

North Belfast Area Working Group

Tuesday, 20th March, 2018

NORTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor Campbell (Chairperson);
Aldermen Convery and L. Patterson;
Councillors Clarke, Corr Johnston,
Magee, 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;
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 Browne.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 27th February were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

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 27th February.

Presentation –The Duncairn Centre for Culture and Arts

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mr. R. Griffen, representing The Duncairn Centre for Culture and Arts.

Mr. Griffen provided an overview of the Duncairn Centre, which comprised 3 art studios, exhibition galleries, community meeting rooms, 190 capacity theatre/concert hall and rehearsal space, café and conference rooms. He advised that the Centre provided a platform for artists and musicians to showcase their work, as well as give the local community access to an arts and cultural programme of the highest quality.

He explained that it was a shared space arts facility and their programme of work included a young artist programme, which supported four local artist residencies, and a music programme with regularly sold out shows. He reported that the Centre had also hosted 'Other Voices' the music television series and arts festival, over three days in October, 2017.

Mr. Griffin invited Members to visit the Centre and highlighted The Bigger Breakfast Super Sunday Sessions which included free arts and music event with workshops and performances.

He advised that they offered up to 70 arts workshops and classes per month and attracted world renowned artists, and they had welcomed more than 120,000 visitors and participants to the centre and had established a great reputation in Belfast and beyond.

He explained that, since opening, in 2014, The Duncairn had had a major and positive impact on the landscape of North Belfast and they would like to engage new audiences and raise the profile of the Centre further. He informed the Group that, in order to accommodate demand and extend their services, the Centre wished to extend the facility in a two-tier approach: Firstly, to develop a mobile unit for an arts hub, and secondly, a refurbishment of the mezzanine of the 'old school hall' to increase capacity.

During discussion, Members welcomed the work of The Duncairn Centre for Culture and Arts for North Belfast and its goals and aspirations for the future.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Griffen for his attendance and he retired from the meeting.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

Presentation – Department for Communities, Girdwood Development

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting, Mr. C. Ellis, representing the Department for Communities.

Mr. Ellis provided an update on the next phase of the Girdwood Park Development. He advised that the development of the mixed use site could include an indoor sports facility with a unique leisure provision of regional or international impact.

He suggested that the following mix of facilities were options for consideration:

- A large indoor court (basketball/netball/ futsal), wet facility and changing facilities;
- Indoor climbing facilities, wet facility and changing facilities;
- High performance boxing facility; and
- Boxing/climbing/futsal facility.

He informed the Working Group that a number of options would be considered as part of the viability study and appraisals process and a business case would then be commissioned once the capital budget had been confirmed. He highlighted that there was also the potential for a joint business case with the Council.

During discussion, Mr. Ellis advised Members that the aforementioned options were based on the key draft sports framework and that consultation with stakeholders would take place in the future.

In answer to a Members question, he pointed out that the grounds were too small for an outdoor athletics facility.

After discussion, the Chairperson thanked Mr. Ellis for attending and he left the meeting.

With the permission of the Chairperson, the Community Services Manager provided the Working Group with an update on the ongoing engagement in relation to the future governance of the Youth Space at Girdwood. She advised that meetings had continued with the community groups involved and the Working Group would be kept up to date with the progress of the discussions.

Noted.

LIF Update - Verbal Update

The Director of Property and Projects provided 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 advised that the Ardoyne Shankill Health Partnership project scope had been estimated at £15,000 for new play equipment which was above the threshold of available funding and Councillor McCusker would be advised of this.

During discussion, the Working Group agreed that North Belfast Alternatives and Good Morning North Belfast project (estimated at £20,000) be progressed to Stage two, Due Diligence, of the LIF process and the following new proposal be put forward by the Group for viability:

Proposal	Proposed By	Up to £
Somme Group – cross community memorial	Cllr Corr Johnston	£16,000 approx.

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;
- Grove United FC and Malachians FC (Shore Road Playing Fields);
- Belfast Castle Mountain Biking – Stakeholders;
- VOYPIC – Update on Corporation St;
- Iontaobhas Bheann Mhadagáin; and
- Tidal Project 2019/2020.

Chairperson