

Proposal for Ongoing Groundwork NI Involvement in Alexandra Park

Background

Since November 2009 Groundwork NI has been working, in conjunction with a steering group including Belfast City Council, to deliver the PEACE III funded Reconciling Communities through Regeneration (RCTR) programme. This programme engages the communities surrounding Alexandra Park to tackle issues of conflict and division, and uses environmental regeneration as a focus for bringing people together. The programme has four key objectives:

- To develop 'key skills for peace' and 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; and
- To begin to address contested physical space issues with the aim of regenerating physical spaces and removing the physical manifestations of segregation.

To date, the programme has resulted in the following key achievements in Alexandra Park:

Insert bullet pointed key achievements including any measurable outcomes

The RCTR programme is currently funded to December 2011, however Groundwork NI believes that there is a need for its continuing involvement in Alexandra Park to ensure that progress to date is built upon, and that sustainable partnerships and relationships continue to be developed, particularly in light of the forthcoming access arrangements across the Peace Wall within the Park. Groundwork NI seeks funding from Belfast City Council to deliver this.

Key Activities

It is proposed that, for a further year, Groundwork NI, in consultation with the Community Park Manager and Outreach Manager responsible for Alexandra Park and the Department's Anti Social Behaviour Coordinator, works to extend the activities currently delivered through RCTR. Specifically, this will include the following:

- Groundwork NI will facilitate ongoing engagement between the various communities surrounding the park and the key statutory bodies (Belfast City Council, PSNI, Department of Justice);
- Groundwork NI will coordinate monthly steering group meetings and develop the capacity of community representatives to build on their achievements to date;
- Groundwork NI will support the steering group in applying for further funding;
- Groundwork NI will agree with the Council, and implement, an action plan to deliver a programme of key activities which meet the aims of RCTR and are aligned with the Council's Outreach Plan and Anti Social Behaviour Programme for the Park; and

- Groundwork NI will agree with the Council target outputs and outcomes from the above plan (for example participation at events, preparation of education resources, measurable changes in attitude etc).

In addition, the following is proposed:

1. Groundwork NI will take into account existing Council approaches to community engagement (for example Respect through Sport, community gardens development) and reflect/incorporate these where appropriate into the delivery of activities.
2. Successful delivery of the above action plan will provide the basis for incremental payment of funding, and the target outputs and outcomes will be used in monitoring and evaluating the programme.
3. It is recognised that, longer term, there is a need to develop a Friends Group for Alexandra Park and that the current steering group has potential to provide the basis for such a group, post December 2012. During the year, Groundwork NI will work with the Council and the other steering group members towards achievement of this goal.

Proposed Timescale

January 2012 to December 2012.

Indicative Budget

It is expected that funding would be provided on the basis of output, and would be drawn down incrementally upon successful delivery of key planned activities. It is proposed that an accurate budget for delivery is agreed following preparation of the action plan described above. However, the following provides an indication of the expected funding required, based on known costs:

Senior Project Development Officer (2 days/month @ £325/day)	£7,800
Project Team Manager (3 days @ £370/day)	£1,110
Mileage & Expenses	£ 500
Programme costs	£1,500
TOTAL (ex VAT)	£10,910

Comment [f1]: Please review these costs accordingly. How has £500 Mileage & Expenses been arrived at? What are Programme Costs for?



Alexandra Park Steering Group – current membership

Belfast City Council

Groundwork NI

North Belfast Community Development & Transition Group

Intercomm

PSNI

North Belfast Interface Network

Greater Newington Residents Association

Challenge for Youth

Friends of the Grove

Department of Justice

Youth Justice Agency

Non-affiliated residents from Parkside, Dunmore, Castleton, Mountcollyer