

South Belfast Area Working Group

Monday, 26th March, 2018

MEETING OF SOUTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

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

In attendance: Mrs. R. Crozier, Assistant Director, City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. M. Doherty, Project Manager, Property and
Projects; and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology for inability to attend was reported from Councillor Nicholl.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 26th February were approved.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Presentations

Arellian Nursery School

The Chairperson advised the Working Group that Ms. J. Pogue, Principal of Arellian Nursery, and Mr. C. Stalford MLA were in attendance and they were welcomed to the meeting.

The Principal advised the Working Group that Arellian Nursery School was the oldest Nursery in the island of Ireland, having been founded in 1928. The Working Group was advised that it was within the top ten percent of areas with multiple deprivation in Northern Ireland.

She provided the Members with an overview of the school and explained that it was heavily oversubscribed each year and that, as a result, the Education Authority permitted the nursery to operate temporary variance, allowing it to offer 60 preschool places instead of the prescribed 52 places.

She pointed out to the Members that the extensive outdoor space, which had once been the pride and joy of the Nursery, was now dilapidated and not fit for purpose. She

explained that over the last eight years, there had been a severe lack of funding to maintain the outdoor space and that the Education Authority was unable to fund any works which were required outside.

The Members were advised that a recent Health and Safety inspection had resulted in the removal of a large wooden boat and train as well as the swings. She highlighted to the Working Group that the outside area was extremely important for the pupils as numerous children attending did not have a garden or a park to play in. She advised the Members that numerous community groups and other schools used the grounds outside.

The Principal outlined that, despite the Nursery's best efforts to fundraise, it was asking for help with funding towards renovating the outdoor area. She invited the Working Group to visit the Nursery, in order to see the current state of the space and the potential that it had.

Mr. Stalford MLA stated that approximately £100,000 had been estimated for the works.

A Member suggested that, while there was no LIF funding available, the Nursery could investigate assistance through the Alpha Fund, which provided funding up to £50,000 for outdoor works.

A further Member suggested that the Council had expertise in applications for funding and that this support could be provided to the Nursery. The Member also suggested that Developer Contributions could be considered, as part of the nearby Transport Hub/Weaver's Cross project, and that contact also be made with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to investigate any potential assistance which they could provide, given that numerous tenants attended the school.

The Member further suggested that a site visit could take place at the Nursery, along with the relevant statutory agencies, in order to commence discussions on what assistance could be given to the Nursery.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed that an officer from Property and Projects would be assigned to look at the proposals for the Nursery and liaise with Ms. Pogue to assist the school in applying for funding, including an application to the Alpha Programme. The Assistant Director also agreed to liaise with Ms. Pogue and to investigate Community Development support options.

The Chairperson thanked Ms. Pogue for her attendance and she retired from the meeting.

Belfast Women's Aid

The Chairperson advised the Working Group that Ms. N. Collins, Team Leader at South Belfast Belfast Women's Aid, was in attendance and she was welcomed to the meeting.

She explained that Belfast Women's Aid had purchased the property in Adelaide Park in 1983 and, in 1986, they bought the property next door. She advised the Working Group that, in 2005, after consultation with the women who had used the refuge in the past, they had replaced the two dwellings with one purpose-built property. She outlined

that the current property had 20 en suite bedrooms with a mixture of single and family rooms, catering for women with up to seven children.

She explained that there were six shared, open-plan kitchens in the refuge, which were essential for the women to interact and for co-counselling. She outlined that each kitchen had undergone significant wear and tear over the past twelve years, with the refuge having catered for over 3,000 women and children since opening. She added that the adapted kitchen for wheelchair users was also no longer fit for use.

The Working Group was advised that Women's Aid had received a quote of £50,000 in order to fit six new kitchens at the property.

She advised the Working Group that they were welcome to undertake a visit to see the refuge in south Belfast.

In response to questions from Members, Ms. Collins reported that Women's Aid received most of its funding through the Supporting People programme, which was administered by the Housing Executive.

The Members advised Ms. Collins that, while they had no LIF funding to allocate, they would like to help.

A Member stated that the Council's Environmental Health unit had a scheme for the replacement of unsuitable kitchens in rented domestic properties.

A further Member suggested contacting companies which sold kitchens, including IKEA, as they often undertook corporate social responsibility projects.

The Project Manager and the Assistant Director advised the Working Group that they would liaise with Ms. Collins and could look into various funding options for the replacement kitchens, including the kitchen replacement scheme through the Environmental Health section.

The Working Group agreed to this course of action.

The Chairperson thanked Ms. Collins for her attendance and she retired from the meeting.

Physical Programme Update

The Working Group considered the undernoted report:

"1. Introduction

The Council's Physical Programme covers over 200 live projects under a range of funding streams including the Capital Programme, the Leisure Transformation Programme, LIF, BIF, SOF and the projects which the Council is delivering in behalf of other agencies. This paper provides an update to South AWG on the Physical Programme.

2. Recommendations

Members are asked to

- Note the contents of this report and the updates on LIF attached (See Appendix 1 on modern.gov)

3. Local Investment Fund

Through the Local Investment Fund members committed their initial allocation of £1,127,500 to 13 projects and the Phase 2 funding allocation of £800,000 to a further 9 projects. From the initial allocation of funding, the projects at Finaghy Bridge and Taughmonagh Community Forum are yet to pass due diligence, meaning 11 of the 13 projects are either practically complete or complete. Of the phase 2 allocation, LORAG – John Murray Lock house (SLIF2-13) is at initial stage and the rest of the project works are either ongoing or complete for eight of the ten projects.

A full progress report of all projects is attached to this report at Appendix 1. The table below outlines the status and the financial allocations.

Stage/ Description	LIF 1		LIF 2	
	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)
Number of Projects Completed	9 (69%)	£829,641	6 (55%)	£463,000
Number of Projects in Delivery	2 (15%)	153,959	3 (27%)	£213,000
Number of Projects in Pre-construction		£0	1 (9%)	£80,000
Number of Project in Initial Stage (Due Diligence)	2 (15%)	100,000	1 (9%)	£40,000
Total Number of Approved Projects	13	£1,083,600	11	£796,000

Holylands Area Improvement Initiative (SLIF2-07) – The project went through Due Diligence on 1st March 2018 subject to satisfactory agreements put in place with the Department for Infrastructure regarding maintenance for the trees. The officer is continuing to work with Legal Services to finalise the funding agreement and with the community group/ Dfl to progress the project.

4. Belfast Investment Fund

£5.5m was allocated to South under BIF with a further £500k ringfenced for projects in the Balmoral DEA following LGR. 7 projects were identified and 6 of these projects have received funding allocation.

West	Stage 3—Lagan Gateway—£2.1m; Lanyon Tunnels—£1.3m; Bredagh GAC- £700k Stage 2— Gilpins— £1.3m Stage 1— <i>Belfast Islamic Centre—no commitment</i>
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Balmoral DEA	Stage 1— <i>Linfield FC/ Boys Brigade and Belvoir FC—£250k; Knockbreda Parish Church Hall—£250k</i>
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Below are the brief updates on the projects that have received in-principle funding.

Project	Status and update
Lagan Gateway	Project works on site has been stopped as the contractor went into administration. Discussion with contractor, administrator and legal is ongoing to resolve the situation.
Lanyon Tunnels	Project has been delayed due to legal proceedings regarding the adjacent development. Officer is now looking at the feasibility for an alternative solution with a single access from the Lanyon side.
Bredagh GAC	Design team has been appointed. The club is working with the Residents Committee from the adjacent Belltowers apartment complex to agree appropriate access arrangements.
Gilpins	Meetings took place with Department for Communities and community stakeholders. DfC to formally confirm commitment as Lead Partner. There is a requirement to fully scope out project in terms of community and political requirements for the scheme.
Linfield FC/ Boys Brigade and Belvoir FC *	BIF support to focus on Phase 1A of the sports hub project i.e. replacement of Belvoir FCs grass football with associated widen of adjacent road access and resurface of existing car park. (estimated cost £258,143). Officer engagement ongoing and initial assessment of project underway.
Knockbreda Parish Church	Project at initial stage. Planning to take through Due Diligence on the 12th April 2018.

Hall *	
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* *Outer South projects*

5. Capital Programme

The Capital Programme is the rolling programme of enhancing existing Council assets or building / buying new ones. Below are the updates on the projects under the programme in South.

Project	Status and update
LTP- Olympia	Stage 3 – Committed. On Ground. Project opening scheduled for May 2018
Alleygating Phase 4 – City wide	Stage 3 – Committed. On Ground
Playground Refurbishment Programme 2017/2018 – City wide	Stage 3 – Committed. On Ground
Pitches Programme- Ulidia Playing Fields	Stage 3 – Committed.
Palm House, Botanic Gardens	Stage 1- Emerging. Link to Tropical Ravine

6. Externally- funded programmes

Social Investment Fund- The Council is acting as a delivery agent on behalf of the Executive Office to deliver capital projects under the Social Investment Fund. Members are asked to note that approval to proceed to appointment of Integrated Design Teams has been received from the Executive Office for 6 projects, 2 of which are in the South Belfast –

- Mornington Community Project (£214,879)
- South City Resource and Dev't Centre (St. Simon's) (£486,905)

Urban Villages - Members are asked to note that officers are continuing to work with UV on the Rev Robert Bradford Memorial Playground project and other emerging UV projects.”

In response to a Member's question regarding the design and costings of the new Finaghy Bridge, the Project Manager agreed that a report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Area Working Group for its consideration.

Provision of Grit in Ice/Snow Conditions

The Assistant Director advised the Working Group that the People and Communities Committee had deferred consideration of a report on the provision of grit by the Council in ice/snow conditions at its last meeting. She advised the Members that she was awaiting legal advice on the Council's liability and that a report would be submitted to the next Working Group meeting to consider the locations of grit boxes within South Belfast.

The Palm House, Botanic Gardens

The Assistant Director advised the Working Group that, since the recent renovation of the Tropical Ravine had now been completed, talks were ongoing with the Heritage Lottery Fund regarding the potential renovation of the Palm House.

In response to a Member's question regarding the Kelvin statue within Botanic Gardens, she confirmed that options were being considered in relation to the necessary repairs.

Olympia Regeneration Project – "Name the Road"

The Assistant Director advised the Members that over 500 submissions had been made by members of the public, in response to the Council's "name the road" call, for the new road between the Boucher Road and the Olympia Leisure Centre.

She advised the Working Group that the suggestions had been sorted into four themes, namely, football, the local environment, local people and Greek/Olympia names.

A number of Members expressed some disappointment at the shortlist of names which had been selected by a Panel officers from City and Neighbourhood Services, Property and Projects and Building Control.

A number of Members made additional suggestions for the name of the road.

The Assistant Director advised the Working Group that the Panel had to ensure that the proposed new name did not duplicate an existing street name in the City, and that there would be support for the proposed street name from local representatives and both of the adjoining communities.

The Working Group noted the shortlist of names and requested that the Assistant Director considered whether some of the additional names could be added to the shortlist before going out for consultation.

Strangford Avenue Playing Fields

A Member advised the Working Group that Glenveagh School had recently worked with Belfast Healthy Cities to create an adapted cycle route in Strangford Avenue Playing Fields.

A further Member added that a number of special schools used the Playing Fields and that, perhaps, officers could look at the amenity of the site and ways in which it could be made more user-friendly for the needs of the pupils at those schools.

The Working Group agreed that officers would look at the amenity of the site at Strangford Avenue Playing Fields in terms of ensuring it was suitable for all local stakeholders and that a report would be submitted to the Area Working Group in due course.

Future Agenda Items

The Working Group agreed to receive an update from Urban Villages on the Gilpin's site at its meeting on 23rd April.

The Working Group also agreed to receive an update from the project consultants and the Rivers Agency on the Flood Alleviation Measures at Stranmillis at its meeting in May.

Chairperson