

**GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP  
MEMORABILIA WORKING GROUP  
THURSDAY 5 AUGUST 2010**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Councillor Hendron	Chairman
	Councillor McCausland	
	Councillor McCarthy	
	Councillor C. Maskey	
	Councillor J. Rodgers	Nominee of Councillor Stoker
	Hazel Francey	Good Relations Manager
	Anne Deighan	Good Relations Officer
	Marie Craig	Good Relations Assistant (minutes)
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	Councillor Kyle	
	Councillor Stoker	

<b>1.0</b>	<b>ROUTINE MATTERS – MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 15 MAY</b>
1.1	The minutes of the meeting of 14 May were taken as read and signed as correct.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>SOMME RESOLUTION</b>
2.1	<p>The Good Relations Manager referred to a report outlining previous discussions on the Annual Somme Resolution. She reminded Members that a special meeting of the Working Group had been held on 10 May specifically to discuss this issue. During this meeting, the current resolution, a proposed revised resolution submitted by Councillor Crozier and a further new version, based on previous discussions, were considered as outlined in the extract from the minutes below:</p> <p><i>"Following a meeting on 23 April, the Strategic Policy &amp; Resources Committee deferred consideration of a report on the proposed revised text of the Somme resolution to enable the Party leaders (or their nominees) and the Chairman of the Good Relations Partnership to consider the matter further.</i></p> <p><i>1.2 She (the Good Relations Manager) distributed a copy of the report considered at that Strategic Policy &amp; Resources Committee meeting and also a proposed text tabled by Councillor Crozier. The <b>current resolution</b> is:</i></p> <p><i>That we, the Lord Mayor and Citizens of the City of Belfast, on the &gt;th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, desire again to record our feelings of gratitude to the brave men of the 36<sup>th</sup> (Ulster) Division who, by their glorious conduct in that battle, made an imperishable name for themselves and their Province, and whose heroism will never be forgotten so long as the British Commonwealth lasts.</i></p> <p><b>Councillor Crozier's proposed text</b> was based on the principles that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. We do not seek to remove, we seek to add to.</i></li> <li><i>2. We give equal recognition to both the 36<sup>th</sup> (Ulster) and the 16<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Division.</i></li> </ol> <p><i>That we, the Lord Mayor and Citizens of the City of Belfast, on the ..... Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, desire again to record our feelings of gratitude to the brave men of the 36<sup>th</sup> (Ulster) Division who, by their glorious conduct in that battle, made an imperishable name for themselves and their Province; the brave men of the 16<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Division, who fought with valour and selfless courage, and Ulstermen who served gallantly in other forces. Their heroism will never be forgotten so long as the British Commonwealth lasts.</i></p>

	<p><i>1.3 A further new version was tabled, based on previous discussions:</i></p> <p><i>That we, the Lord Mayor and Citizens of the City of Belfast, on the &gt;th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, desire again to record our feelings of gratitude to the brave men of the 36<sup>th</sup> (Ulster) Division, <b>the 16<sup>th</sup> Irish Division and other forces</b> who, by their glorious conduct in that battle, made an imperishable name for themselves and their <b>people</b>, and whose heroism will never be forgotten.</i></p> <p><i>1.4 The Members were reminded that the representatives of the Somme Heritage Association had specifically requested that this Resolution should not become an issue of division within the Council, out of respect to those who had given their lives in the battle. All Members agreed with this and appreciated that efforts were being made to resolve this issue at Committee level without rancour. Members also agreed that there had been a significant change in attitude on all sides to the Great War in the last few years, which had led to greater understanding and recognition of the contribution of all citizens of Belfast.</i></p> <p><i>1.5 Some Members were of the opinion that the proposed new wording (1.3 above) gave more equal recognition to all those who had sacrificed their lives during the Battle of the Somme. However, a Member was of the view that the impact on the city of the sacrifice of the 36<sup>th</sup> (Ulster) Division on 1 July had been so great that the current reference to that Division should be retained and not diluted. He felt that, in accordance with the principles as set down by Cllr. Crozier's proposal, the additional reference to the 16<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Division would give equal recognition to their sacrifice.</i></p> <p><i>1.6 After discussion, Members agreed that other forces should be included in the resolution, but that further discussion would be required as to the exact wording. Members agreed to consult others within their own party groups before making a decision at the next Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, to be ratified at the Council meeting in June. They also agreed that one representative only from each party should speak on the issue."</i></p>
2.2	<p>The Good Relations Manager reminded Members that when the minutes of that meeting were considered by the Strategic Policy &amp; Resources Committee on 21 May, the Committee had agreed to adopt the minutes of the Memorabilia Working Group of 10 May, "subject to the minute in relation to the Somme Resolution being referred back to the Group for further consideration, with a view to a report being submitted to the Committee in August to enable a final decision on a revised resolution to be taken at the meeting of Council scheduled to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> September".</p>
2.3	<p>A Member suggested that the issue should be referred to the next Strategic Policy &amp; Resources Committee and full Council for a decision as no consensus had been achieved, despite discussions over several years. Another Member suggested that the revised version as set out in section 1.3 of the extract above should be recommended to the Strategic Policy &amp; Resources Committee.</p>
2.4	<p>The Working Group was reminded that the Somme Heritage Association had requested that the Resolution should not become an issue of division within the Council, out of respect to those who had given their lives. All Members agreed that efforts should be made to resolve the issue without acrimony.</p>
2.5	<p><b>After discussion, the Working Group agreed to refer the issue to the next Strategic Policy &amp; Resources Committee for a decision with a recommendation that the amended Resolution as set out at 1.3 above be adopted:</b></p> <p><i>That we, the Lord Mayor and Citizens of the City of Belfast, on the &gt;th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, desire again to record our feelings of gratitude to the brave men of the 36<sup>th</sup> (Ulster) Division, <b>the 16<sup>th</sup> Irish Division and other forces</b> who, by their glorious conduct in that battle, made an imperishable name for themselves and their <b>people</b>, and whose heroism will never be forgotten.</i></p>

	Councillor Rodgers asked that it be recorded that although his party was not against the inclusion of the 16 <sup>th</sup> Irish Division in the Resolution, he did not agree with this particular wording. (Councillor McCausland entered the meeting at this point).
<b>3.0</b>	<b>VISIT TO DUBLIN ON WEDNESDAY 7 JULY</b>
3.1	<p>The Good Relations Manager referred to the following report on the Working Group's recent visit to Dublin:</p> <p><i>"The Working Group will recall that on 14 May it agreed that the Good Relations Manager should make arrangements for a visit to Dublin in July because of the experience and success of the authorities there in dealing with sensitive issues of memorabilia.</i></p> <p><i>The visit was arranged in liaison with the Anglo-Irish Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin. Five Members of Council, namely Councillors Hendron, (Chairman); C. Maskey; McCarthy; Robinson, (nominee of Cllr McCausland); and J. Rodgers, (nominee of Cllr Stoker) attended, along with Ciaran Quigley, Town Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive, who chairs the officer level Inter-Departmental Working Group on Memorabilia; and Hazel Francey, Good Relations Manager.</i></p> <p><i>The party travelled by train and were met at Connolly Station by a representative from the Department of Foreign Affairs' Reconciliation &amp; Anti-Sectarianism Unit and a tour guide who accompanied us during our day.</i></p> <p><i>We visited the GPO in O'Connell Street and had a guided tour of the Houses of the Oireachtas, seeing both the Dáil and Seanad in session. In Leinster House we were privileged to have a very interesting 40 minute meeting with Micheál Martin TD, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who is keen to support reconciliation work in Northern Ireland through its Reconciliation &amp; Anti-Sectarianism Fund.</i></p> <p><i>We had lunch with the Deputy Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Edie Wynne, in the Mansion House, the official residence of Dublin's first citizen and one of the city's finest and most loved buildings. It has been at the heart of city government since 1715; Dublin preceded London by some 15 years in providing an official house for its Mayor. The Mansion House has many similarities to our own City Hall and boasts many fine features, original oak panelling, a stained glass window featuring the coats-of-arms of the four provinces of Ireland and portraits of former Lord Mayors and other key individuals, including Charles Stewart Parnell, founder of the Home Rule Party.</i></p> <p><i>One of the City Architects was present and gave us a brief overview of the history of the Mansion House, emphasising the need for proper conservation of the irreplaceable artefacts. She was also keen to stress the need to strike a balance between the need for the House to be welcoming and entertaining and to preserve the unique status of the building.</i></p> <p><i>Elements of the Mansion House reflect both its British Imperial past and its more recent Irish Nationalist history and do not appear to be in conflict. The metal portico at the front entrance for example was added for Queen Victoria's visit in 1900, to protect the elderly Queen from the elements. The Round Room has since become better known as the venue for the first Dáil, which met here in January 1919.</i></p> <p><i>In the afternoon we had a tour of Dublin Castle and Dublin City Hall, where the story of Dublin is told through multi-media forms. The city has strong historic links to King William III through the civic chains and other regalia.</i></p> <p><i>We completed our day with a visit to Glasnevin Cemetery and an excellent short tour by officers from the Glasnevin Trust. They stressed the multi-denominational and non-divisive nature of the cemetery, where some of Ireland's most famous personalities (including Daniel O'Connell, Eamon</i></p>

	<p><i>de Valera, Erskine Childers, Kevin Barry, Roger Casement, Michael Collins, James Larkin, Brendan Behan, Luke Kelly) are buried virtually side-by-side with ordinary citizens of Dublin. This cemetery has been greatly restored and improved in recent years and, with the opening of the new Glasnevin Museum, is now one of the "must see" sites in Dublin.</i></p> <p><i>This visit was very interesting and informative and enjoyed by all those who took part. It supports the Council's current view that it is possible to "add to" current collections to provide balance without removing previous history. In several buildings, British and Irish symbols were on display side by side.</i></p> <p><i>It would not have been possible to see so many sites in a single day without the assistance of the DFA's Reconciliation and Anti-Sectarian Unit staff; I have already written to them to express our thanks for their support."</i></p>
3.2	All Members agreed that the visit had been extremely interesting and enjoyable and expressed their gratitude to the Good Relations Manager and the staff at the Department of Foreign Affairs.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>DONATION OF NAVAL AND REGIMENTAL PLAQUES TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS</b>
4.1	<p>The Good Relations Manager reminded the Working Group that, after consideration of a detailed report on the plaques previously displayed in the East Entrance of the City Hall, the Council had agreed to retain a reduced number of plaques identified as having a close or significant relationship with the city of Belfast. It had also agreed that the remaining plaques be offered on long-term loan, or donated, to an appropriate external agency.</p> <p>These recommendations had been adopted by the Strategic Policy &amp; Resources Committee at its meeting on 19 February 2010. The Committee had also agreed that a report on the recipients of the plaques not being retained should be submitted to the Working Group in due course.</p>
4.2	<p>The plaques being retained have already been re-instated on permanent display in the East Staircase area and the Good Relations Manager reported that she had been in contact with a number of appropriate external agencies in relation to the donation of the other plaques.</p> <p>The Royal Naval Association has agreed to accept the naval plaques. These will be handed over to the Association by the Lord Mayor in a short formal ceremony on Trafalgar Day, 21 October.</p> <p>The 38<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Brigade Headquarters of the Army has indicated that it would be very pleased to receive the regimental plaques but has requested that no formal ceremony be held.</p> <p>The Working Group noted this information.</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>REMEMBRANCE DAY 11 NOVEMBER</b>
5.1	The Good Relations Manager referred to a report, copies of which had been previously circulated, informing Members that the Chief Executive had received a letter from Councillor McCausland, which points out that although the Council's official commemoration ceremony is on Remembrance Sunday, many people do gather at the Cenotaph at 11.00 am on 11 November itself. Councillor McCausland noted that last year a number of people listened for the Assembly Buildings bells to mark 11.00 am and then stood silently and respectfully. He had noted that there was some uncertainty and people drifted away gradually afterwards.
5.2	Councillor McCausland has requested that something could be done to provide a focus for this and that the Council could consider organising or facilitating a simple, dignified ceremony.
5.3	The Good Relations Manager reported that she had discussed this issue with the Lord Mayor's Principal Officer, who had pointed out that there has never been an official service or ceremony

	<p>at the Cenotaph on 11 November, unless it coincides with Remembrance Sunday, which is the official National Day of Remembrance. The main ceremony in Belfast is on Remembrance Sunday and we would not wish to diminish or dilute this in any way; this will remain our key focus for remembrance.</p> <p>People do traditionally gather at the Cenotaph at 11.00 am on Armistice Day, but this is a matter of personal conscience and has never been an organised commemoration by either Belfast City Council or the Royal British Legion, who are charged with organising acts of remembrance.</p>
5.4	The Lord Mayor's Principal Officer has been in discussions recently with the Royal British Legion to see whether 11 November could be acknowledged more formally. Members will be aware that across the whole of the UK, the general public are encouraged to pause and remember for 2 minutes at 11.00 am. Media coverage over the years has shown that this is observed in places such as railway stations, shopping centres and other public places.
5.5	The Good Relations Manager reported that, following these discussions, the President of the Royal British Legion, Col. M. Elder, has now agreed that if the Legion were invited to mark Armistice Day and that if the Council were to facilitate them in so doing, the Royal British Legion would organise an appropriate short ceremony at the Cenotaph on 11 November.
5.6	The Working Group noted this information and Councillor McCausland indicated that he was happy with this response.
5.7	A Member stated that Irish Government Ministers would be happy to receive an invitation to a Remembrance Day ceremony at the City Hall. The Good Relations Manager undertook to relay this information to the Lord Mayor's Office and the Royal British Legion.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>THE 'WALL OF HOPE' PROJECT</b>
6.1	The Good Relations Manager tabled copies of a letter and supporting information sent to the Lord Mayor from Roger Payne of Graphic Expressionism Ltd seeking Belfast's participation in a "Wall of Hope" project. The project seeks to mark the 70 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of 'The Blitz' by erecting a wall on a site in Marble Arch during April and May next year. Each life lost will be represented by a small digitally generated coloured dot. It is proposed that the wall will then be dismantled and re-assembled in 6 of the most bombed cities of the UK, i.e. Cardiff, Coventry, Hull, Glasgow, Belfast and Liverpool for approximately one month each. The organiser states that he will not request financial support from the Council but will ask for its assistance in raising local sponsorship.
6.2	The Good Relations Manager requested Members' views on the project. After discussion, the Working Group agreed to defer the issue until further information is received, particularly in relation to the financial implications.
<b>7.0</b>	<b>ORAL UP-DATES on external funding applications</b>
7.1	The Good Relations Manager gave an update on the current position with the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund in relation to City Hall memorabilia. The application is currently being developed and the Heritage Lottery Fund has indicated that if submitted by the deadline of 20 Aug, the application will be considered by the HLF Committee on 23 November. This is Stage 1 of the process and, if successful, the Council will have to provide additional detailed information.
7.2	The Council has been unsuccessful in its application to the Arts Council NI Public Art Fund for a stained glass window to reflect Irish heritage and history.
7.3	The Working Group noted this information.