

# City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group

Tuesday, 12th April, 2022

## THE CITY HALL/CITY HALL GROUNDS INSTALLATIONS WORKING GROUP MINUTES

HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Aldermen Sandford (for Alderman Kingston) and Rodgers;  
and Councillors Beattie (items 1 - 2) (Councillor McLaughlin  
for Councillor Beattie items 3 - 5), Lyons and O'Hara.

In attendance: Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;  
Ms. K. Mullen, Project Sponsor; and  
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

### **Chairing of Meeting**

Councillor Beattie in the Chair.

### **Apologies**

An apology was reported for Councillor Ferguson.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 16th February were agreed as a correct record.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were recorded.

### **Presentation - Mary Ann McCracken (Paula Reynolds)**

The Working Group received from Paula Reynolds a presentation on the life and times of Mary Ann McCracken.

A copy of the presentation is available on the Modern.gov website.

The Group thanked Paula for her informative presentation.

(Councillor McLaughlin in the Chair.)

### **Presentation - Winifred Carney (Ruth Taillon)**

Ruth Taillon was in attendance and provided the Working Group with a presentation on the life of Winifred Carney.

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The Working Group thanked Ruth for her detailed presentation, a copy of which is available on the modern.gov website.

### **Stained Glass Windows – Update report**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**To obtain agreement on a way forward with regard to various motions regarding celebratory and/or commemorative stained-glass windows in City Hall.**

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

**The Working Group is asked to**

- **note the current position in respect of stained glass windows in the City Hall**
- **agree that all proposals in relation to stained glass windows are now taken via the Installation Working Group**
- **note the decision taken by the SP and R Committee in 2018 in respect of progressing with a stained glass window to recognise the LGBT community and confirm if they still wish to progress with this and if so to consider the optimum location**
- **note that there are still a number of outstanding notice of motions in respect of other stained glass window proposals and agree if they wish officers to work these work up or consider other options in terms of how to take these forward (e.g. via the proposed new arc in City Hall Grounds)**
- **consider if there are any other proposals at this stage to be reviewed**
- **For those options to be worked up further agree to seek support and advice from the relevant subject matter experts with further detail to be brought back to a future Installations Working Group**

**In considering all of the above, Members are asked to note that there are a limited number of windows left within the City Hall. In addition, projects will be required to be added onto the Capital Programme and brought through the Council’s three stage approval process.**

#### **3.0 Main Report**

##### **Key Issues**

- #### **3.1 The current situation in regard to stained glass celebratory / commemorative windows in City Hall and original historic windows is as follows:**

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- On the ground floor, there are 12 ‘themed’ stained glass windows. All but one of these are in areas of the City Hall considered as public areas. The ‘Women’s History’ window is just beyond the doors and the point where security ask visitors to register before going to BDM (North West corridor). There are two free windows adjacent to the Women’s History window.
- On the first floor, there are 3 themed windows on the Rotunda and then a further 46 historic windows original to the building across the Chamber, Function Rooms and 2 main staircases. There is also a number in non-accessible areas such as Whispering Gallery, kitchens, parlour etc

3.2 The various themed categories of the 15 windows installed since the building opened in 1906 can be categorised as below. There is no particular order to these –

### Celebratory:

- City Hall Centenary 2006
- Celtic Myths & Legends 2012
- Women’s History 2016

### Commemorative:

- Pathways 2005
- Famine 1999
- Dockers Strike 2007
- Spanish Civil War 2015
- Sir Crawford McCullagh 1951
- Lady McCullagh 1951

### Military/ Security Forces:

- North Irish Horse WW1 1925
- North Irish Horse WW2 1962
- King’s Tribute 1920
- RUC 1999
- British Army 1993
- UDR 1992

3.3 There have been four notices of motion regarding stained glass windows in recent years a number of which are outstanding. These are outlined below

- [Recognition of the Health Service in Belfast \(Notice of Motion 03/05/2016\)](#) which noted – ‘Over the years this

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*Council has regularly highlighted the dedication and service of all those working in the Health Service in Belfast. To recognise this caring and dedicated group of people across a broad range of different specialties and services, the Council agrees to the installation of a stained glass window in the City Hall to commemorate and celebrate the contribution that those working in the Health Service have made to the lives of the citizens of our City'. This was referred to the Diversity Working Group in May 2016. The Group made no specific proposals for this window but agreed it should be part of a discussion on City Hall grounds. It was discussed at a Review of City Hall Grounds meeting on 30 September 2016 but no definitive action was agreed at that time. The Diversity Group was abolished after its last meeting in September 2016 and no specific political discussion has taken place since regarding this matter.*

- *[The concept of a window to celebrate the contribution that sport has made to Belfast and to Northern Ireland – NoM May 2015](#) which noted 'Over many years, the Council has worked closely with the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure; Sport Northern Ireland; sports' governing bodies and numerous clubs, teams and organisations to bring about many benefits to our capital City, Accordingly, the Council agrees to the installation of a stained glass window in the City Hall to celebrate the contribution which sport has made to Belfast and to Northern Ireland.'. This was referred to Diversity Working Group in June 2015 but deferred due to the development of sports heroes section in the City Hall memorabilia exhibition.*
- *[The acknowledgement of the positive role which the LGBT community plays in our city – NoM 03/04/2017](#) which noted 'This Council acknowledges the positive role which the LGBT community plays in our City, whose visibility creates a more welcoming and vibrant City. Recognising that one of the Council's primary aims is to make the environment of the City Hall more balanced, inclusive and reflective of all of the citizens of the City, the Council agrees to commission a stained glass window to celebrate the contribution of our LGBT citizens and install this in an appropriate location in the City Hall.'*
- *The 321 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company – [NoM Council 02/02/2017](#) – 'This Council acknowledges the vital role which 321 Explosives Ordnance Disposal Company, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, has provided*

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*to our City and its citizens over a number of decades. Their sacrifice and dedication has saved many lives and helped preserve our city from those who would physically destroy it. The Council agrees to commission a stained glass window to acknowledge their dedication and service and install this in an appropriate location in the City Hall*

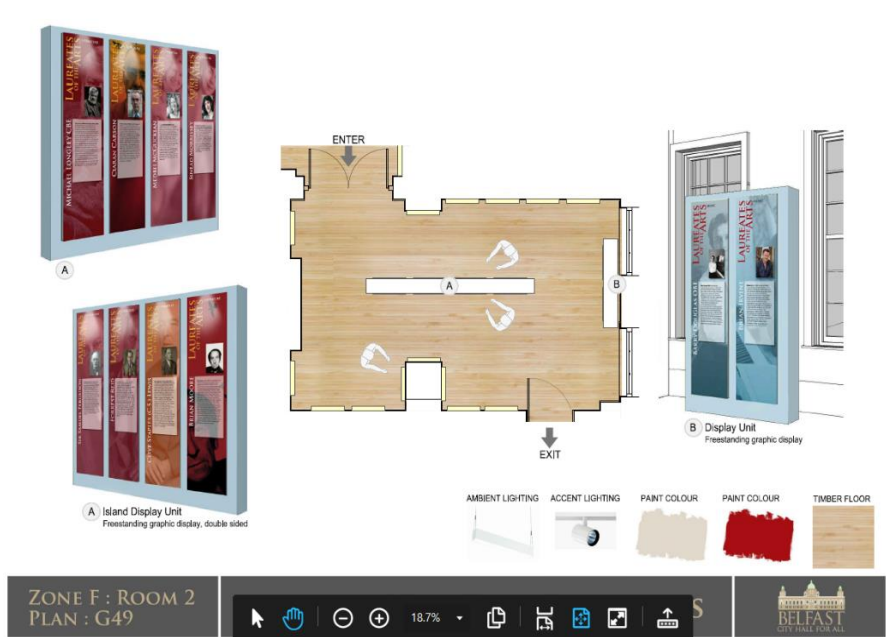
In addition there is an outstanding proposal for some form of memorial to the Fire Brigades Union and although a window has not been specified it may be useful to also address this matter at this particular point. [NoM 01/06/2017](#)

*'This Council recognises the huge contribution which the Fire Service has made to the life of the City and the safety of its citizens. This year sees the 100th anniversary of the Fire Brigades Union (FBU), a Trade Union that represents the rank and file of our brave fire fighters. In recognition of that milestone, the Council agrees to erect a suitable monument within the City Hall, its grounds or another suitable public space. The Council will enter into discussions with the FBU about the type and design of an appropriate monument'*

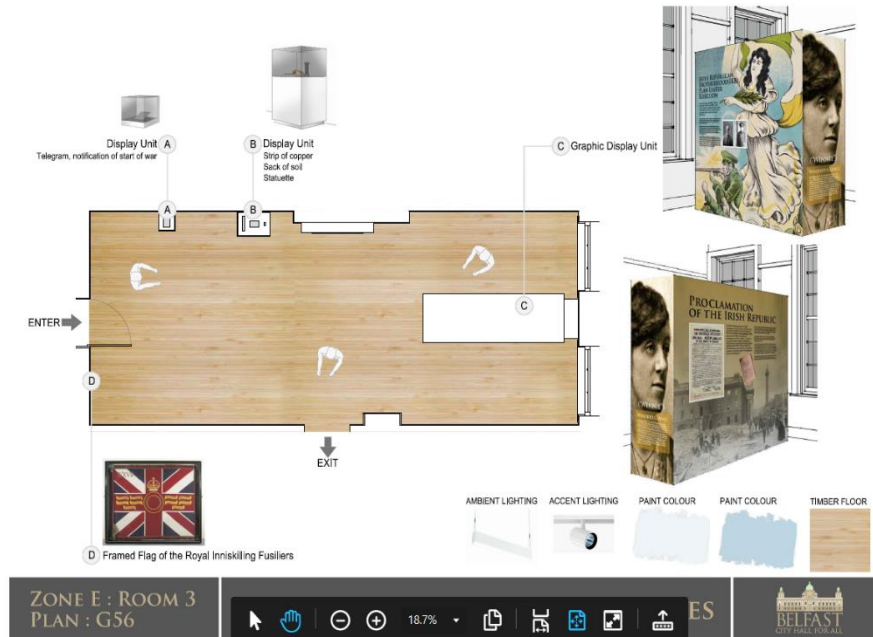
- 3.4 The Working Group is asked to note that the [SP&R at its meeting on 23 November 2018 agreed to proceed](#) with the stained glass window to acknowledge the positive role that the LGBT community played in this city and that an all-Party working group be established to progress the LGBT stained glass window. However for a variety of reasons this Working Group never met.
- 3.5 There was no agreement on the other three proposed stained glass windows or the memorial to the Fire Brigade Union however it was agreed that an options paper be prepared in relation to the remaining projects outlined in the report to be developed in line with the ongoing work in relation to the City Hall grounds. It is recommended that this work is now taken forward via this Working Group.
- 3.6 In considering all the above Members are asked to note in terms of availability of windows there are a number of windows available on the ground floor opposite the elevator and along the West corridor opposite the various Party Rooms. There are also 16 clear windows at first floor level some of which are on the route of the guided tours of the building.

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There are also a number of windows available within the exhibition space which face out into the courtyard.



### The City Celebrates Zone – two windows available



### The City Commemorates Zone – two windows available.

Members however should be aware that dependent on the subject matter of the stained-glass window this may conflict or take away from the exhibition content.

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**The Working Group is asked to:**

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- **agree that all proposals in relation to stained glass windows are now taken via the Installation Working Group**
- **note the decision taken by the SP and R Committee in 2018 in respect of progressing with a stained glass window to recognise the LGBT community and confirm if they still wish to progress with this and if so to consider the optimum location**
- **note that there are still a number of outstanding notice of motions in respect of other stained glass window proposals and agree if they wish officers to work these work up or consider other options in terms of how to take these forward (e.g. via the proposed new arc in City Hall Grounds) or if they have now been superseded by other events**
- **consider if there are any other proposals at this stage to be reviewed**
- **For those options to be worked up further agree to seek support and advice from the relevant subject matter experts with further detail to be brought back to a future Installations Working Group**

**In considering all of the above, Members are asked to note that there are a limited number of windows left within the City Hall. In addition, projects will be required to be added onto the Capital Programme and brought through the Council's three stage approval process.**

### **Financial and Resource Implications**

**No budget has been agreed for any proposed works on stained glass windows**

**Resources – Office time as required to work up proposals**

### **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

**As required.”**

After discussion, the Working Group agreed:

- i. to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the stained-glass windows in recognition of the Health Service; and the contribution of the LGBT citizens be progressed to Stage 1 – Uncommitted on the Capital Programme: and

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- ii. to keep the remaining proposals under review.

**Carson Stone - Oral Update**

The Working Group noted that a report on the Carson Stone would be submitted to its next meeting.

Chairperson