officers to develop potential Socially Innovative ideas with a view that they will receive a recommendation for funding, following successful completion of the following two stage process;

Stage 1 Accelerator Workshops

Local residents and supportive organisations have participated in the accelerator workshops to develop ideas linked to local priorities (1) Community Safety; (2) Social Prescribing (3) Employability.

Stage 2 Pitching

Attending a pitching session to informally 'pitch' their idea to two separate panels.

At this session the decision panel members will award an overall % score to each project idea with the following weighting being apportioned to each panel

1. Independent panel which will include experts and practitioners working in the field of innovation – 75% total marks
2. Local DEA elected members panel – 25% total marks

Whiterock Pitch

On completion of the Accelerator Workshops, the following groups successfully pitched their idea to the above decision panels on the 4th October.

We are now seeing authorisation from the West to that the following project receives an award of £15,000 each for the following projects;

- 1) **Social Prescribing Programme** - To develop and promote an approach to supporting people with mild to moderate physical or mental health issues through a range of social prescribing interventions and who are currently residents in the Whiterock Upper Springfield area.
- 2) **Community Safety Intervention Programme** - To develop and promote an early intervention multi-faceted approach to supporting people within the Whiterock/Upper Springfield area who are at low-moderate risk with regards to Community Safety Issues

The groups are requesting that the funding is administered through Upper Springfield Development Trust.

Council Recommendation

It would normally be the intention that successful projects are discussed at Area Working Groups before coming to SP&R

Committee. However due to the timing of the West AWG in October, by following this process it would mean not being able to formally award the money to the successful groups until December.

To expedite this process we sought the approval from committee to provisionally award the funding before it has been discussed at the West AWG. This was under the condition that West AWG members would discuss the proposal in detail at the meeting of the West Area Working Group on 26th October. Should there be any issues raised at this meeting, it is possible to withdraw the funding recommendation at full Council.

Next Steps

Subject to approval at full council, officers will work with internal colleagues in legal to draw up funding agreements and letter of offer to award funding to progress this work.

Furthermore, the Young Foundation in partnership with Council officers have been working with other groups in Whiterock to support them in identifying possible social innovation projects that can be taken forward over the coming months with a view to pitching for funding at a future session.

Financial & Resource Implications

Resourcing for this project is already included in budget estimates

Equality or Good Relations Implications

Equality and good relations implications will be taken into consideration in relation to the social innovation model.”

The Working Group welcomed the proposal and noted that the funding as outlined had been agreed at the meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held on Friday, 20th October.

Whiterock Leisure Centre Pool Closure for Maintenance

The Assistant Director informed the Working Group of the planned closure of the pool at the Whiterock Leisure Centre to facilitate essential maintenance works. She provided an overview of the required works, including details in respect of the impact from an operational and staffing perspective.

The Working Group noted the closure dates as follows:

- Friday, 1st December to Sunday, 3rd December – pool to be drained over 3 days to prevent damage to the pool;
- Monday, 4th December – works to commence on pool;

- Friday, 22nd December – work scheduled to finish;
- Sunday, 24th December to Tuesday 26th December – Christmas Closure;
- Wednesday, 27th December to Friday 29th December – pool to be refilled and headed; and
- Saturday, 30th December – pool to open to the public.

Following a query, the Assistant Director advised that the works were being undertaken in December as the seasonal drop off in usage would help to minimise the overall impact.

The Working Group noted the update provided.

Andersonstown Mobilisation (report tabled)

The Working Group was provided with an update in respect of the mobilisation during the closure of the Andersonstown Leisure Centre with particular reference to transportation issues.

The Working Group considered an option to provide temporary transport and the associated costs to shuttle users affected by the closure of the Centre to alternative leisure centres at Whiterock and/or Fall Leisure Centre.

Following detailed consideration, the Working Group agreed that a report would be submitted to the November meeting of the People and Communities Committee.

Row on Row Ceremony Shankill Memorial

The Working Group was advised of a late request from Old Park/Cavehill Royal British Legion to hold a commemoration event, Row on Row from Monday 6th – Friday 10th November, except Thursday 9th November at the Shankill Memorial Garden.

Given that this was a late request, the Working Group was asked to note the request for use of the facility and advise if they had any objections as the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services intended to grant permission using his delegated authority for such events and to note the decision at the next People and Communities Committee.

The Working Group noted the request and that approval would be subject to the completion of the appropriate event management plan and the following terms being satisfactorily agreed by the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services:

- all operational issues are resolved with the event organisers to the Council's satisfaction;
- the event organisers meet all statutory requirements, including Public Liability Insurance cover and Health and Safety responsibilities; and
- the event organisers agree to consult with the adjoining public bodies and local communities as required.

White Rise Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) - (verbal update)

A Member advised the Working Group that the White Rise MUGA in the Colin area was an antisocial hotspot and requested that it give consideration to the installation of floodlighting at the facility. He explained that he would like to encourage positive use of the facility in the dark evenings and to promote greater use of the facility, which in turn, might help to reduce some of the antisocial behaviour in the area.

It was agreed that the addition of floodlighting at the White Rise MUGA would be referred to the Director of Property and Projects for consideration as a potential emerging project to be placed on the Capital Programme. An initial report would be brought back to the Area Working Group including more information and potential costs for the Members to consider a recommendation to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Alleygates (verbal update)

(Ms. A. Allen, Safer City Manager, was in attendance for this item.)

The Safer City Manager provided the Working Group with an update in respect of the order in which the requests for additional alleygates on the reserve list had been received, as follows:

1. Iris Drive
2. McQuillan Street
3. All received on the same day - Dunmore Street/Dunlewey Street, Eccles Street, Orkney Street, Acton Street and Dewey Street

It was agreed that further prioritisation of the reserve list would only take place if additional funding became available.

Date of Next Meeting

The Working Group noted that the next meeting would take place on Thursday, 23rd November at 4.30 p.m. and agreed that representatives from the Glen 10 Development be invited to update the Working Group on the Glen 10 site.

Chairperson