

A decorative graphic on the right side of the page features three overlapping circles of varying sizes, each composed of concentric blue rings. Two thin blue lines intersect at the top left and extend diagonally across the page, framing the circles.

# Alexandra Park Consultation

Door to door survey of residents living around the perimeter of Alexandra Park in relation to increasing access at the interface wall and along Alexandra Park Avenue

This document contains a summary of the results from the community survey of residents living around Alexandra Park in relation to proposed increased access at both the interface wall and Alexandra Park Avenue.

**March 2011**

## Alexandra Park

### RCTR Programme Background:

This area was proposed following some initial discussions with Belfast City Council (Andrew Hassard & Hazel Francey) and representatives from the Tigers Bay / Mountcollyer and Parkside / Newington communities.

Funding for the RCTR Programme was secured in late 2008 and an initial report was submitted and approved by Parks & Leisure Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2009 for GWNI to work alongside local community representative and relevant stakeholders in the development of regeneration proposals for Alexandra Park.

RCTR is 'a strategic regional programme aimed at improving tolerance and acting as a catalyst for reducing sectarianism & racism. It aims to achieve this by involving local community & statutory agencies in regenerating local areas, which will eliminate or reduce displays of sectarian and racial aggression.'

RCTR is scheduled to run from October 2008 to August 2011, and has four key objectives:

- To develop 'key skills for peace' & create opportunities for inter-group dialogue, cross community relationship building and networking
- To work strategically with the Peace III clusters
- To build positive relationships at the local level in order to achieve positive change
- To begin to address contested physical space issues with the aim of regenerating physical spaces & removing the physical manifestations of segregation

Key anticipated outputs are:

- A 'shared space' strategy

- Networking
- Development of a skills audit & delivery of training / mentoring
- An 'iconic' environmental improvement

Leading to the following outcomes:

- Communities, service providers & elected representatives working together to encourage integrated actions and promote shared space & shared services
- Communities able to take advantage of future opportunities
- Reduced marginalisation & polarisation
- Reduced levels of sectarianism & racism
- Enhanced skills & experience

Since October 2008 RCTR focus has been on engaging with the communities surrounding Alexandra Park, with the aim of improving community relations, building skills and encouraging cross community dialogue around common concerns.

The budget includes up to £50k per area for physical regeneration works, which address the overall aim of the programme. In the Alexandra Park area this may provide the opportunity for investment & regeneration within the park itself. The local community have since secured a further £50,000 capital funding from the Alpha Programme towards their regeneration proposals.

The RCTR Programme in Alexandra Park has been progressed in partnership with the key statutory bodies namely Belfast City Council, NI Housing Executive, and the PSNI, as well as local political representatives, community activists, local schools and residents.

### ***Alexandra Park Project Background:***

Groundwork NI has worked alongside a working Group that Belfast City Council had been working alongside in relation to Alexandra Park. A Steering Group was developed in 2009 that expanded the number of community representatives interested in working to improve usage and develop regeneration proposals for the Park.

In November 2009 the Steering Group came together and developed a Terms of Reference for working together to improve Alexandra Park through a community development and cross community approach.

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## Survey Background:

Groundwork NI has been working alongside a range of voluntary and community groups and residents living around Alexandra Park, North Belfast through a Programme called Reconciling Communities through Regeneration. Regeneration proposals have been developed by this Steering Group which also has representation from Belfast City Council, Department of Justice, OFMDFM and the PSNI. The regeneration proposals have been approved by Belfast City Council and are being detailed before completion on site within the next few months.

Through ongoing discussion and dialogue with the community representatives it was felt that a survey should be conducted to gauge resident's opinions on enhancing access at the existing peace line and the side entrance to the park at Alexandra Park Avenue. It has been proposed that there would be a negotiated opening and closing time of 9am – 3pm Monday to Friday on a pilot basis. There was unanimous support for these proposals from within the Steering Group and it was felt that the timing was right now to seek broader opinion from those residents living directly around the perimeter of the Park.

## Methodology:

A survey was developed by the members of the Steering Group to then undertake a door to door survey of those residents living around the Park. Various community groups and residents completed the survey during February and early March 2011 and the completed surveys were returned to Groundwork on the 8<sup>th</sup> March for analysis. A copy of the survey undertaken is attached.

## Results:

The following results highlight the responses from those residents who were available and completed the survey during February and early March 2011. A total of 200 surveys were printed for the door to door survey. A total of 142 completed surveys were collected door to door and the following streets were targeted:

- Alexandra Park Avenue
- Jellicoe Avenue

- Skegionel Avenue
- Mountcollyer Street
- Mountcollyer Avenue
- Gainsborough Drive
- Deacon Street
- Mountcollyer Street
- Crosscollyer Street
- Parkmount Street
- Seaview Close
- Clanchattan Street
- Parkside Gardens
- Parkend Street
- Camberwell Terrace
- Castleton Gardens
- Delaware Building
- Jubilee Avenue

The following results indicate the feedback from those households that completed the survey door to door:

Q1: Residents were asked the following question:

A proposed pilot scheme has been put forward for the installation of a gate at the existing peace line situated in Alexandra Park. It is proposed that there would be a negotiated opening and closing time (9am - 3pm Monday to Friday).

Would you agree with this pilot proposal?

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
<b>135</b>	<b>6</b>

One person highlighted that they were 'Not sure'.

Q2: Residents were then asked the following question:

Would you like to see the side entrance at Alexandra Park Avenue (opposite Dunmore) reopened on a trial basis?

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
<b>130</b>	<b>7</b>

Five respondents highlighted that they were either 'Didn't know' or were 'Not worried'.

### **Conclusions:**

The results show that 71% of targeted residents completed the survey door to door.

In relation to the first question asked, of those that completed the survey 135 or 92% of respondents highlighted that they would like to see increased access on a pilot basis at the interface wall while only 4 % or 6 respondents would not like to see access enhanced at this site. The remaining 1% responded that they were 'Not sure'.

In relation to the second question asked, of those that completed the survey 130 or 91.5% of respondents highlighted that they would like to see increased access at Alexandra Park Avenue while only 5 % or 7 respondents would not like to see access enhanced at this site. The remaining 3.5% responded that they were 'didn't know' or were 'not worried'.