



Rose Crozier
Director of Neighbourhood Services
Belfast City Council
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Friday, 25 January 2019

Ref: Transfer of Land River Terrace (Green Area)

Dear Rose

Thank you for taking the time to listen to our proposals for the John Murray Lock House, McConnell Lock, Lagan Walkway and River Terrace (Green) area. You will now have had time to read this exciting project's Economic Appraisal and Business Case which was funded by the Department for Communities. Please find attached the Appraisal and Business Case in full.

The Lower Ormeau has been impacted greatly by the redevelopment of Belfast which has largely taken place with the communities 'back' to these developments. Today the Lower Ormeau is looking very much outwards and we want to join with Belfast City Council in their vision and strategy of 'Back to the River'.

As a community, Lower Ormeau is ranked number 79 out of 890 SOAs in Northern Ireland in terms of Multiple Deprivation measures. This is within the top 10% of Multiple Deprivation and Lower Ormeau is a Neighbourhood Renewal area. NISRA statistics state that the area is ranked 27 out of 890 SOAs in Northern Ireland for quality of living environment (top 3%) and 44 for health and disability (top 5%). This evidences the huge social need in this small inner city area.

In partnership with Belfast City Council the community has developed Shaftesbury Community and Recreation Centre into a very successful, award winning Healthy Living Centre that serves not only the local need but the emerging needs of our wider growing communities. We believe LORAG's proposal builds on this success and promises to create greater linkages and community sustainability as well as a sense of community pride and ownership in the wider developments that are taking place in Belfast.

LORAG are currently seeking partnership and support in taking this project forward and we very much view Belfast City Council as a key partner in this regard. LORAG are currently identifying potential funding partners and we have submitted an application to The Executive Office Urban Villages to support the project. The project has been shortlisted for funding and the Appraisal and Business Case are under The Executive Office active consideration.

At this point in the project LORAG are requesting that Belfast City Council transfer ownership of the grassed (Green) area between the Lock House and the old Water Pumping Station in River Terrace. The transfer will allow us to develop this site as a Community Garden/Green Space and Men's/Women's Shed. The community vision is that this site will become integral to the projects wider Lagan Walkway and McConnell Lock development.

If you require any additional information in consideration of this request please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,


John Gormley

Chair

April 2018

John Murray Lockhouse Development

Feasibility Study and Economic Appraisal



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