

# South Belfast Area Working Group

Monday, 22nd April, 2024

## MEETING OF SOUTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

HELD IN THE CONOR ROOM AND  
REMOТЕLY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Murray (Chairperson);  
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Groogan); and  
Councillors Bunting, T. Brooks,  
Lyons, McKay and McKeown.

In attendance: Mr. S. Dolan, Senior Development Manager  
(City Centre Regeneration);  
Mrs. D. Murtagh, Divisional Solicitor;  
Mr. S. Lavery, Programme Manager;  
Ms. E. Hamilton, Client Manager;  
Mr. C. McCartan, Regeneration Project Officer; and  
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported from Councillors Kelly, G. McAteer and McDonough-Brown.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were recorded.

### **Finaghy Mural – ArtsEkta in attendance**

The Senior Development Manager (City Centre Regeneration) provided the Working Group with an overview of the Business Cluster Community Grants scheme, through which ArtsEkta had been awarded £25,000 to deliver artwork to reinvigorate the Finaghy Road Bridge. He explained that, due to issues surrounding landowner consent at the bridge location, the Council had subsequently agreed that the funding could be repurposed and colourful street art was subsequently completed at various locations on the Lisburn Road, including utility boxes and murals, at Larkstone Street, Surrey Street and at the Finaghy Crossroads.

The Members were advised that the artwork at the Northern Ireland Hospice shop had been vandalised on a number of occasions. The Members were advised that that artwork had since been removed following community engagement.

Dr. N. Tandon, Founder and CEO of ArtsEkta, was welcomed to the meeting. She outlined that three consultation events had taken place and that she had attended the first

one. Unfortunately, however, she explained that she had been subjected to racist remarks at the event.

A number of Members expressed their apologies that Dr. Tandon had received racist comments at a consultation event.

A further Member stated that she believed there had been some confusion amongst the community as to where the original mural on the hospice shop had come from.

The Members were advised that the artist had since created a different image for the Hospice shop and they were shown the proposal. The Members stated that they were content with the image. A Member added, however, that it was a little disappointing that the original artwork had to be painted over.

Dr. Tandon explained that she wanted to ensure that the local community and the Hospice shop were content with the new image before it was installed. She advised that the artist was ready to paint it once the consultation had concluded.

The Senior Development Manager (City Centre Regeneration) agreed that additional consultation would be carried out and requested that Members would send him through the contact details of anyone who they felt should be invited to take part.

Noted.

**Request from Friends of Belfast Botanic Gardens  
to present at a future meeting**

The Working Group acceded to the request.

**Invitation received for a tour of the new  
Belfast Islamic Centre (University Road)**

The Working Group acceded to the request.

Chairperson