

## **GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP**

**FRIDAY, 11th JUNE, 2010**

### **MEETING OF THE GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP**

Members present: Councillor McCausland (Deputy Chairman)  
(in the Chair); and  
Councillors C. Maskey, McCarthy and Stoker.

External Members: Ms. M. Marken, Catholic Church;  
Mr. P. Scott, Catholic Church;  
Ms. A. Chada, Minority Ethnic Groups;  
Ms. S. Bhat, Northern Ireland Interface Forum;  
Ms. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;  
Mr. S. Brennan, Voluntary/Community Sector; and  
Ms. M. de Silva, Voluntary/Community Sector.

In attendance: Mrs. H. Francey, Good Relations Manager;  
Mr. I. May, Peace III Programme Manager;  
Mr. D. Robinson, Good Relations Officer; and  
Mr. H. Downey, Committee Administrator.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from the Chairman (Councillor Hendron) and Councillor Kyle and from Mr. R. Galway, Mr. P. Mackel, Rev. J. Rea and Ms. E. Wilkinson.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 14th May were taken as read and signed as correct.

#### **Islamic Cultural Centre**

The Partnership was reminded that, at its meeting on 16th April, it had received from representatives of WDR and RT Taggart, Architects and Engineers, a presentation in relation to the potential location in the City of a cultural centre for Moslems living in Northern Ireland. The Partnership had agreed that a letter be forwarded on behalf of the Lord Mayor and the Council supporting, in principle, the development of such a centre and had agreed also that the representatives be invited to attend a future meeting in order to outline in further detail their proposals.

The Good Relations Manager reported that the representatives were due to attend the meeting. However, they were not in attendance.

The Partnership agreed to receive the representatives at a future meeting.

**Peace III – Regeneration and Good Relations at the Interfaces**

The Partnership was reminded that the Council had commissioned Deloitte Consultants to undertake research into good relations activities in neighbourhoods located near/at interface barriers in the City. The Partnership was informed that Mr. C. Mountstephen and Mr. P. Scott, representing Deloitte, were in attendance and they were admitted to the meeting and welcomed by the Deputy Chairman.

Mr. Mountstephen informed the Partnership that, whilst most of Belfast had, for the past number of years, enjoyed relative peace and prosperity, interface areas had continued to experience conflict and high levels of deprivation. He outlined the factors which had been taken into consideration in drafting the report and informed the Partnership that fifteen indicators based around factors such as community cohesion, community safety, connectivity, economy, health, housing and young people had been identified which would demonstrate evidence of the sustained transformation of interface areas and facilitate the removal, in the long term, of interface barriers. This, in turn, would transform those areas by raising the quality of life and become places where families wished to live and work, both now and in the future. He stated that there would be an opportunity over the 2010-2013 Peace III funding period to pilot a live interface regeneration project and develop an inter-disciplinary approach to integrating public, private, voluntary, community and other regeneration research agents. He concluded by stating that a further opportunity would be provided to re-visit those indicators for Peace III projects and other initiatives working in interface areas.

The representatives then answered a number of questions which had been put to them by the Partnership and, having been thanked for their contribution, they retired from the meeting.

During discussion, several Members voiced concern in relation to certain aspects of the report and pointed out that it had failed to consider factors such as the need for education around difference.

After further discussion, the Partnership agreed that a copy of the draft Deloitte report be circulated to all Members of the Partnership and that it be considered in greater detail at the special meeting of the Partnership which was scheduled to be held on 25th June.

**Peace III – Implementation Update**

The Peace III Programme Manager submitted a report which provided an update in respect of the implementation of the Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan. The report provided an overview of the various programmes and projects, together with a summary of expenditure, under each of the four themes of the Plan and of actual and planned activity from May till July. He explained that the Council had initiated an open call for applications for interfaith/intercultural projects under the theme of Shared Cultural Space. Applications would be required to be submitted by 7th July and it was envisaged that recommendations for funding would be presented to the Partnership in August.

The Peace III Programme Manager reported that a major conference had, on 20th May, been held in the Waterfront Hall in order to recognise the achievements to date of the Peace III Programme. The event, which had been organised by the Special European Programmes Body, had included a presentation on programmes and projects associated with the current phase of the Belfast Peace Plan. He added that forthcoming events would include the presentation of certificates to participants who had completed the Belfast Citizenship Programme which had been delivered by a consortium led by Belfast GEMS and a celebration event for youth participants on the Our SPACE Programme which had been delivered by the Belfast Community Sports Development Network. The events would be taking place in the City Hall on 24th and 29th June respectively.

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided and agreed that attendance of any Member at the aforementioned events be considered as an approved duty.

### **Peace III – Development of Phase II Local Action Plan**

The Partnership was advised that Phase I of the Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan under Priority 1.1 – Building Positive Relations at the Local Level, as contained within the Peace III Programme, would end in June, 2011. The Peace III Programme Manager explained the next phase of the Plan, which would cover the period from 2011 till 2013, would continue to build upon positive relations at a local level. He outlined the main elements to be considered in drafting the Local Action Plan for Phase II and pointed out that final Plans must be submitted to the Special European Union Programmes Body and the consortium by 17th September. However, there would be an opportunity to submit for a preliminary assessment draft plans up to six weeks prior to this date.

Following assessment and an economic appraisal, letters of offer would be issued to enable implementation of the Plan to commence in 2011. He outlined a draft action plan for developing the Phase II Peace Plan and recommended, in view of the limited timescale available for the completion of the document, that it would be preferable for a special meeting of the Partnership to be held in order to consider the draft document more fully.

After discussion, the Partnership agreed that a special meeting be held at 11.30 a.m. on Friday, 25th June in order to consider the draft Local Action Plan for Phase II.

### **Summer Intervention Fund**

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

#### **“Relevant Background Information**

**Members will recall that at its last meeting on 14 May 2010, the Partnership granted approval for the Good Relations Unit of the Council to take on the management and administration of the annual Summer Intervention Fund on behalf of the Office of the**

First and Deputy First Minister. The Fund is to support intervention programmes for children and young people living in and around interface areas at times of heightened tension over the summer period.

Since that time, the Community Safety Unit of the City Council has contributed an additional £6,000 from its Summer Splash scheme to be allocated under the same criteria. The total fund available for allocation is therefore £106,000.

The Partnership agreed that the Fund would be open to all areas of the city, but priority would be given to groups/organisations working with young people that live at or near interface areas and programmes had to be completed by the end of October 2010.

Information about the Fund was distributed as widely as possible through the Good Relations Unit's mailing list, as well as publically on the Council's website, immediately after the Partnership meeting. Further information was provided to elected Members and other Council Departments. OFM/DFM also distributed the information through their mailing lists.

An information session was held for interested groups on 21 May with up to 40 people attending. There was a very tight deadline for this Fund and the closing date for the receipt of applications was Friday 28 May at 12.00 noon.

#### Key Issues

By the closing date, the Council had received 90 applications requesting a total of £389,731.52. Applications were assessed by a panel made up of Good Relations Officers, plus representatives from the Council's Community Services Section and the OFM/DFM. The assessment process was extremely competitive, as expected, and all applications were scored against a pre-agreed scoring matrix.

Following assessment, 65 groups are recommended for funding of varying levels, according to the quality of their applications. The total amount of funding being recommended is £103,500. Summaries of the successful applications are attached as an Appendix.

25 groups failed to meet the criteria and were not awarded any funding on this occasion. These groups were either not working directly with children and young people in and around an interface area or they were not delivering the programme during times of heightened tension.

**Resource Implications**

All the funding under the Summer Intervention Fund will be recouped at 100% from OFM/DFM and the Council's Community Safety Unit.

**Recommendation**

To recommend that the projects listed below receive funding as outlined in the recommendations."

During discussion, the Good Relations Officer provided clarification in respect of a number of organisations which had not met the requisite criteria and, therefore, had not been recommended for funding. He stated that the Good Relations Unit had wished to offer as many groups across the City as possible an opportunity to avail of funding and had offered those which had been unsuccessful an opportunity to discuss their applications. The Good Relations Manager explained that the Council had had a limited time in order to process the applications and advised that any issues relating to the review process be referred to the Office of the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister, on whose behalf the Council was administering the Fund.

After discussion, the Partnership agreed that funding be awarded to the following organisations and agreed also that the Office of the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister be requested to provide clarification on any review process relating to the award of funding:

<b><u>Organisation</u></b>	<b><u>Recommended Amount, up to £</u></b>
East Belfast Youth Forum	2,500
Shankill Area Project	2,500
Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum	2,000
North Belfast Interface Network	2,000
Cavehill Antrim Road Regeneration	2,000
Newhill Youth & Community Centre	1,000
Upper Springfield Resource Centre	1,000
Upper Springfield Safer Neighbourhood Project	1,000
Upper Springfield Development Company Ltd.	1,000
Falls Community Council	1,000
Glenbank Community Association	2,000
Grosvenor Community Centre	2,890
Ravenlink Residents Group	800
Forthspring Intercommunity Group	1,300
St. James Community Forum	2,000
North Belfast Women's Initiative & Support Project	2,000
Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre	2,000
Ardoyne Youth Providers Forum	3,000

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<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Recommended Amount, up to £</u>
Ardoyne Youth Club	2,400
New Lodge Forum	2,000
Falls Youth Providers	2,000
Arts For All	2,500
LORAG	2,500
Inner East Youth Project	1,800
Finaghy Crossroads	2,000
Sydenham Community Development Agency	1,200
Donegall Pass Community Festival Committee	200
Embrace Ballysillan	500
Lower Oldpark Community Association	2,500
Short Strand Community Forum	2,000
Mount Vernon Community Dev. Forum	2,500
Clonard Residents Association	1,710
Lower Castlereagh Community Group	2,500
St. John Vianney Youth Centre	2,000
Crusaders Football Club	500
Basement Youth Club	2,000
Mountainhill Youth Club	1,000
Greater Shankill Partnership	500
Ballysillan Youth for Christ Community Drop in Centre	500
Tigers Bay Residents Assoc.	500
Somerton Road Episcopal Church	1,000
Holy Family Youth Club	500
White City Community Development Assoc.	500
Greencastle Community Assoc.	500
CRUA	2,000
Glen Community Parent & Youth Group	3,000
Greater Village Regeneration Trust	2,000
Skegoniel Community Group	2,000
Stadium Project	2,000
Belfast South Community Resource	3,000
174 Trust	1,000
Clarawood Community Assoc.	500
St. Paul's Church	1,000
Ballynafeigh Community Dev. Association	1,000
Carrick Hill Residents Association	2,250
Wishing Well Family Centre	500
John Paul II Youth Club	1,000
Markets Dev. Association	1,500
Artillery Youth Centre	1,500
An Droichead	2,500

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Recommended Amount, up to £</u>
Glencairn Residents Group	2,500
Terry Enright Foundation	1,000
Beechmount Residents Association	600
North Belfast Area Project	600
Lower Shankill Community Association	2,250

### Good Relations Grant-Aid Fund

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Partnership that, at its meeting on 16th April, it had approved the award of £76,150 in grant-aid funding for good relations work. She reported that a second call for applications had opened on 3rd May, with a closing date for applications of noon on 22nd May. She submitted a list of applications which had been received against the Fund by 22nd May, together with officer assessment summaries of the applications.

After discussion, the Partnership agreed unanimously that grant-aid be awarded under the delegated authority of the Chief Executive to the following organisations:

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Recommended Amount, up to £</u>
Ligoniel Family Centre	980
Lower Oldpark Community Association	2,600
Prime Cut Productions	1,000
Ulster Bank Festival at Queen's	2,850
Beyond Skin	8,000
Youth Com	5,000
Anti-Racism World Cup	1,000
Falls Community Council	2,864
Northern Ireland Council for Refugees & Asylum Seekers (NICRAS)	1,000
Polish Association	4,000
Sandy Row Residents Association	2,230
Women in Faith	500
Ballynafeigh Community Development Association	2,500
Whiterock Children's Centre	1,000
Tinderbox Theatre Company	5,000
Stadium Projects	5,000
Old Belmont School Preservation Trust Ltd	1,000
New Lodge Arts	7,000
Divis Youth Project	4,540
Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich	5,000
Silver Threads	3,000

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<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Recommended Amount, up to £</u>
The Belfast Boxing Ring	1,000
Corpus Christi Youth Centre	4,700
Crusaders Football Club and Newington Rangers FC	1,000
Headliners	3,000
Belfast Orangefest	4,000
Polish Community Centre, Cooltura	1,000
YouthWorks	1,000
Sunrise Parents Group	968
The HUBB Resource Centre	1,000
Markets Development Association	1,950
Success Dragon & Lion Dance Association	500
George Best Community Cup	1,000
Ransom Productions	1,000
Solway Stars FC	1,000
NI Tolerance Educational & Cultural Association (NITECA)	1,000
Willowfield Parish Community Association	1,000
East Belfast Youth Forum	1,000
	<b>92,182</b>

**Unveiling of Artwork in the City Hall**

The Good Relations Manager reported that the Council had, by way of a competition, invited artists to submit drawings and ideas for artwork which would celebrate Irish history and heritage in Belfast. She explained that a large number of entries had been received, which included proposals for art, sculpture and fabric installations. The successful artwork, which had been painted by Mr. K. Drury, would be unveiled in the City Hall on 24th June.

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided.

**Wider Issues**

A Member made the point that the Partnership should be seen to be taking a more pro-active role in the community and to be viewed as being a Civic Leader. He suggested that the Partnership should examine ways in which to promote its work, which would take into consideration outreach activities. In response, the Good Relations Manager informed the Partnership that an officer had been appointed in this regard and would be discussing with Members issues arising around the work of the Partnership.



**Membership of the Good Relations Partnership**

A Member pointed out that a number of persons on the Partnership had resigned recently and enquired as to whether there would be replacements appointed. In response, the Good Relations Manager pointed out that the Partnership would, in the near future, be reconstituted in preparation for the next phase of the Peace Plan and that a review of the representation on the Good Relations Partnership would be undertaken.

Chairman