

Belfast
part of it

The Girdwood Community Hub - a new beginning

September 2011





The Girdwood Community Hub - a new beginning



Belfast City Council, in partnership with local community groups, is hoping to build an exciting new 'Community Hub' facility on the Girdwood site in North Belfast.

And we want you to be part of it.

We have applied for European funding for this project and expect to hear in late autumn if we have been successful. In the meantime, we are continuing to plan for this project so that we are ready to go if we do receive the funding.

This newsletter gives you some general information about the Hub and some of the activities we have planned over the next couple of months.



Your Hub

This is not just a council project though – this is your project. It needs to be shaped by you. We want you to be involved in the exciting process of making the Hub a reality.

By working together with local councillors, community organisations and residents, and focusing on making the Hub happen, we can make the Girdwood Hub a real symbol of a new north Belfast.

What is the 'Community Hub'?

The Hub building will be for all the community. It will be a place where you can access useful services and good facilities in a safe, shared and welcoming environment.



What could be in it?

It could include a multipurpose sports hall, meeting and training rooms, a gym, a steam room and a café. Outside there could be a community garden and play facilities. This will allow us to run a range of exciting programmes like community education classes, sports activities and multi-cultural festivals.



These are only ideas at the moment; we want to hear what you think. But we want the space to be as flexible as possible to make sure that everyone feels there is something there for them.

Why a Hub?

We know that poor health, low education and unemployment are some of the key issues in the area. We want the Hub to help address these and provide new opportunities for local people.



The facts

What's the cost?

The cost for the building will be about £9 million.



Where is the money coming from?

We have made an application for full funding to the European Union Peace III Programme. This programme supports projects which promote peace and reconciliation and is managed by the Special European Union Programmes Body. This is a very competitive funding process and your local politicians are working hard with community organisations to secure this funding. At the moment, we can only build this facility if we receive full funding for the project.

Does everybody think that the Hub is a good idea?

The Hub proposal has the full support of the Council. The council has agreed that it is important for north Belfast that we get an investment of £9 million from the Peace III Programme. Organisations such as Belfast Metropolitan College and the Prince's Trust are already interested in running education and training programmes there. But we want local people to be involved so that it will make a real difference to people's lives.



Artist's impression

What will it look like?

We have had some initial drawings completed. These are only an impression of what the final building might look like and to give people some ideas to start with. We will have workshops with local people to help design the building.

Where will it be?

The exact location for the Hub is not decided yet. We will have more information about this when we start discussions in the local area.

When will it open?

If we get funding, the Hub will be open in early 2015.



What else will be on the Girdwood Park site?

The Department for Social Development (DSD) own the Girdwood Park site. The proposals for the site and the neighbouring Crumlin Road Gaol, which is owned by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM), are set out in the revised Masterplan. You can access this on the DSD website at www.dsdni.gov.uk

Who else is involved?

We have been working closely with local politicians and local community organisations, including:



- Ashton Community Trust
- Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum
- Greater Shankill Partnership
- Intercomm
- Lower Oldpark Community Association
- Lower Shankill Community Association
- New Lodge Safer Streets
- North Belfast Interface Network
- North Belfast Partnership
- The Vine Centre
- 174 Trust

They can also give you more information. If you know other organisations which would like to get involved, please let us know and we will invite them to join us.





Can I get involved?

Yes! We want as many people as possible to get involved. We want you to be part of the Hub – from what it looks like, to what goes in it, to how it will be welcoming for everybody.

How can I be involved?

There are many ways you can be involved. We will be holding a number of events where you can find out more about the Hub and ask any questions you might have. These events will also be your opportunity to tell us what you would like to see in the Hub and what would make you want to go there. You can also email us or phone us.

Have your say

If you want to be part of it, you can:

Talk to us:

1 October Information Sharing Fun Day - Cliftonpark Avenue

You can also talk to your local politician or community organisation.

Call us:

028 9091 8770

Email us:

girdwoodhub@belfastcity.gov.uk

Visit our website:

www.belfastcity.gov.uk/girdwoodhub

You will also find further information at local leisure and community centres during the Autumn time. Please see our website for further details.

If you would like a copy of this newsletter in another language or format (for example large print), please contact us.

BCC 4165

The Girdwood
Community Hub -
Have your say



Thank you for taking the time to tell us what you think.

Please return this form to: **FAO Girdwood Community Hub, Belfast City Council, Freepost BEL4010, Belfast BT1 5BR**

Or email your comments to girdwoodhub@belfastcity.gov.uk

Please tell us what you'd like to see in the Hub

(Optional)
Name

Postcode
