

# West Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 22nd February, 2018

## MEETING OF WEST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor Magennis (Chairperson);  
Aldermen Kingston and McCoubrey;  
Councillors Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Carson, Canavan,  
Collins, Corr, Garrett, Heading, Nic Biorna, McConville,  
O'Hara and Walsh.

In attendance: Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;  
Mrs. R Crozier, Assistant Director;  
Ms. P. Flynn, Strategic Policy and Planning Officer; and  
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor Hutchinson.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 25th January were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

### **Declarations of Interest**

- Councillor Walsh declared an interest in agenda item 3. (b) V in that he was a member of the Board of Governors of Coláiste Feirste; and
- Councillor Beattie declared an interest in agenda item 3. (c) V in that he was associated with the Blackie River Community Group.

### **Decision Tracker**

The Working Group was advised that the Decision Tracker would be e-mailed following the meeting.

Noted.

### **Presentations**

**Belfast Rapid Transport** - (maps detailing the ongoing works were circulated at the meeting)

The Area Working Group welcomed Mr. C. de Burca, Director for Transport Projects and Business Services, and Mr. P. McParland, representing the Department for Infrastructure, to the meeting.

Mr. de Burca provided the Members with an overview in respect of the recently completed works across the west of the city in preparation for the introduction of the Belfast Rapid Transit (BRT) scheme, which was due to launch in September 2018.

Mr. McParland then drew the Members' attention to maps which detailed the works that had been completed and also highlighted the sections of road that would be affected by road closures to progress the ongoing works, as follows:

- Falls Road/Andersonstown Road (Whiterock to Finaghy Road North) – 4.3 million investment:
  - 5 Sunday closures up to the end of March; and
  - 6 Sunday closures from mid-April to the end of May;
- Stewartstown Road (Michael Ferguson Roundabout to McKinsty Road) – 5 million investment:
  - 1 weekend closure 24th – 25th February;
  - 2 weekend closures 3rd – 4th and 10th – 11th March; and
  - 6 other weekend closures from mid-April to June in order to complete the scheme.

He advised that the works included updating pavements, traffic signals and lighting along the route and the erection of halts. The Members noted that 53 halts would be installed along the west corridor, 15 halts had already been completed, 10 were currently being constructed and 9 were scheduled to commence before the end of March. Ticket machine and validation machines would be installed during April and the real time passenger information would be installed by August.

The Working Group was also advised that the Colin Transport Hub and Public Square, which had been part funded by the Urban Villages Initiative, was on schedule to be completed in September.

In response to a Member's question, Mr. de Burca outlined that, under current proposals, the bus lanes would operate Monday – Saturday, 7am - 7pm, with a 2-hour loading window between 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

A Member advised the representatives that the paving used at the completed halts was often slippery when wet, which had resulted in a number of falls. The officers from the Department for Infrastructure advised that they were aware of this problem and were working to resolve it.

After discussion, the Chairperson thanked the representatives for their attendance and they retired from the meeting.

### **Fáilte Feirste Thiar**

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting, Mr. H. Connolly, representing Fáilte Feirste Thiar.

Mr. Connolly provided the Working Group with a brief background to the Company and its services.

He advised that the Company's Objectives were as follows:

- to develop a forum for all West Belfast Tourism;
- to develop and support West Belfast Tourism Strategies which would protect and enhance the unique character of the area;
- to lobby for investment in West Belfast Tourism;
- to market West Belfast as a tourist attraction; and
- to strengthen the tourism sector and create local employment by providing training, education and capacity building.

He then proceeded to outline how the Company, on the back of a record year for tourism in the City, planned to build on its current successes. He explained that it wished to draw up a tourism plan for the west of the City. This plan would be a broad, cross cutting strategic development and action plan with a clear set of actions that would include recommendations.

He detailed that the plan would consider access, accommodation, visitor attractions, events and festivals, tours, marketing, segmentation and capacity building and assured the Working Group that it would compliment the existing and emerging city wide tourism policy.

Mr. Connolly stated that he was aware that currently no funding was available, however, if additional funding became available he asked the Working Group to consider supporting the Action Plan which would be estimated to cost £25,000.

The Chairperson thanked the representative for attending and for the valuable work that Fáilte Feirst Thiar undertook to promote tourism in the west of the City and he retired from the room.

The Working Group were supportive of progressing the proposed Action Plan but noted that currently no funding was available.

Following consideration, the Working Group agreed to support the request should future funding streams become available.

### **Blackie River Community Group**

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting, Mr. P. Lynch, representing the Blackie River Community Group.

Mr. Lynch commenced the presentation by outlining the Group's Mission and Vision Statements and he then proceeded to provide the Members with a brief background to the Group.

The representative drew the Members' attention to a photograph/map of an area known locally as the 'triangle site'. He advised that:

- the triangle site was owned by Belfast City Council and located at the old Beechmount Leisure Centre;
- the site had not been redeveloped or was not part of the Coláiste Feirste development;
- the site was on a main arterial route in the heart of the Gaeltacht Quarter;

- many ideas, plans and proposals were in existence as to how the site could be redeveloped but none of these had been progressed; and
- the Group felt that the current site was an eyesore, a hotspot for anti-community activity and was the final piece of the wider regeneration jigsaw of the Greater Beechmount area.

He advised that the Blackie Group wished to carry out a comprehensive feasibility study to identify options and recommendations for the future redevelopment of the site. This was estimated to cost in the region of £27,000 and the Group were seeking the Council's support in progressing the study, if funding should become available.

The representative addressed a number of questions, following which, the Chairman thanked him for the presentation and he retired from the room.

A Member suggested that a Community Asset Transfer could be granted for the site.

The Director of Property and Projects advised that, as the Council owned the asset, it would be more appropriate, if it choose to, for the Council to progress such a study. In addition, he highlighted that a previous decision had been taken by the Council which had appointed Coláiste Feirste as the preferred developer for this piece of land and he stated that the Council would have to rescind this decision before agreeing any further proposal for the site.

Detailed discussion ensued, following which the Working Group agreed to defer further consideration of the matter to enable officers to clarify the situation with Coláiste Feirste.

### **St. Oliver Plunkett**

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting, Mr. N. McKee and Ms. F. Morgan, representing St. Oliver Plunkett Football Club.

Mr. McKee commenced the presentation by outlining the significant contribution which the late Mr. Maxwell had made to the Club. He then proceeded to provide a comprehensive overview of the club, which included details in respect of the club's participation levels, its funders/partners and its many successes both on and off the pitch.

The representative advised the Working Group that the club had recently completed a strategic planning review and he proceeded to outline the club's future proposals which it hoped to bring to fruition through its development plan. He outlined the club's future aspirations, as follows:

- to undertake a feasibility study using £5,000 funding that it had already secured;
- to seek the re-development of Lenadoon Park;
- to establish formalised school links;
- to gain intermediate status;
- to progress/social development opportunities; and
- to establish capacity building opportunities.

The representative advised that ultimately the club wished to see the redevelopment of Lenadoon Park and he requested that the Council consider this request.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for attending and for the excellent work that St. Oliver Plunkett undertook with the local community and they retired from the room.

Following discussion, the Working Group recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee give consideration to including the redevelopment of Lenadoon Park within its future capital programme.

### **Glór na Móna**

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting, Mr. F. Mac Ionrachaigh and Mr. C. Mac Giolla Bhéin, representing Glór na Móna.

The representatives commenced the presentation by outlining Glór na Móna's Mission Statement as follows:

*“to provide a range of linguistic, cultural, educational, social, training and support services to our youth and community which supports the development of the Upper Springfield and which nourishes the community-led language revival.”*

He then proceeded to provide a comprehensive overview of the club, which included the following facts and figure:

- Glór na Móna was the largest Irish medium youth provision;
- it worked with over 400 young people on a weekly basis across Belfast;
- it had 1 full-time outreach support worker, along with 3 part-time support staff;
- it had units operating in the North, West and South of the City; and
- it had 24 part-time staff across 5 units which were managed by Glór na Móna.

The representative highlighted the diverse range of opportunities that it made available to the local community and proceeded to outline its future development plans to become a first bespoke Irish medium youth centre, which included architect's impressions of the proposed new centre.

The Working Group noted that Glór na Móna had submitted an application for funding through the Department of Education's Capital Scheme and it had passed the first assessment stage. The representative explained, however, that there was an issue regarding the ownership of the land as the Council owned the land upon which the proposed building would be located and the representatives asked if the Council would be willing to award a long-term lease of the land which would enable the Education and Library Board to continue to assess the application for funding.

The Chairperson thanked the representative for attending and for the excellent work that Glór na Móna undertook with the youth in this area of the City and they retired from the room.

The Working Group agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that Glór na Móna be awarded a long-term lease, subject to funding being granted from the Education and Library Board, for its new youth centre.

### **Update in Respect of Falls Park Gate Lodge**

The Director of Property and Projects advised that a refurbishment of the Gate Lodge building was a proposal within the Falls Park Masterplan, however, the proposed project currently had no Council resources allocated to it.

The Director reported that it had previously been agreed that the refurbishment of the Gate Lodge would be best considered in conjunction with the relocation of the Service Yard.

He detailed the next priorities as follows:

- a new interpretative centre in the City Cemetery funded in part by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) which would entail the relocation of the City Cemetery service yard: and
- relocation of the Falls Park service yard to a shared facility with the City Cemetery team and area cleansing squad as part of the Streetscene.

The Director advised that this was an emerging project on the capital programme and he reiterated that no funding had been agreed for the proposal. In addition, he outlined that a preferred site had been identified behind the Whiterock Leisure Centre, however, some complications had recently arisen at this location in respect of a Northern Ireland Water drainage scheme for adjacent properties in the Turf Lodge, he advised that Council officers were currently negotiating these issues.

The Assistant Director advised that the Service Yard was required to be relocated by the end of the year in order to satisfy the HLF timeline.

Following a query from a Member, the Director confirmed that an alternative option did exist which was to place the building on the open market, in either an unrefurbished state, or as a refurbished building but added that this was not a preferred option.

The Working Group noted the update provided and that capital funding for the Gate Lodge needed to be understood within the overall context of expenditure in Falls Park.

### **Update on the Glen 10 Site**

The Working Group considered the following report:

#### **“1 Background**

**At the West AWG meeting on 23 November 2018 it was agreed that the Director of Property & Property would submit an update report on Glen 10 to a future meeting, to include options as to how the Council might assist in progressing the development of the Glen 10 lands including the potential for a spine road.**

**By way of background, over the period 2009 -2013, DSD, working in partnership with other public sector bodies, land owners and the local community commissioned extensive research (undertaken by GVA) into regeneration issues relating to the possible development of lands at Glen Road. This resulted in a Glen Road Development Framework which was launched in April 2013 and followed various Glen 10 Workshops and work undertaken by a Glen Road Development Co-Ordination Group and Project Board. The Project Board, led by DSD, was made up of representatives from DSD, BCC, SIB, NIHE, Planning, DE, DETI and INI. The early Glen 10 workshops were chaired by the DSD Deputy Secretary and BCC Chief Executive.**

**The need to prepare a Development Framework arose from the fact that Glen Road was identified by politicians as an area of major development potential in West Belfast, underpinned by housing pressures in the area and the wish to provide economic opportunities as part of a balanced development strategy.**

**It was recognised that whilst the lands presented a major development opportunity, the development to date had been undertaken in an uncoordinated manner and on a site by site basis. The objective was to provide a vision and agreed plan for the area that would lead to its development potential being realised. It was recognised however that the Development Framework was a non-statutory document and would require all stakeholders, landowners and developers to voluntarily take account of the principles in the Framework.**

**The area referenced within the Development Framework related to 10 sites all in different ownerships, bounded by Glen Road, Hannahstown Hill, Upper Springfield Road and Monagh Bypass. A plan of the area is attached.**

**Following the Glen 10 research, the preferred development scenario identified by the consultants was aimed at providing a sustainable urban extension and the scope to bring forward development in a sustainable co-ordinated manner with a land mix that could achieve wider regeneration benefits.**

**The Glen Road Research Study (2010) estimated potential outputs of 1126-1426 homes and up to 80,000 sqm of employment generating outputs. The higher number of homes was however predicated on lands at Hannahstown Hill site coming forward for development although it highlighted that it was currently outside the development limit. The consultants highlighted problems with existing infrastructure and the need for upgrading if this scale of future development was to happen. In addition their research was obviously undertaken a few years back and was based on demand etc at that time.**

The Development Framework also highlighted that many of the sites with planning were already being developed, thereby limiting the scope for the Development Framework to influence their design or the need for additional infrastructure. In the period from the commencement of the Glen 10 Workshops and Research Study various sites have been developed or received planning approval. A schedule of recent planning approvals and associated map is attached at Appendix 2 & 3.

Following the launch of the Development Framework in 2013 a Delivery Executive was set up with the aim of acting as a forum in which developers and land owners could share early thinking and design in respect of individual sites and providing the opportunity to engage with statutory interests at an early stage. However, in reality this didn't quite work in the way it was originally intended. This was due in part to the non-statutory nature of the Framework and the fact that some of the sites had already been developed or consented, with limited new development proposals for the area actually coming forward.

The Council have various land ownership interests in the Glen 10 area. They have sold three sites to Oaklee / Choice and Clanmil Housing Associations (circa 120 social housing units built/proposed); and are the head landlord of the sites leased to St Teresa's GAC and Sport & Leisure FC. They also own land at Hannahstown Hill, which is outside the current development limit (although identified as potential housing land in the Glen Road Research Study) which could also provide part of the land required for any potential spine road. Whilst not within the defined Glen 10 boundary, the Council also sold other lands at Colin Glen to Clanmil Housing Association for the development of 64 social housing units and this, alongside other developments in the area, places further demands on the road network.

## **2. Key Issues**

The key issues affecting the development of the lands in this area and the outworkings of the Glen Road Development Framework includes the following:

- The Development Framework is non-statutory.
- Planning applications are dealt with on an individual basis, although there is a cumulative impact on road infrastructure, drainage etc.
- From the commencement of the Glen 10 research work various sites have already been developed or received planning approval. Some of these have provided for certain road improvements.



- Potential need identified in the Development Framework for a spine road from Hannahstown Hill or Glen Road Heights approach road across to Monagh Bypass in order to alleviate pressure on the Glen Road. However, DfI are currently of the view that the road is not a DfI priority and that any new road would need to be developer funded.
- A number of the planning approvals have however already been granted without the requirement for a spine road.
- Cost of a spine road unknown but previous high level estimates indicated cost circa £5M excluding cost of land acquisition. However, topographical and geotechnical surveys would be required to confirm detailed design and costs. Given the topography of the land any spine road is likely to involve significant amount of regrading of lands or large retaining structures which would increase the cost of road construction.
- Given that many of the sites have already been developed /planning approval granted or are in public ownership (inc school sites) it is unclear at this stage whether the scale of any future development would be sufficient to fund a spine road in its entirety. However, given the limited number of remaining undeveloped sites within the current development limit it is considered unlikely currently that sufficient funding would be forthcoming by way of future developer contributions.
- DfI have also expressed the view that the construction of a spine road alone may not in fact alleviate the roads and transport issues in the area. It is also unclear if it would be a requirement of DfI for any future intensification of development.
- Whilst provision has been made within some development sites to allow for connections to a potential future spine road, it is not clear whether any such connections are adequate in terms of road width and road alignment etc. A desk top study would suggest that certain land already developed may be required to facilitate any future spine road. In addition, there is no guarantee that the land required for any such road could be acquired by agreement or whether compulsory purchase powers would be required – and the cost of any land acquisition is unknown at this stage.
- Outline planning approval was granted (2013) for the Glenmonagh site for large scale development with residential, business and commercial uses although no development has yet commenced. Planning approval provides for the provision to connect to a spine road upon development of a specified no of residential or

non-residential units. However, the proposed road layout would not appear to match the alignment for the proposed spine road as shown in the Glen Road Development Framework.

- A more detailed feasibility study would be required to confirm the scope and likely specification for any new spine road; the availability of land and the suitability of the route. An exercise would also be required to actually determine the likely scale of any new development coming forward, which will also be influenced by the LDP, in order to ascertain any possibility of a spine road being funded by developer contributions. Detailed geotechnical and topographical surveys would be required to confirm the detailed road design /suitability of the route and inform cost.
- DfI has indicated that while a new link road between Glen Road and Monagh By-pass could help balance traffic flows between these two roads, it would involve creating two new junctions in the Glen Road and Monagh Bypass, which would impact traffic progression on these routes. It is DfI's initial view that it may not address the downstream capacity constraints (e.g the Glen Road /Monagh Bypass junction). Further modelling work would be required for any new development in the area to assess the traffic impact on the surrounding road network and to determine what additional road improvement works may be required.
- Schools rationalisation plans for the wider area may also impact on future infrastructure requirements, as will other major developments in the wider area such as Casement, Andersonstown Leisure Centre, Westwood Shopping Centre etc.

### **3 Options:**

- Individual planning applications for remaining undeveloped sites continue to be considered on their own merits within the context of current planning policy and the future LDP, with approvals conditioned as appropriate – which would include requirements as appropriate for any infrastructure improvements.
- Comprehensive Development Scheme /Statutory Masterplan for Glen 10, which would require an outline planning application for the overall area. However, DfC unlikely to progress this and is likely to take a significant amount of time especially with the myriad of different owners. Also, the budget issue would remain in terms of financing any road improvements and/or spine road if required.

- **Seek to get DfI to lead on a feasibility study / transport assessment to inform the nature of any future road improvements and thereafter to prioritise any such works. This feasibility study would need to ascertain the likely scale of any new development coming forward; determine the need for and scope of any road improvements; the availability of land (if need for road confirmed); the suitability of the route and further ascertain the possibility of spine road/road improvements being funded by developer contributions. Detailed geotechnical and topographical surveys would also be required to confirm detailed road design /suitability of the route and inform cost.**
- **Comprehensive area planning approach to consider impact of development in wider area (not just Glen 10) inc Casement, BRT, Andersonstown LC etc. Will require political leadership, prioritisation, budget and staff resource alignment etc. This is also likely to require a detailed assessment of the roads and infrastructure issues as referred to above – with associated cost and resource implications.”**

Several of the Members expressed concern at the fragmented approach in progressing the development of the required spine road.

Following discussion, it was agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting that would include options as to how the Council could assist in progressing this initiative in view of the lack of a functioning NI Assembly.

### **Update on the Leisure Transformation Programme**

The Working Group considered the following report:

#### **“1.0 Purpose**

**To provide Members with an update on the redevelopment of Andersonstown and Brook and the implementation of the Social Responsibility Clauses associated with the contract.**

#### **2.0 Redevelopment of Andersonstown LC- current status**

**Works on the demolition of the original leisure centre are progressing well, with the exception of a delay due to the detection of unknown asbestos in the front wall. This has been successfully disposed of and demolition of phase one of the works was completed last week.**

**Following the vacation of the Ulster Bank on 18th January 2018, a full asbestos survey was undertaken of the bank premises. Any identified asbestos in the bank has now also been safely disposed of and the demolition of this building is**

currently well underway and should be complete by Friday 23rd Feb.

The Contractor has been undertaking site investigations around the site, as well as clearing and levelling the site in preparation of construction works. They have also commenced the piling installation to the rear of the site for the foundations, and once the bank is fully demolished and cleared, piling will commence on the upper end of the site.

(See Appendix 1)

### **3.0 Redevelopment of Brook Activity Centre- current status**

A sod cutting ceremony was held at Brook on Wednesday 14th February. (See Appendix 2)

Members are asked to note that the delays in the demolition of Andersonstown has had an impact on the start date at Brook. Members are advised that Heron's are now mobilising and work is due to commence in the coming weeks.

### **4.0 Social Responsibility Clauses**

Following the appointment of Heron Bros, the Council's Economic Development Unit (EDU) have been engaging with the contractor to agree and implement the delivery plan for economic and social regeneration activities which will continue throughout the duration of the contract. The following gives a brief summary of the current status of these activities:

#### **Employment Opportunities**

In regards to the employment opportunities targeted at the unemployed and economically inactive, EDU delivered a Construction Employment Academy designed with employer and employability specialists. The Employment Academy was completed by 14 individuals who received training in relevant areas such as, working on a construction site, site safety etc. To date 5 of these individuals have secured employment, as follows:

- 3 at Andersonstown (cleaner, admin and a site labourer);
- 2 at Robinson Centre (cleaner, admin);
- Formal offer letters to these individuals have been issued with a view to starting on site in next few weeks;
- Further posts will be appointed as more opportunities become available and Brook comes on stream.

In addition, Herons are currently developing a spreadsheet for each site detailing the number of workers at each site, number of apprentices, number of work experience students etc. This will be presented at a future meeting of the working group.

### **Procurement**

Another 'Meet the Buyer' event will be held in August to promote the next wave of work packages (i.e. fixtures/fittings etc). This is likely to be much smaller this time around and as a result it may be combined with other Council capital projects.

### **Health Initiatives**

Hérons are organising a 'Belfast Hills Run' on 3rd June (5, 7.5 and 9 mile routes) which will be promoted in the local areas.

### **Education**

Schools Project- Herons are working with Groundwork NI and local schools around planting, growing and cooking local produce (this has just been initiated but so far 2 schools in west are signed up).

### **Social Enterprise**

The coffee cart idea has been removed due to potential issues around displacement. There is a plan now to tie in with C&NS 'Growing Communities' scheme encouraging and educating communities growing their own produce. Herons could potentially contribute up to £10k to roll out the scheme in the areas where the three new centres are being developed. EDU are liaising with C&NS around how this could work.

### **Community Relations**

Community Relations Fund- There is a £10,000 pot for the three areas (Andersonstown, Brook and Robinson), i.e. £3,333 per area, for local community groups to apply for things like community fun days, trips, festivals etc. Herons are developing the assessment criteria for this with a view to it being rolled out in liaison with Community Services over the coming months.

### **Andersonstown Traders Forum**

In addition to the initiatives outlined above the Council has also been working closely with the local traders on the Andersonstown Road to minimise the impact of the current development work on their businesses. As such the additional car park funded by the Council, GAA and DfI is now

operational providing an additional 105 spaces for local traders and shoppers.

The Council, through EDU, is also in the process of engaging Aiken Promotions to assist the local traders in promoting their businesses more effectively, through a range of initiatives such as coupons, website development, social media and home delivery. This is a £20k contract with an additional £20k budget made available for the agreed promotional activities. Members will be kept up to date on this

#### **5.0 Leisure Mobilisation Budget**

Members will be aware that a £2m Leisure Mobilisation budget has been ring-fenced to support the £105m leisure programme to support communications and engagement activity and to support business continuity throughout the leisure programme. The SP&R Committee, at its meeting on 19th May 2017, agreed the following principles which will underpin the mobilisation budget –

- It is revenue money and cannot be used for capital purposes
- It is a city wide budget 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.

As a city-wide fund this falls under the responsibility of the SP&R Committee and Members are asked to note that an update on the mobilisation budget will be taken into a future SP&R.

#### **6.0 Recommendation**

Members are asked to note the update in respect of the redevelopment of Andersonstown and Brook and the implementation of the associated social responsibility clauses.”

Following a query, the Assistant Director confirmed that meetings had taken place between Council officers and the Traders Forum. She also advised that Aiken Promotions was working with the traders to market and promote the area using various promotional methods, including a website and the use of coupons.

Following a further query regarding the redevelopment works at the Brook Leisure Centre, the Assistant Director advised that delays in the demolition of the Andersonstown Leisure Centre had impacted the start date at Brook. Officers undertook to update the Members directly regarding the exact start date and also agreed to forward any promotion material they had on the redevelopment works which the Members could share with constituents.

Following discussion, it was agreed that an additional consultation meeting with the Traders Forum would be arranged and that the Elected Representatives for the area would be invited to attend.

### **Physical Programme Update**

The Director of Property and Projects advised the Area Working Group that the Council's Physical Programme covered over 200 live projects under a range of funding streams which included the Capital Programme, the Leisure Transformation Programme, the Local Investment Fund (LIF), the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF) and the projects which the Council was delivering on behalf of other agencies.

He reported that, through the original LIF1 allocation, the Members of the former West and Shankill AWGs had supported 24 projects and all of those projects had now been completed.

He continued that, when the second phase of the LIF had been agreed, £1,200,000 had been 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, 3 were at the pre-construction stage, 1 had commenced construction and 8 projects had been completed.

During discussion, it was noted that there had been an underspend of £28,212 in the ForthRiver Bowling and Tennis Clubs Project. The project had an approved budget of £160,000 and had a total spend of £131,788 which had resulted in the underspend.

The Director of Property and Projects then provided the Members with a brief overview on the current status of the BIF projects and highlighted the projects that had received in-principle funding. He reminded the Members that £5.5million had been allocated to the West Area Working Group, with a further £1.2million having been ring-fenced for projects in the Court area following Local Government Reform.

The Director concluded by advising that under the Urban Villages Initiatives 3 projects had been identified for the Colin area. Two of these projects (Saints Boxing Club and Lagmore Community Forum) had been completed. The remaining project was the New Park at Colin which was at pre-application discussion stage with the Planning Service.

After discussion the Working Group agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the underspend in the Forthriver Bowling and Tennis Club project of £28,212 be reallocated to the Berlin Swifts project.

### **PEACE IV Update - Capital**

The Director of Property and Projects Manager outlined that Belfast City Council had been allocated £8.9m for the for the implementation and delivery of each of the strategic themes of PEACE IV.

He advised that the Plan still had to be issued for a period of consultation and, in addition, all the physical elements of each of the projects would also have to go out to consultation.

The Working Group noted that Peace IV would provide new opportunities. The Director stated that there would be a focus on using shared space, linking communities and progressing how people moved around the City and he stressed that there would be many opportunities available through the use of positive area planning.

The Members noted the information provided.

#### **Future Agenda Items**

The Working Group agreed that representatives from the following organisations would be invited to present to a future meeting:

- Springfield Charitable Association;
- Upper Springfield Masterplan;
- Folktown Regeneration Initiative; and
- The Belfast Islamic Centre.

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

The Working Group noted that the next meeting would take place at 4.30 p.m. on Thursday, 22nd March.

Chairperson



# South Belfast Area Working Group

Monday, 26th February, 2018

## MEETING OF SOUTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor Dudgeon (Chairperson); and  
Councillors Boyle, Craig, Hargey,  
McAteer and Reynolds.

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

### **Apologies**

No apologies were reported.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 22nd January were approved.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were recorded.

### **Presentation**

#### **Old Stranmillis (Road) Residents' Association**

The Chairperson advised the Working Group that Dr. Andrew Charles, Chair of the Old Stranmillis (Road) Residents' Association (OSRA), was in attendance to outline a proposal for a Children's play park in the Stranmillis area and he was admitted to the meeting.

Dr. Charles outlined to the Working Group that the Stranmillis Ward had a population of approximately 8,500 residents, with just over 1,000 children aged between 0-15 years. He explained that the nearest children's play park was just over 1 mile away, in Cranmore Park (Drumglass) or in Botanic Gardens.

The Working Group was advised that a community survey had been carried out in relation to the Stranmillis area, which had been funded through the Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership Small Grants Fund. Dr. Charles explained that, through the survey responses, a local play park had been suggested as one thing in which the area was lacking.

He advised the Members that, as a result, an online survey had then been conducted in relation to the installation of a play park in the area and that 130 participants had responded. He pointed out that 47% of the responses had stated that current play facilities for children in the Stranmillis area were “Very Poor” or “Poor”, and that 58% of participants would be supportive of a play park being installed in the area.

In relation to the original location, at a site off Sharman Road, he highlighted to the Working Group that a total of 51% of respondents had opposed that location.

He informed the Working Group that, after discussions with the Belfast Boat Club and its proposed plans for a coffee shop and extended parking facilities, the Boat Club’s Management had agreed that a play park would complement its plans, along with the development which was underway at the Weir.

He outlined that, in relation to addressing anti-social behaviour issues in the area, as well as with the development of the Lagan Gateway Project, a play park would enhance the immediate area by making it more family and community orientated.

He stated that OSRA did not have the funds to carry out a feasibility study.

During discussion, a number of Members expressed their support for the placement of a play park within the vicinity of the Belfast Boat Club and a Member added that it could also be used by residents along the Annadale Embankment.

The Assistant Director of City and Neighbourhood Services asked whether any engagement had taken place with Stranmillis Primary School regarding the public use of their play facilities. Dr. Charles advised the Working Group that he had engaged with the school a number of years ago and that the school’s outdoor play facilities were unsuitable for children over the age of 5 years old.

In response to a Member’s question, the Assistant Director advised the Working Group that, while there was no Council strategy for the installation of play parks, if the People and Communities Committee was to agree that officers should investigate the possible installation of a play park in the area, the whole catchment area would be included in a feasibility study.

She added that the Council usually added a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) beside a children’s play park, where possible, in order to provide facilities for a wider age range.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that officers would engage with the Old Stranmillis (Road) Residents’ Association to determine the feasibility of a play park being installed at the proposed location at the Belfast Boat Club.

### **Social Innovation Challenge Programme**

(Mr. S. Lavery, Programme Manager, attended in connection with this item)

The Programme Manager advised the Working Group that the Council had agreed to carry out Locality Planning Pilots to investigate how Community Planning might be applied at a local area level and to help inform future neighbourhood working. He

reminded the Members that four areas had been selected and that Belvoir and Milltown was the chosen area within the south of the City.

He reminded the Members that the Council had agreed to commission the Young Foundation to work with officers to develop ‘social Innovation models’ within each area, which aimed to fulfil unmet social needs or tackle social problems. He explained that each locality planning area had funding for up to four projects, with a maximum of £15,000 available for each project.

The Working Group was advised that three groups had successfully completed Workshops and had pitched their ideas to panels of both independent experts and practitioners working within the field of innovation and to local elected Members.

The Programme Manager outlined to the Working Group the three groups which had been recommended by the panels for funding:

1. **“Doing it for ourselves”** Belvoir Community Association – Through this project up to 50 local seniors would be more socially connected to the community, have decreased isolation and increased independence as a result of participating in leading and facilitating project activities.
2. **“Intergenerational Gardening Project”** - Belvoir Area Residents Group - This project would set up a gardening project where both younger and older generations would come together and learn horticultural skills, which would improve relationships in the local area. As part of the project, the group wanted to establish a maintenance group to provide (initially) free garden tidy-ups to the elderly residents, with a possible social enterprise being developed.
3. **“Mini Men’s Shed”** – Belvoir Area Residents Group. This project would aim to address loneliness and social isolation in the Belvoir (and Milltown) area by developing a mini men’s shed, initially through the new community hub.

He explained to the Members that, if the Council agreed to the funding recommendations, officers would work with legal Services to draw up funding agreements with each group to progress the projects.

He also outlined that officers had been working with other groups in Belvoir and Milltown to support them in identifying further possible social innovation projects which could be taken forward over the coming months for any further funding which was available.

After discussion, the Working Group recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the following funding allocations be provided to the following groups:

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>GROUP</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Doing it for ourselves	Belvoir Community Association	£15,000

Intergenerational Gardening Project	Belvoir Area Residents Group	£14,998
Mini Men's Shed	Belvoir Area Residents Group	£14,990

### **Temporary GAA Pitch at Lower Botanic Gardens**

The Working Group was reminded that the People and Communities Committee, at its meeting on 7th November, 2017, had agreed, 'in principle', to mark out a temporary Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) pitch at Lower Botanic Gardens for Bredagh and St. Malachy's Gaelic Clubs to use while Cherryvale was unavailable.

The Assistant Director advised the Working Group that the Committee agreement was subject to discussion with the local Residents Association and the Friends of Botanic Gardens, and that the temporary pitch would be for the period up to the end of September, 2018, subject to favourable site conditions to be determined by the Community Park Manager.

The Working Group considered the undernoted update report:

#### **“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

**The purpose of this report is to update members regarding the information event held to obtain resident views regarding a request from local Gaelic Clubs to provide temporary accommodation at lower Botanic Gardens adjacent to the Stranmillis Embankment.**

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

**It is recommended that Members note the report and agree to the request from Bredagh and St Malachy's GACs subject to:**

- **A restriction on the level of use during any given week and an agreed programme of use with the 2 Gaelic Clubs;**
- **The facilities are only available to those GAA Clubs displaced at Cherryvale;**
- **A portable toilet is provided during the period of the temporary use – September 2018;**

#### **3.0 Main report**

**A copy of the previous report is attached as Appendix A for convenience.**

**The People and Communities Committee received a report on the request from the GAA at its meeting on November 2017 and agreed to the request subject to consultation with residents. An information session was held on 9th January at St Bartholomew's, Stranmillis Road, to provide residents**

with an opportunity to hear about the proposal; to ask questions, receive clarification and complete a short survey conveying their views. A note of the comments during discussions was also kept to aid the writing of this report.

11 survey forms were completed. Four respondents were in favour; 4 were against it and 3 didn't mind. So it was quite a balanced view.

Nine of the respondents described themselves as users of the open space. The main uses were jogging, casual use of open space, including play; and walking the dog.

The main issues raised were:

1. The loss of the space for local residents and other users owing to the formal use for sports;
2. Increased noise from players and those watching;
3. Increased litter;
4. Potential for anti-social behaviour, the absence of a public toilet was perceived to be a problem;
5. Increased on street car parking in an already busy area;
6. Concern that temporary will become permanent;
7. Concern that other temporary uses may follow;
8. Damage to property from straying balls, particularly if hurling played;
9. Lack of changing and toilet facilities
10. Individuals playing ball games are already being redirected to the space from the great lawn – loss of facility.
11. Damage to the grounds after use, particularly if continuously used for matches
12. Lack of waste bins
13. Water level and drainage if site already an issue, will take longer to repair damage caused through continuous use.

It was clear from the open nature of the forum and the comments made that local residents value the space and have concerns that they will be excluded from the space, albeit some more than others.

In relation to the concerns, depending on the anticipated level of use by the Clubs, there will be times when the facility will not be available for use by local residents; it is also likely that there will be noise generated from the increased activity.

Council can however help mitigate some of the concerns, for example,

- Council staff will, as is in the case in other facilities, of a litter lift the morning after use;
- A portable toilet could be provided, albeit at a cost of £80.00 per month.
- An assurance from the council that the temporary use will end at the end of September 2018;
- Restriction on the use of the open space for Gaelic football only; and
- Restrict the times when the facility could be used – this could be achieved through discussions with the Clubs and based on a maximum use of 15 hours per week.

**Contact was made with Queens University Estates Department to make them aware of the proposal and to seek comment. To date no response has been received.”**

The Working Group noted the report and agreed to recommend the requests from Bredagh and St. Malachy’s GAC, as outlined in the report, to the People and Communities Committee.

In response to a Member’s request, the Working Group also agreed that, given the recent £3.8million restoration of the Tropical Ravine, a recommendation also be submitted that officers would prioritise the restoration of the Lord Kelvin statue in Botanic Gardens.

### **Temporary Closure of Olympia Drive**

The Assistant Director of City and Neighbourhood Services advised the Members of the necessity to temporarily close the pedestrian entrance from Olympia Drive to Olympia Leisure Centre, to allow the construction of a relocated and improved pedestrian entrance to the new facilities.

The Director of Property and Projects explained that the closure would commence on Monday, 5th March, for three weeks and that the new entrance, which would be called John Stewart Bell entrance, would be available to use from Friday, 23rd March. He advised the Members that the closure would be publicised on the Council’s social media platforms and that signs would also be located at the entrance from Wednesday, 28th February, to inform users of the temporary closure.

The Working Group noted the update which had been provided.

### **Future Agenda Items**

#### **Belfast South Community Resources**

The Working Group noted an invitation for Members to attend the launch of the new Belfast South Community Resources centre on Friday, 2nd March, at 11a.m.

### **Requests to attend a future meeting**

The Working Group agreed to receive presentations from Arellian Nursery School and Belfast Women's Aid at its next meeting, on Monday, 26th March, and to receive a presentation from Urban Villages, in relation to the former Gilpin's site on Sandy Row, at its meeting on Monday, 23rd April.

### **Tropical Ravine, Botanic Gardens**

In response to a request from the Members, the Director of Property and Projects agreed that a visit would be arranged for Members to the newly renovated Tropical Ravine in Botanic Gardens.

### **Flood Alleviation Measures**

The Director outlined to the Members that he would be attending a meeting in the forthcoming weeks in relation to a flood barrier which was being installed between Stranmillis and the Weir, and that he would provide the Working Group with an update at a future meeting.

Chairperson

# North Belfast Area Working Group

Tuesday, 27th February, 2018

## NORTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor Campbell (Chairperson);  
Aldermen Convery, Spence and  
Councillors Clarke, Corr Johnston,  
Magee, McCusker, Murphy and  
Pankhurst.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhoods;  
Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;  
Ms. C. Taggart, Community Services Manager;  
Ms. P. Flynn, Strategic Policy and Planning Officer; and  
Ms E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of the Lord Mayor, Councillor McAllister, and Aldermen Browne and L. Patterson.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 23rd January were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

### **Declaration of Interest**

Councillor Corr Johnston declared an interest in relation to item 6. 'Anti-Social Behaviour Work in North Belfast', in that her employment was linked to the Hubb youth engagement initiative.

### **Decision Tracker**

The Working Group noted that the Decision Tracker document had been emailed to Members before the meeting which provided Members with a brief overview of actions since the last meeting held on 23rd January.

### **Presentation – Ligoniel Improvement Association**

(Mr. F. Grant, Parks Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mr. J. Gray and Ms. M. Morgan, representing Ligoniel Improvement Association.



Ms. Morgan advised that the Association wanted to establish a linked heritage trail and programme of work on the North Belfast Hills Greenway that would draw in local people, create heritage champions, and help conserve and maintain the rich history and heritage of the area for both locals and visitors.

She informed the Working Group that objectives of the heritage trail were to:

- Link Ligoneil, Cars Glen, Cavehill and Belfast Castle;
- Promote access to a network of parks, mill ponds, waterways and walking routes;
- Consult and compile input from all of the communities spanning the length of the Greenway, in relation to the initiative;
- Strengthen partnerships between the Council, community and conservation groups across the North Belfast Hills;
- Preserve and promote local heritage sources;
- Develop and install interpretive heritage signage or art features across the trail; and
- Create sustainable interest in the hills for locals and tourists.

She explained that there was already a walking trail in existence, however, this could be further enhanced from Ligoneil to Cavehill with further access links to other Greenways across the Belfast Hills.

She advised that a range of community groups, schools and organisations were already engaged with the initiative and the Association hoped to further engage local people to become involved via information sessions. She highlighted that engagement events, to encourage exploration of the area, could include family fun days, guided heritage tours, biodiversity events, archaeological digs and exhibitions. She also pointed out that they could provide opportunities for volunteers to improve their skills such as the OCN Tour Guiding Level 2 qualification.

During discussion, Members welcomed the initiative and highlighted the potential and importance of conserving and investing in the Hills for residents and visitors.

During Members' questions, the representatives confirmed that they planned to start small by creating a forum with representatives from organisations and local communities. They advised that the Association were awaiting the outcome of funding applications, which totalled £310,000, for the project.

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

During further discussion, the Working Group noted that there were various proposals in relation to enhancing the Hills across Belfast and that it would be helpful to consider all the information to draft an overarching plan for the Belfast Hills.

One Member raised the possibility of considering this trail alongside other Greenway Projects in development and the potential to link to feasibility studies that were already underway for other parts of the Hills. The Director of Property and Projects advised that he would provide feedback on this, in due course.

One Member suggested that, as there had also been a proposal to develop the west of the Belfast Hills, it would be helpful to discuss the potential for an overarching plan with the West Area Working Group.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed that further research and information be compiled in relation to all of the projects and initiatives in relation to the development of the Belfast Hills, and a report be submitted for consideration at a future meeting of the North and West Area Working Groups.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour Work in North Belfast**

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

The Working Group was provided with an update on the work being undertaken by the North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership to support youth engagement and diversion across North Belfast.

The Safer City Manager reported that the Partnership was made up of Independent Members, Statutory Organisations and Elected Members and produced an annual action plan, which was funded by the Department for Justice and Council. She advised that they had identified 'addressing Anti-Social Behaviour' as one of several key priorities for the financial years 2016/17 and 2017/18 and various projects had been implemented from funding streams including Policing Committee Grants, PCSP Small Grants, and Tackling ASB. She highlighted that the People and Communities Committee had also agreed to a programme of work in relation to combating anti-social behaviour.

She advised that the North Belfast DPCSP had worked closely with the Education Authority to implement consultation events for young people from across the District, one of which won a Gold Participation Award from the Children's Commissioner in 2014/15.

She informed the Group that the North Belfast DPCSP was represented on the Education Authority Local Area Group, which was a forum whereby links could be developed with youth providers and other agencies, and information was shared about the work of the Education Authority.

The Safer City Manager apprised Members of the recent anti-social behaviour issues in Marrowbone Park and confirmed that details of the Community Safety Wardens for that area would be shared with the local Youth Workers.

She advised that three reports on positive usage of Belfast Parks had been produced recently, with the objective to ensure parks were safe to use, the impact of crowds gathering would be minimised and vandalism reduced. She highlighted that further research would be undertaken on the issue.

During discussion, the Working Group praised the work of the Safer Neighbourhood Officers and Youth Workers in North Belfast and the positive effects they were making to the area, however, noted that there were also gaps in support services in certain parts of North Belfast. The Safer City Manager advised that she would be meeting an Education Authority representative with the Community Services Manager to discuss these issues and new approaches and that she would highlight the issues Members had raised.

The Working Group noted the contents of the report and agreed that:

- further information be provided in relation to the number of outreach and centre based youth workers in North Belfast;
- details of the Safer Neighbourhood Officers for North Belfast would be shared with the local Youth Workers; and
- Members concerns, in relation to anti-social behaviour, would be raised with the Education Authority for consideration.

### **Phase IV Alley Gates Update**

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

The Safer City Manager provided an update on the progress of Phase 4 Alleygates in North Belfast. She advised that all alleygates included in the first Road Traffic Order had been installed and Officers were moving forward with a second Road Traffic Order to include the remaining replacement community gates, which had had the technical and legal issues resolved.

She confirmed that officers had progressed with the initial consultation stage on the final gate locations agreed by North Belfast Area Working to complete Phase 4:

- North Queen St/Limestone Road – 1 gate
- Ardilea Drive – 1 gate
- Lothair Avenue – 2 gates
- Ritchie St/Glasgow St – 3 gates

She highlighted that as a fast and high response rate had been received in relation to the consultations at Richie St/Glasgow St, the gates would be included in the second Road Traffic Order, and the remaining gates would be included in the third Road Traffic Order which was expected in summer, 2018.

She reminded the Working Group that the following Alleygates would be included in the second Draft Road Traffic Order for North Belfast for People and Communities Committee approval:

- To the rear of 1 - 11 Inver Avenue, 2 - 40 Victoria Gardens, 179 - 205 Cavehill Road, and 2a - 4 Charnwood Avenue, and to the side of 2 and 40 Victoria Gardens;
- To the rear of 13 - 17 Inver Avenue, 1 - 39 Victoria Gardens, 6 - 8 Charnwood Avenue, and 50 - 70 Salisbury Avenue, and to the side of 8 Charnwood Avenue and 17 Inver Avenue;
- To the rear of 3 - 5 Skegoneill Avenue, 24 - 52 Glantane Drive, 2 - 6 Glandore Gardens, 535 - 549 Antrim Road, and to the side of 2 Glandore Gardens, and 52 and 54 Glantane Drive;
- To the rear of 1-17 Cliftonville Street and 119-123 Cliftonville Road and to the side of 1 Cliftonville Street;
- To the rear of 278-294 Limestone Road and the side of 34 Oceanic Avenue;
- To the side of 2, 18 and 19 Jamaica Road and the side of 25 Havana Gardens;

- To the rear of 2-18 Jamaica Way and to the side of 2 Jamaica Way
- To the rear of 2-40 and to the side of 2 and 40 Clifton Crescent and to the rear of 1- 45 and the side of 1 and 45 Manor Street and to the rear of 1-3 and to the side of 3 Harcourt Drive and to the rear of 66-76 Cliftonville Road;
- To the rear of 4-54 and side of 2 and 4 and Manor Street; and
- To the rear of 2-16 Glasgow Street and 2-18 Ritchie Street and 6-10 and 5-9 Grove Court and to the side of 2, 12 and 14 Ritchie Street and 16 Glasgow Street.

Noted.

### **Girdwood Community Hub**

The Working Group considered the following report:

#### **“1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 To update the North AWG on the community management proposal to manage the youth space at Girdwood Community Hub.**

#### **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 Girdwood Community Hub project received a total value of £9,597,249 and was funded under ‘Priority 2 -Contributing to a Shared Society- Theme 1 Creating Public Shared Spaces’ of the Peace III programme with Belfast City Council as the Lead Partner for the delivery of the project. Girdwood Community Hub opened officially to the public on 15 January 2016 and is currently operated by GLL. It is acknowledged however that the Hub is not a leisure centre but a very different offering in terms of peace and reconciliation. The hub consists of a number of different elements and provides increased access to modern, vibrant leisure and community facilities all under one roof. Facilities include:**

- **Multi Use Pitch**
- **Gym & Health Spa**
- **Shared Space and dedicated Youth Space**
- **BMC Classrooms**
- **Café and Foyer area.**
- **Fitness Studio and Main Sports Hall**
- **Meeting and Conference facilities**

- 2.2 There is an aspiration for community management of the Hub and wider Girdwood site to include the pitch and in April 2016, community forum representatives highlighted this aspiration to North AWG. Community Services are leading on the development of community capacity with a view to potential community management should the conditions be right and if these are agreed by Council. The Youth Space is being used**

as a pilot for this aspiration. A break clause has been included in GLL's contract to allow this to happen if Council were minded given the appropriate assurances.

- 2.3 Prior to a community management contract being in place, Community Services are supporting the Youth Space Working Group in the development of the activity programme within the Youth Space. The programme is collaborative in nature involving local community youth providers, funded by BCC and the Executive Office, and provides a range of activity for young people including arts, IT and sports and encourages access to other services within the Hub. The programme also includes outreach and detached work which aims to support local young people at risk, reduce ASB on site and encourage involvement in the Youth Space and Hub.
- 2.4 Any submission to manage the youth space ideally would be cross community and would receive input from the youth space working group (YSWG) and Girdwood Community Hub endorsement. A submission from a community partner will be evaluated by BCC and will proceed to committee and Council for approval.
- 2.5 North Talks Too which is a collaborative project involving Lower Oldpark Community Association, Lower Shankill Community Association and Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum put forward an outline expression of interest to community manage the Youth Space at the Hub which has been shared with the wider Community Forum. The North Talks Too project has worked since 2008 with local partners to become the primary peace and reconciliation and good relations agency in this part of North Belfast. This project has now established a new legal structure, the Girdwood Community Trust to move this work forward. Over the last 18 months NTT/GCT, supported by Community Services, have been working to develop the detail of this proposal, taking into consideration the views of the Youth Space group and the Forum. Further technical assistance was procured to provide expert guidance and facilitate discussions to ensure future arrangements have the support of all communities surrounding the Hub.
- 2.6 Following several submissions to the YSWG for comment and change, GCT are now at the stage where they want to submit the Community Management Proposal to Council for assessment.
- 2.7 As agreed from the outset the proposal was put in front of the Girdwood Community Hub Forum for endorsement.
- 3.0 Key Issues

- 3.1 At a special meeting of the hub forum on Thursday 01 February 2018 GCT presented the latest draft of the community management proposal for consideration and comment.**
- 3.2 At the special meeting of the hub forum it was noted that forum members are broadly supportive of the proposal and recognised the efforts and time that has gone in to developing the proposal thus far.**
- 3.3 The proposal however was not endorsed by the Community Forum with the main concern being the membership of the GCT board. Representatives from the Greater New Lodge Community Empowerment Partnership (GNLCEP) noted that current membership includes Lower Shankill, Lower Oldpark and Cliftonville but raised concern that the board does not include a member representing the Greater New Lodge area.**
- 3.4 At the special meeting of the hub forum there was a view that Girdwood Community Hub is a peace and reconciliation centre for everyone and therefore if the Trust is to use the Girdwood name that the GCT board should be extended to include a representative from the Greater New Lodge area. The four neighbouring communities would therefore all have a say in the management and programming of the Girdwood Youth Space.**
- 3.5 GCT members reinforced that the trust is a legal entity of the NTT project which does not include a representative from GNLCEP. This inclusion would require much more detailed discussion at a local level of the three communities historically involved and therefore the trust at this stage would prefer the proposal to go forward to Council as it is with a commitment to continue regular and meaningful dialogue with GNLCEP representatives over the next 12 months in an attempt to resolve the governance issues.**
- 3.6 The special meeting of the hub forum concluded with no resolution reached regarding the governance issues.**
- 4.0 Recommendations**
- 4.1 The North AWG are asked to note the content of the report and to consider appropriate next steps and action.”**

During discussion, the Community Services Manager explained the history of the representatives of the various groups involved in the Girdwood Community Hub Forum and associated Sub Groups.

She highlighted that the Girdwood Community Hub Forum had failed to endorse the proposal, for the community management of the Youth Space at the Hub, on the basis that the board should have a representative from the Greater New Lodge Community

Empowerment Partnership; therefore, the future governance of the Youth Space was on hold until the matter was resolved.

Members highlighted that, historically, there had been good practice of joint working amongst all of the community groups involved in making the Girdwood Hub successful and raised the importance of ensuring the future governance of the Youth Space and wider Girdwood Hub was implemented appropriately.

One Member suggested that the governance structure of the Youth Space should include representatives from all four of the neighbouring communities. One Member also suggested that further discussion and information was required, to progress the matter for all of the Groups involved.

During discussion, the Director of Property and Projects also provided an update on the Department for Communities consultation in relation to the proposed leisure facility on the Girdwood site.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed that:

- To resolve the future governance of the Youth Space at Girdwood, further engagement and discussion was required by all of the groups involved in community management proposal and the Working Group be kept up to date with these discussions;
- the Community Services Manager would send a list of representatives of the Youth Space Working Group at Girdwood to Members; and
- Mr. M. O'Donnell, Department for Communities, be invited to attend a future meeting of the Working Group to discuss the on-going consultation on the proposed leisure facility on the Girdwood site.

### **Physical Programme Update**

The Director of Property and Projects provided an update in relation to the Council's Physical Programme. He advised that this included over 200 live projects under a range of funding streams such as the Capital Programme, the Leisure Transformation Programme, LIF, BIF, Social Outcomes Fund (SOF), Peace IV, and the projects, which the Council was delivering on behalf of other agencies.

He highlighted that the report provided a status update on the outstanding LIF projects which included Marrowbone Parochial Hall, Star Neighbourhood Centre and Intercomm Ireland projects.

The Working Group noted the contents of the report and the current status of the projects that had been progressed under LIF 2.

### **Future Agenda Items**

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

- Information sessions on Inner North Belfast Projects;
- Zoo Update;
- Harbour Commissioner Update;
- York Street Interchange Update;
- Quarterly updates from Ulster University regarding its community engagement and programme of building work;
- Duncairn Arts;
- Grove United FC and Malachians FC (Shore Road Playing Fields);
- Belfast Castle Mountain Biking – Stakeholders;
- VOYPIC – Update on Corporation St; and
- Iontaobhas Bheann Mhadagáin

The Group agreed that a maximum of four presentations would be scheduled for next month's meeting.

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

The Members agreed that the next meeting of the Working Group be scheduled for Tuesday, 20th March.

Chairperson



# East Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 8th March, 2018

## MEETING OF EAST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Alderman Haire (Chairperson);  
The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Copeland;  
Aldermen Rodgers and Sandford and  
Councillors Armitage, Graham, Hussey, Johnston,  
Long, McReynolds, Mullan, Newton, O'Donnell and  
O'Neill.

In attendance: Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;  
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,  
Mr. C. Smyth, Divisional Solicitor,  
Mr. J. Uprichard, Policy and Performance Analyst; and  
Mr. G. Graham, Democratic Services Assistant.

### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from The High Sheriff, Councillor Howard and Councillor Dorrian.

### **Minutes**

The Working Group agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 8th February were an accurate record of proceedings.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were recorded.

### **King George V Playing Fields**

Mr. M. Sefton, N.I. Water, and Mr. S. Henderson, Glentoran Football Club, attended in connection with this item and were welcomed by the Chairperson.

The Director of Property and Projects provided the Working Group with an update on the background and risks associated with the proposed new pitch development at the King George V Playing Fields and advised that the Members might wish to consider alternative development proposals for a new pitch provision at Blanchflower Playing Fields, given the potential disruption which would be created as a result of the relocation of a new pump house at the former location.

He provided the Working Group with an outline of the original proposal to develop the King George V Playing Fields in partnership with Glentoran Football Club as part of the redevelopment of the Oval football stadium. He pointed out however that central government funding for the venture had not been forthcoming due to the inability of the Northern Ireland Assembly to form an Executive and that, subsequently, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting in January, 2018, had taken a decision to proceed with the 3G pitch proposal decoupled from the Oval development proposal.

Mr. Sefton outlined the significant excavation work and logistical work associated with the relocation of the pump house and which could adversely impact on any new pitch facility developed at the site. He referred to the potential for pitch subsidence and access problems, caused by heavy earth moving equipment travelling to and from the site.

The Director of Property and Projects identified a number of additional factors which the Working Group might wish to consider and which could adversely impact on any future development proposals at the King George V Playing Fields. He referred specifically to potential disruption to local residents, a situation which would be exacerbated further, by the subsequent work required to be undertaken by Northern Ireland Water, as part of its infrastructure upgrade at the site.

The Director reminded the Working Group that, if the current pitch development proposals were to proceed at The King George V Playing Fields, the work would have a significant impact on the Connswater Community Greenway (C.C.G.), in that the path network would need to be modified to facilitate access to the site by construction traffic. He referred also to the fact that the playing fields were protected under a deed of dedication by virtue of Fields in Trust and which necessitated consultation, on the part of the developer, Belfast City Council and Northern Ireland Water, before any development work could be progressed. He reminded the Working Group that the 3G pitch would require flood lit provision and given its close proximity to local residents, this would require planning permission and the installation of which could cause further potential disruption for the local community.

The Working Group considered the information which had been provided and after discussion it was

Moved by Councillor Long,  
Seconded by Councillor Armitage,

That the Working Group agrees to proceed with the development proposal at the site of The King George V Playing Fields.

On a vote by a show of hands six Members voted for the proposal and eight Members against, the proposal was accordingly declared lost.

After further discussion, the Working Group agreed, as an interim measure, that it proceed with a proposal to undertake a pitch development programme, incorporating a 3G pitch at Blanchflower Playing Fields. It agreed also to authorise officers to undertake research into the provision of suitable and convenient pitch facilities for Glentoran Football club, including its youth academy, subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

### **Leisure Transformation – Templemore**

M. M. Hare, (McAdam Design), Ms K. Guiney, (Consarc Design) and Mr. A. Todd (Tandem Design), attended in connection with this item

The Director of Finance and Resources provided the Working Group with an update on the future design and management arrangements associated with the operation of the former Templemore Baths. The Working Group was provided with a presentation in respect of how the new proposed facility would be integrated with the existing Victorian Structure in such a way to enhance its aesthetic value and built heritage, while at the same time offer a unique experience as a functional wet leisure facility. The Working Group was reminded of the limited time available in respect of lodging the planning application and of the inter-dependency of agreeing the design proposal in respect of the larger leisure development programme, including the external funding arrangements provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

After consideration, the Working Group thanked the design team for their informative presentation and agreed the design proposals as presented, subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

The Director of Finance and Resources provided a further update on the future management arrangements associated with the operation of the proposed Leisure facility at Templemore Baths. He highlighted the need to progress agree the management arrangements for the centre as a matter of priority, given that financial assistance was available from the Heritage Lottery Fund as co-funding partners.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

### **Update on Physical Programme**

The Director provided the Working Group with an update on the Council's physical programme comprising over 200 live projects and which included a diverse range of funding streams comprising the Council's Capital Programme, the Leisure Transformation programme (LIF), the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF), and the Social Outcomes Fund (SOF).

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided, including the progress to date in regard to a range of proposed capital projects in addition to those capital works which had already commenced. The Working group agreed further, to move the 4 Outer East Belfast Investment Fund projects comprising; (Braniel Church, Hanwood, TAGIT Boxing Club and Castlereagh Presbyterian Church) to Stage 3 Committed under the Belfast Investment Fund, with a maximum budget allocation as outlined within the report, subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. The Members were advised also, that all the projects would be subject to the Council's due diligence process and to the completion of satisfactory tender returns

### **Towell House Invitation**

The Director informed the Working Group that on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 an invitation had been received from Towell House inviting Members to attend the opening of the John Watts Garden on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 and which had received financial assistance from the Council's Local Investment Fund. The Members were informed that the sensory garden had been created in honour of the late John Watts who had assisted in the establishment of The Towell Building Trust.

The Working Group acknowledged the invitation which had been received.

### **Memorial Bench**

The Assistant Director provided the Working Group with a request made on behalf of GMB Trade Union in respect of the installation of a memorial bench at Tullycarnet Park in respect of Mr. John Dawson a full time Union official with Belfast City Council and who had recently passed away. She requested that the Working Group authorise the expenditure under delegated authority in respect of the memorial bench and stated that, it was intended that the dedication event would take place on Friday, 27th April, 2018.

The Working Group considered the request agreed to incur the expenditure in respect of the memorial bench, subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The Working Group agreed that its next meeting would be held on Thursday, 5th April at 5.00 p.m.