

## **GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP**

**MONDAY, 10th NOVEMBER, 2014**

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

Members present: Councillor Hendron (Chairman);  
Alderman Stoker and Councillors Attwood,  
Kyle and Mac Giolla Mhín.

External Members: Ms. O. Barron, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;  
Mr. S. Brennan, Voluntary/Community Sector;  
Ms. A. Chada, Minority Ethnic Groups;  
Dr. C. Hughes, Department for Social Development;  
Ms. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;  
Mr. K. Gibson, Church of Ireland;  
Mrs. M. Marken, Catholic Church;  
Mr. B. McGivern, Belfast City Centre Management; and  
Mr. U. Tok, Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Toland, Lead Operations Officer/Head of  
Environmental Health;  
Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;  
Mr. S. Lavery, Programme Manager;  
Mr. I. May, PEACE III Programme Manager;  
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of Mr. R. Galway and Mr. P. Scott.

#### **Welcome**

It was reported that Mr. Ken Gibson had replaced Archdeacon Barry Dodds as the Church of Ireland's representative on the Partnership. The Chairman, on behalf of the Members, welcomed Mr. Gibson to his first meeting and thanked Archdeacon Dodds for the contribution which he had made during his time on the Partnership.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 13th October were taken as read and signed as correct.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

Mr. Gibson declared an interest in respect of agenda item 3, viz., St. Patrick's Day Grants Scheme, in that one of the organisations, namely, Willowfield Parish Caring Association, which had been recommended for funding under the scheme, was located within the Church of Ireland parish of Willowfield and took no part in the discussion.

**PEACE III – Implementation Update**

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

**“1 Relevant Background Information**

**1.1 As the Partnership will be aware, the Youth Engagement Programme and the Interfaces Programme under the theme of Transforming Contested Space were granted extensions to allow for completion of activity. All other projects in the Phase II Plan have now completed. Work is continuing on collation of final project reports and project closure in line with SEUPB guidance.**

**2 Key Issues**

**Youth Engagement Project (034054)**

**2.1 The Youth Engagement Project has now completed all project activity and has submitted a final claim for expenditure. The Project evaluation conducted by Gauge NI is in draft form and the final version will be available shortly for the Partnership’s consideration.**

**2.2 There were 3 Networking meetings over the last quarter with attendance from both statutory and community sector organisations involved in the delivery of YEP.**

**2.3 Over the summer period, a total of 50 young people (25 from Inner East and 25 from Ardoyne/Woodvale) have engaged in an 8-16 week intensive mentoring programme. All 50 young people engaging have completed personalised action plans with measurable outcomes, including measuring attitude change. The results of the attitudinal survey will be included in the final project report.**

**2.4 Under the Training and Capacity building strand of the programme there were 136 OCN accredited qualifications including Understanding Equal Opportunities; Assertiveness and Decision Making and Employability skills. In addition eighteen participants achieved other accreditation including Level 1 in IFA Coaching and beauty/ make-up skills. A Celebration Event was held on 18th September on the SS Nomadic where the participants were presented with their certificates.**

**Interfaces Programme (037807)**

**2.5 The project requested additional time for delivery of activity to 31st October 2014 to allow for completion of public artworks complementary to the Environmental Improvement schemes**

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delivered over the quarter. Agreement to further extend project activity on the Programme to 31st October 2014 was granted by SEUPB on 10th October. The extension was required due to a number of factors outside the direct control of Belfast City Council and has allowed for completion of the public artwork elements.

- 2.6 Environmental Improvement Schemes have now been completed along with the development public artworks at Townsend Street; Roden Street, Flax Street, Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain and White City. SEUPB has approved a final wrap up claim relating to expenditure on the installation of artworks to be submitted by 7th November. In consultation with local communities and statutory partners and other funders, appropriate communications and publicity activities will be undertaken to highlight the work undertaken.

**3 Resource Implications**

**Financial**

- 3.1 The April 2014 claim of approximately £483,000 has been verified by SEUPB. 0.35% of the claim was deemed ineligible resulting from procurement penalties and non-attendance at project events. Remittance was received from SEUPB on 7th October, 2014.
- 3.2 The July 2014 claim of approximately £138,000 has been verified by SEUPB and all expenditure has been deemed eligible, with remittances having been received on 28th October, 2014.
- 3.3 The last major claim for project expenditure was submitted on 30th October for approximately £361,000. This claim will be inspected by SEUPB in November/ December.
- 3.4 SEUPB has informed the PEACE III Programme Manager that the Department of Finance and Personnel's Audit Authority will be conducting an Article 16 review on the Migrant and Minority Ethnic Project commencing 3rd November 2014.

- 3.5 Human Resources – n/a

- 3.6 Asset and Other Implications - n/a

**4 Recommendation**

- 4.1 The Partnership is requested to note the contents of this report.”

The Partnership adopted the recommendation.

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**St. Patrick's Day Grants Scheme**

The Partnership was advised that a call for applications for funding under the St. Patrick's Day Fund for activities taking place in 2015 had closed on 2nd July. The Good Relations Manager reported that, by that date, a total of sixty-nine applications had been received, requesting in total £56,695.00. The applications had been assessed, using pre-agreed criteria, by Good Relations Officers, following which a sample of submissions had been reviewed by an independent panel, comprising the Good Relations Manager and three officers from outside the Good Relations Unit. As a result, sixty-one submissions had been recommended for funding, totalling £27,154.00. She pointed out that 75% of the expenditure would be recouped from the Office of the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister under the District Councils' Good Relations Programme.

Accordingly, she recommended that the Partnership agree that funding of £27,154.00 be awarded under the delegated authority of the Interim Strategic Director of Health and Environmental Services to the following organisations:

<b>No.</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Amount Recommended</b>
1	East Belfast Historical and Cultural Society	£670.00
2	St John Vianney Youth Centre	£750.00
3	Willowfield Parish Community Association	£700.00
4	Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group (LORAG)	£500.00
5	Inverary Community Centre Committee	£535.00
6	Walkway Community Association	£500.00
7	Lagan Village Youth & Community Group	£550.00
8	Ligoniel Improvement Association	£500.00
9	Whitecity Community Development Association	£461.00
10	An Droichead	£520.00
11	Avoniel Over 50's Club	£530.00
12	The HUBB Community Resource Centre	£585.00
13	The Tuesday Club	£650.00
14	Lower Shankill Community Association	£551.00
15	Southcity Resource and Development Centre	£635.00
16	Markets Development Association	£585.00
17	Ballymacarrett Arts & Cultural Society	£500.00
18	Belles of Belmont Ladies	£440.00
19	Donegall Pass Community Forum	£535.00
20	Short Strand Women's Group	£520.00
21	St James Forum	£520.00
22	Whitecity Over 50's Group	£280.00
23	Young at Heart Seniors Group	£583.00
24	Chinese Welfare Association	£520.00
25	Silver Threads	£494.00
26	Short Strand Community Forum	£450.00
27	Lower Andersonstown Mothers Support Group	£340.00

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28	Midland Senior Citizens Club	£360.00
29	Wheelworks	£515.00
30	Féile an Phobail	£500.00
31	Brookvale Seniors Group	£550.00
32	Greater Shankill Senior Citizens Forum	£400.00
33	Hannahstown Heritage and Cultural Society	£530.00
34	Manor Street/Cliftonville Community Group	£535.00
35	West 50+ Forum	£400.00
36	Glencolin Residents Association	£450.00
37	Russian Speaking Community NI	£480.00
38	City Church, Belfast	£330.00
39	Inner East Youth	£455.00
40	St. Oliver Plunkett Parish	£455.00
41	Knocknagoney Community Centre Management Committee	£390.00
42	Parkgate Community Association	£260.00
43	Patch Group	£220.00
44	Ballysillan Community Forum	£400.00
45	Clarawood Community Association	£485.00
46	Glen Community Parent Youth Group	£425.00
47	Indian Senior Citizens Club	£540.00
48	Harbour Lights Senior Women's	£360.00
49	Divis Tower Gardening Association	£400.00
50	Royal Scottish Country Dance Society- Belfast Branch	£250.00
51	Friends of Chestnut Grove	£318.00
52	Belfast Branch NI Retired Police Officers Association	£260.00
53	Concerned Residents of Upper Ardoyne	£325.00
54	Norman Whiteside Sports Facility	£325.00
55	Royal Irish Rangers	£286.00
56	Colin Glen Trust	£300.00
57	Cregagh Wanderers	£325.00
58	Sandy Row Residents Association	£260.00
59	The Link Community Association	£150.00
60	174 Older People's Group	£234.00
61	Ligoniel Family Centre	£277.00

£27,154.00

The Partnership adopted the recommendation.

**Bonfire Management Programme 2014**

The Programme Manager submitted for the Partnership's consideration a report providing an update on the Council's Bonfire Management Programme for 2014. He informed the members that, of the forty-six groups which had participated in this year's Programme, thirty-three had either received their final payment or would receive it in the near future and seven were in the process of having their documentation verified in readiness for payment. The remaining six groups had, in line with the Partnership's decision of 13th October, had their final payment withheld, on the grounds that they had failed to use best endeavours to comply with the criteria governing the Programme.

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He pointed out that the total cost of delivering this year's Programme had been £131,521, £25,000 of which had been allocated directly by the Council as part of its contribution to the Good Relations Action Plan.

He reminded the Partnership that, at its meeting on 11th August, it had agreed that, in relation to this year's bonfires, information be sought from the relevant agencies on the number of assaults, incidences of hate crime, theft of materials, damage to roads and properties, their impact upon service delivery, including healthcare, and on air quality.

In terms of information which had been obtained, the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service had confirmed that crews had attended twenty-four and four bonfires over the July and August bonfire periods, respectively. In addition, the estimated costs incurred to date by the Council and other agencies around the removal of tyres and other materials from bonfire sites and in clearing up following bonfires had amounted to £48,893. That figure related to bonfires which had taken place in July and August, including those which were outside the Council's Bonfire Management Programme. He added that officers would continue to liaise with the Police Service of Northern Ireland, Transport NI, the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service/Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and the Council's Environmental Protection Unit, with a view to obtaining, where available, the information which had been sought by the Partnership.

The Programme Manager explained that an exercise was underway currently to appoint a consultant to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the 2014 Bonfire Management Programme. It was envisaged that the process, which would include consultation with the Good Relations Partnership, would be completed by mid-January, following which a report setting out a range of potential options for the delivery of next year's initiative would be submitted to the Partnership for its consideration. In addition, officers would be working with their counterparts in Lisburn City Council and Castlereagh Borough Council regarding those bonfire sites which would in 2015 be situated within the Council's boundary.

During discussion, the point was made that the Bonfire Management Programme had improved significantly over the years in terms of, for example, the burning of tyres, and that communities benefitted particularly from the educational programme which had been delivered as part of the initiative. However, the Partnership recognised, amongst other things, that greater community consultation was required around the current and future Programme.

After further discussion, the Partnership noted the information which had been provided and commended those officers who had contributed to the success of this year's Programme.

**Good Relations Priorities and Action Plan 2015/2016**

The Partnership was reminded that, at its meeting on 13th October, it had agreed, in view of the potential implications arising from the implementation of Local Government Reform, that consideration be given to the future role and direction of the Partnership.

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The Good Relations Manager explained that the imminent introduction of Local Government Reform and of the PEACE IV Programme offered an opportunity for the Partnership to explore issues of relevance to the good relations agenda and how those could be prioritised. She suggested that, as part of that exercise, the Partnership could identify key good relations priorities for inclusion within the Council's Good Relations Action Plan for 2015/2016. The Plan was developed annually under the framework of the Together: Building a United Community Strategy and addressed four priority themes, namely, Our Children and Young People, Our Shared Community, Our Safe Community and Our Cultural Expression.

She reminded the Partnership that an independent audit which had been undertaken in 2013 by Blueprint consultants had identified a number of key issues around, for example, the enhancement of intervention work and the need for political and community leadership and to develop the ethnic diversity of the City. She suggested that it would be beneficial to consider those issues as part of the process around the formulation of this year's Good Relations Action Plan. She added that discussions were taking place with officers in Lisburn City Council and Castlereagh Borough Council in relation to the future delivery of the good relations agenda in those areas which would, under Local Government Reform, be transferring to Belfast.

During discussion, the Partnership highlighted the need to ensure that good relations and equality were embedded within all aspects of the Council's future work and made a number of suggestions for inclusion in next year's Good Relations Action Plan. Those included the need for collaborative working with organisations such as the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and to make reference to the unacceptability of intolerance in any form. It was suggested that a workshop take place in order to facilitate detailed discussion around the future role of the Partnership and to inform the content of the Good Relations Action Plan for 2015/2016.

The Partnership approved the hosting of the workshop.

**Good Relations Grant-Aid Fund/Summer Intervention Fund**

The Good Relations Manager informed the Partnership that it was anticipated that the next call for applications under the above-mentioned Funds, relating to activities being delivered between April and September, 2015, would open later in November. Information would be forwarded to groups directing them to the relevant part of the Council's website and briefings would be delivered across the City, with a view to maximising applications to the Funds. She added that, given the reduction in budgets being experienced within the current financial year, any allocations would be made on the basis of sufficient funding being available.

Noted.

**Irish Churches Peace Project**

The Partnership agreed to receive at a future meeting a presentation from the Director of the Irish Churches Peace Project on the work of that organisation.

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**Decade of Centenaries Programme**

The Partnership noted that the first event in this year's Decade of Centenaries Programme, namely, 'An Unlikely Union', which would mark the lives of Winifred Carney, a Suffragist and member of Cumann na mBan and the Irish Citizens Army, and George McBride, a Trades Unionist who had fought with the Ulster Volunteers in World War I, would take place in the City Hall at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 19th November.

Chairman