

GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY, 14th JANUARY, 2013

MEETING OF THE GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP

Members present: Councillor Kyle (Deputy Chairman) (in the Chair); and Councillors Attwood, McVeigh and Reynolds.

External Members: Ms. O. Barron, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;
Mr. S. Brennan, Voluntary/Community Sector;
Mr. R. Galway, Confederation of British Industry/Shorts Bombardier;
Ms. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
Mr. B. McGivern, Belfast City Centre Management;
Mr. P. Scott, Catholic Church;
Ms. M. De Silva, Voluntary/Community Sector; and
Mr. U. Tok, Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum.

Also attended: Ms. D. O'Loan, Community Relations Council/Pobal.

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

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from the Chairman (Councillor Hendron), Archdeacon B. Dodds, Reverend L. Carroll, Dr. C. Hughes, Mr. P. Mackel and Ms. M. Marken.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 10th December were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Update on the Council's Community Development Work

The Partnership welcomed to the meeting Ms. C. Taggart, Community Development Manager, and Ms. C. Mullen, Community Resource Unit Manager, who had been invited to provide an update on the community development work being undertaken by the Council.

The Community Development Manager reported that it had long been accepted that community development played an important role in helping local communities to address problems of disadvantage, inequality and poverty. She explained that the Community Services Section was one of the key services which undertook that work on

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behalf of the Council, through its community service delivery and area support and via its overall grants programme. Each year, it provided funding of £2.6 million to around 365 groups and 84 community centres. She made the point that, whilst that work had been effective, it had become apparent that the adoption of a shared approach to community development could create further benefits for local communities. That had led in 2011 to a process of engagement with Elected Members, statutory partners and the community and voluntary sectors, with a view to defining, shaping and measuring the contribution which community development could, in the future, make to neighbourhoods and communities. A Community Development Strategy covering the period 2012 to 2015 had since been published by the Council, which set out its future vision for effective community development under four recognised strands, namely, core community development work, engagement which works, building effective partnerships and shared service design and delivery.

The Community Development Manager informed the Partnership that the aforementioned Strategy would provide the policy framework for and inform the design of the new Belfast Community Investment Programme which was being formulated by the Council and the Department for Social Development's Belfast Regeneration Office and Voluntary and Community Unit. The Programme would seek to support strategic community development activity which would have a measurable positive impact in all communities across Belfast and to establish a shared community development vision, strategic outcomes and the necessary shared infrastructure, programmes and initiatives required to deliver them. It would seek also to ensure that budgets would have the maximum impact within communities, achieve efficiencies and be readily understood and would prepare for any related responsibilities which would pass to the Council in 2015 following the Review of Public Administration.

She pointed out that the Programme would put in place a single strategic fund to undertake core community development activity in the City, which would bring together seven funding streams being provided currently by the Council, the Belfast Regeneration Office and the Voluntary and Community Unit. That work would be administered by a unit comprised of officers from those three sources. It was envisaged that the Programme would, in April, be subject to a twelve-week consultation period and be followed later in the year by an open call for applications for funding. Contracts would then be awarded to successful applicants and would operate initially on a one-year pilot basis from April, 2014. The Programme, which would link in to health and other outcomes, would, during that time, be monitored and assessed by participating partners to determine if it was meeting its pre-determined outcomes and to identify any areas of improvement, with a view to it being implemented permanently thereafter.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Partnership, thanked the Community Development Manager and the Community Resource Unit Manager for their presentation and they retired from the meeting.

Noted.

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PEACE III – Implementation Update

The PEACE III Programme Manager provided an update in respect of the implementation of the current phase of the Belfast PEACE III Plan. He drew the Partnership's attention to the following:

Bringing Divided Communities Together Conference

The above-mentioned conference, which had been organised by the European Commission in conjunction with the Special European Union Programmes Body, would take place in Brussels on Thursday, 31st January. The event would seek to promote the PEACE III Programme to a wider European audience and would be attended by notable European Union officials and local Elected Representatives. An exhibition to showcase PEACE III funded work being undertaken in Brussels by the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive had been organised by the Programmes Body and would run in parallel to the conference. The exhibition would include information on projects being delivered under the Belfast PEACE III Plan.

Your EU!

Information on an event which had been held in the City Hall on 13th November to highlight the impact of European funding in reducing levels of racism and sectarianism across the region and on the Belfast Interface Games, which had been held over the summer for children from interface areas, had been included within the latest edition of the Special European Union Programmes Body's quarterly publication, namely, Your EU!

**The Role of Dignity in Promoting Reconciliation
and Good Relations at a Local Level Seminar**

A seminar on the above-mentioned topic, which would be led by Dr. Donna Hicks of the Weatherhead Centre for International Affairs, Harvard, would take place in the City Hall on Thursday, 24th January.

Community Tension Monitoring

A leaflet providing information on the Belfast Tension Monitoring Process, including the establishment in the Ardoyne, Broadway, Inner East and wider University areas of sub-groups for the recording and monitoring of incidents of community tension which could potentially lead to disorder, had been issued by the Community Safety Unit's Tension Monitoring Team.

Update on Phase II Projects

An update on the current status of approved Phase II Projects would be submitted to the next meeting of the Partnership.

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During discussion, several Members referred to the issues which had arisen following the recent decision by the Council to fly the Union Flag on designated days only and suggested that this would be an opportune time to highlight in some way the valuable work being undertaken by the Good Relations Partnership, in conjunction with various agencies and groups, to improve community relations between communities across the City.

In response, the Good Relations Manager undertook to identify forthcoming events being facilitated by the Council which could be used to publicise that work.

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided.

St. Patrick's Day 2013 – Small Grants Scheme

The Partnership considered the undernoted report and agreed unanimously that grant-aid be awarded, under the delegated authority of the Chief Executive, to the organisations as set out within the recommendations:

“Relevant Background Information

The Partnership will be aware that, for the past few years, the Council has supported community and voluntary groups wishing to organise small-scale events to mark St. Patrick's Day through the Good Relations Grant-Aid Fund. The total budget, as agreed by Council in October 2008, was not to exceed £32,000; the upper limit for each application was to be £1,000 and all applications were to be assessed against pre-agreed criteria.

For the 2013 round, applications and guidelines were drawn up and letters distributed to previous applicants and Councillors informing groups of the existence of the fund. The information was also made available on the Belfast City Council website, with notifications also forwarded to the Community Relations Council e-bulletin and the NICVA Grant Tracker website.

Key Issues

The St. Patrick's Day fund has again proved extremely popular. At the closing date of 12 noon on Friday 23rd November 2012, 136 applications for grant-aid had been received, with a total amount requested of £114,451 which greatly exceeds the £32,000 available. A full list of the organisations who applied is attached.

There was a good geographical spread with applications received from all over the city, as indicated in the following table:

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BT1	5	3.5%
BT2	3	2%
BT3	1	1%
BT4	11	8%
BT5	10	7%
BT6	3	2%
BT7	12	9%
BT8	1	1%
BT11	12	9%
BT12	20	14%
BT13	17	12.5%
BT14	166	12%
BT15	15	11%
BT17	2	1.5%
BT36	5	3.5%
Others	3	3%

Activities proposed are wide-ranging and for all ages and include educational visits, workshops, educational displays and cultural events.

A scoring matrix was devised to assess applications against the criteria, a copy of which has been forwarded to the Partnership. Following assessment, it is proposed that successful applications receive funding proportionate to the score obtained, as follows:

Marks	Max Award £	No. of groups	Total allocation £
0-10 marks	£0	5	0
11-20 marks	Up to £100	21	2100
21-30 marks	Up to £150	34	5100
31-40 marks	Up to £250	39	9750
41-50 marks	Up to £350	28	9800
51-60 marks	Up to £500	8	4000
61-70 marks	Up to £600	1	600
70 +	Up to £800	0	0
80+ marks	Up to £1000	0	0
Total		136	31,350

Resource Implications

Financial

Provision for this expenditure has been made in the Unit's budget, 75% of which can be recouped from OFM/DFM through the District Council's Good Relations Programme.

Equality and Good Relations Considerations

The St. Patrick's day grant scheme aims to fund small-scale local community events or activities to enable communities celebrate St. Patrick's Day at a local level. The fund forms part of the Council's aim to promote and support cultural diversity within the City. The geographical spread of applicants demonstrates that this fund was accessed by a wide range of community and voluntary groups from across the City. Equality and Good Relations considerations are therefore central to the provision of funding in this way.

Recommendation

The Good Relations Partnership recommends that the following projects fulfil the St. Patrick's Day Small Grants criteria and that grant-aid is awarded up to these amounts, to the groups listed below:

Up to £600

1000/2975 St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

Up to £500

636/2939 Avoniel Over 50's Club
1280/2945 Hobby Horse Playgroup
393/2900 Whitecity Community Development Association
680/2962 Falls Youth Providers
496/2972 St. John Vianney Youth Centre
658/2979 Empire Residents Association
1292/3000 Grace Women's Development
1165/3008 East Belfast Mission

Up to £350

319/2896 Short Strand Community Forum Women's Group
544/2935 St. Kevin's Seniors Group
989/2936 West Belfast 50+ Forum
374/2947 Society of St. Vincent De Paul, Mountainview
1078/2949 Lagan Village Somme Society

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612/2952 Woodvale Young at Heart 50+ Group
279/2953 Feile an Phobail
747/2961 Divis Youth Project
1285/2963 Clonard Parent & Youth Group
550/2965 LORAG – Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group
1289/2973 Depaul Ireland
1299/3025 Voices: Republican Ex-Prisoners Group
1301/3028 Hostelling International Northern Ireland
1217/2897 Short Strand Community Forum
626/2898 Sailortown Cultural & Historical Society
850/2903 Royal Irish Rangers Old Comrades Association
635/2908 Ballysillan Community Forum
645/2917 Indian Senior Citizens Club
921/2920 Hammer Youth Club
568/2926 Sandy Row Residents Association
981/2943 Sailortown Community Forum
328/2946 Walkway Community Association
524/2951 Artability NI Ltd
1282/2955 Dee Street Community Centre
988/2957 City Church
1033/2960 COPE
947/2994 Greencastle Community Association
1221/2996 Ardoyne Fleadh Project

Up to £250

990/2940 Silver Threads (North Belfast)
1271/2901 St. Teresa's Seniors
727/2906 Upper Springfield Resource Centre
1273/2913 Glen Community Centre Senior Citizens Group
1108/2915 174 Older People's Group
733/2922 Glenbank Community Association
522/2927 Willowfield Parish Community Association
1097/2933 Greater Shankill Senior Citizens Forum
1277/2937 The Happy Go Lucky Club
1279/2942 Lower Andersonstown Mothers Support Group
715/2944 Conway Seniors
417/2948 Midland Senior Citizens Club
640/2954 Inverary Community Centre Committee
1283/2956 Pádraig Sáirséil CLG
1287/2970 Marrowbone Residents Association
1131/2982 Blackie River Community Group
993/2985 Volunteer Now
643/2988 Manor Street/Cliftonville Community Group
372/2992 Lagan Legacy
774/2997 Small Steps Education Group
932/2998 St. James Community Forum
1296/3016 NOW
430/3023 Markets Development Association
799/2959 Duncairn Community Centre Committee

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1274/2918 The Point
616/2928 Harbour Lights Senior Women's Group
919/2929 Wishing Well Family Centre
731/2934 Men United
1281/2950 St. John Vianney Senior Citizens Club
504/2964 Newtownards Road Women's Group Ltd
397/2966 Inner East Youth Project
243/2968 Ballymacarrett Arts & Cultural Society
1288/2971 Dockers Amateur Boxing Club
1123/2977 Young at Heart Seniors Group
1290/2983 Glen Women's Tuesday Group
851/2984 Joanmount Open Door Ltd
308/2999 Star Neighbourhood Centre
821/3006 Annadale Haywood Residents Association
735/3010 The First Step Drop-in Centre

Up to £150

1124/2894 Argyle Senior Citizens Group
982/2899 Sailortown Mothers & Toddlers
527/2911 Belles of Belmont Ladies Club
983/2919 Cullingtree Seniors Group
413/2923 Trinity New Lodge Senior Citizens Club Association
865/2924 Carrick Hill Residents Association
991/2930 Horn Drive Senior Citizens Club
664/2967 Brookvale Senior Citizens Association
1261/2980 Newhill Football Club
1291/2986 Highfield Fifty Plus Group
973/2987 Spectrum Centre
278/2990 Wheelworks
1057/2991 Woodvale Football Club
742/2993 Windsor Women's Centre
422/2995 Newhill Youth Community Centre Association
916/3001 Lower Oldpark Community Association
685/3012 Ligoniel Improvement Association
776/3018 Clonard Senior Citizens Group
380/3021 South Belfast Malecare
350/3026 An Droichead
1300/3027 DisConnected Dance Crew
407/2905 Whitecity Over 50's Group
978/2914 Mountpottinger Presbyterian Senior Citizens
363/2931 Lower Shankill Group Welfare Committee
1113/2938 Disabled Drivers Association
1284/2958 Dance Sport N Ireland
1260/2981 St. Matthews FC
1293/3003 Friends of Sydenham Court
1268/3013 Rosario Youth Centre
848/3015 Black Box Trust
322/3019 Lower Shankill Community Association

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**1106/3020 Silver Threads
434/3022 Knocknagoney Community Centre Committee
1286/2969 Marrowbone Community Association**

Up to £100

**1096/2895 Island Resource Centre
788/3002 Crusaders Youth Football Club
1294/3007 The Golden Girls
984/2904 Hannahstown Community Centre
915/2907 Ligoniel Family Centre
1110/2909 Quality User Group Seniors
556/2916 West Belfast District Scout Council
1276/2925 Kookateki Judo Club
1101/2932 Friends of Chestnut Grove
627/2976 Glencolin Residents Association
255/3011 Belfast Central Mission
1111/3014 166 Sydenham Cross Community Support Centre Ltd
1295/3009 Ballymacarrett Royal Black District Chapter No 4
1297/3017 Shore Crescent Community Association
736/2902 Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
447/2912 Clara Park Tenants & Residents Association
1216/2978 Bryson Lagan Sports
1121/2989 St. Patrick's Young Men FC
1211/3004 Bloomfield Football Club
1203/3005 Grove United Football Club
1302/3029 Taiwan NI"**

Update on Christmas Cross-Community Events

The Partnership was reminded that, at its meeting on 5th November, it had granted authority to the Town Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive to award small scale grants of approximately £200 to several groups working in interface areas to assist in the hosting of cross-community events during the month of December.

The Good Relations Manager reported that highly successful events had been organised by groups at the Ardoyne, Broadway, Glandore/Skegoneill and Inner East interfaces.

Noted.

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Consultation

The Partnership noted that the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust had issued for public consultation its draft Good Relations Strategy, namely, 'Healthy Relations for a Healthy Future 2012-2015' and that any comments on the document should be submitted prior to 5th April.

Chairman