

# South Belfast Area Working Group

Monday, 19th September, 2016

## MEETING OF SOUTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillors Boyle, Craig, Hargey, McAteer and Reynolds.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services;  
Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;  
Mr. D. Rogan, Head of Contracts; and  
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Election of Chairman**

The Working Group agreed to defer the appointment of a Chairperson to serve for the period to end on the date of the Annual meeting of the Council in 2017 until there were a higher number of Members in attendance and nominated Councillor Reynolds to act as Chairperson for this meeting.

(Councillor Reynolds in the Chair.)

### **Apologies**

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor Dudgeon.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 20th June were approved.

### **Matters Arising**

#### **Belfast Buildings Trust**

The Working Group noted that a presentation from the Belfast Buildings Trust on its proposals for the restoration of the former St. Malachy's school in Sussex Place would now take place at a future meeting to enable Councillor Dudgeon, who had raised the matter, to attend.

### **Declaration of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

### **Community Sports Hub in Belvoir Park**

The Working Group was reminded that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting in January, had agreed to ring fence an additional £5million of BIF funding for projects in those areas which had been transferred in from Lisburn and Castlereagh under Local Government Reform, £500,000 of which had been allocated to South Belfast.

It was reported that Linfield FC, Belvoir FC and the Belfast Battalion of Boys' Brigade had formulated a proposal to develop a Community Sports Hub in the Belvoir Park and had requested the opportunity to brief the Working Group on the project, which could be eligible for the additional BIF funding.

Accordingly, Mr. R. McGivern, Vice Chairman of Linfield FC, Mr. L. McStravick, a volunteer coach at Linfield FC, and Mr. P. McCarroll, Chief Executive of the Belfast Battalion of the Boys' Brigade, were welcomed to the meeting.

Mr. McGivern informed the Working Group that Linfield FC, the Belfast Battalion of the Boys' Brigade and Belvoir FC were working in partnership to develop adjoining sites within the Belvoir Park, which were owned by the Boys' Brigade and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. Belvoir FC had recently secured a lease on the Housing Executive's site to use it as its home pitch and the Boys' Brigade would be providing the club with a pavilion and social space. He outlined the extent of the work which was being undertaken by Linfield FC and the Boys' Brigade in the developmental stage of the project and confirmed that they had established a non-profit community interest joint venture company which would be responsible for overseeing the operation of the facility once completed.

Mr. McStravick reported that the facilities on the Boys' Brigade site had, during the past three years, been enhanced by the refurbishment of the pavilion and the installation of a small 3G pitch, at a combined cost of £800,000. He explained that work was required to bring the pitch to be used by Belvoir FC into immediate use and drew the Members' attention to the first phase of the main project, which would deliver an international standard grass pitch, together with a small stand and floodlights, a full size 3G pitch and further work to Belvoir FC's pitch, at a cost of approximately £1.5 million. The second phase would involve primarily the construction of a full size 3G pitch, a running track and nature trails and would cost in the region of £4 million. He confirmed that a business plan had been formulated for the first phase of the project and that it was envisaged that a formal application for planning permission, covering the development of the site in full, would be submitted in September. Mr. McStravick concluded by reviewing the various funding options which were being explored in relation to the upgrading of Belvoir FC's pitch in the short term and for the two phases of the project thereafter and stressed that, once completed, the facility would meet the combined sporting and community needs of the three organisations involved.

Mr. McCarroll highlighted the potential benefits to be derived from the facility by the three participating organisations and requested that the Council/Working Group consider:

- i. allocating funding to the project through BIF/LIF;

- ii. appointing a project sponsor to assist the partners with, for example, business planning, community consultation and due diligence, as well as attending meetings of the Steering Group;
- iii. supporting the partners with any technical issues which might be raised by the Planning Service; and
- iv. assisting Belvoir FC to establish a list of works required in the short term to upgrade its pitch.

The deputation then addressed a number of issues which had been raised by the Members and left the meeting.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed that Linfield FC and the Boys' Brigade be requested to provide in advance of its next meeting a detailed breakdown of their funding requirements for the interim works to Belvoir FC's pitch and for the first phase of the Community Sports Hub.

The Working Group agreed also that the Council officer involved in the Edenderry Village Renewal Scheme, which might qualify also for BIF funding, be invited to attend its next meeting in order to provide an update on the status of that project.

#### **Update on Olympia Regeneration Project**

The Working Group received from the Director of Property and Projects a brief update on the Olympia Regeneration Project and noted that it would receive further information as the project progressed.

#### **Update on Local Investment Fund Projects**

The Working Group considered the following report:

##### **"1 Local Investment Fund**

**Through the Local Investment Fund (LIF) members committed their allocation of £1,127,500 initially to 12 projects. Of this total, seven projects have been completed (Stage 5). These projects include:**

- **(SLIF002) Belfast Harlequins – New sports pitch;**
- **(SLIF007) May Street Presbyterian Church - refurbishments for community use;**
- **(SLIF038) Greater Village Regeneration Trust - Building for TREE Project;**
- **(SLIF040) Windsor Women's Centre - office refurbishment;**
- **(SLIF052) Mornington Community Association - office refurbishment;**
- **(SLIF054) St. Malachy's Youth Centre - new facility;**
- **(SLIF061) Donegall Pass Community Forum - community garden.**

Of the remaining five projects, two (Taughmonagh Community Forum and Finaghy Bridge) are at stage 1, a further two projects (Belfast South Community Resources and Annadale/Haywood Residents Association) are at stage 3 and one project (Women's Aid) is at stage 4.

A more detailed progress update on all projects is attached at appendix 1.

TOTAL LIF ALLOCATION	AMOUNT ALLOCATED TO DATE	AMOUNT REMAINING
£1,127,500	£1,083,600	£43,900

## 2 Local Investment Fund 2

Given the success of the original LIF it was agreed in March 2015 that a £4m LIF2 would be established and allocated to Area Working Groups (AWGs) on a proportional basis. The South Belfast AWG, consisting of two District Electoral Areas (Balmoral and Botanic) was allocated a total of £0.8m. The table below shows the total allocation to date and the remaining balance.

TOTAL LIF2 ALLOCATION	AMOUNT ALLOCATED TO DATE	AMOUNT REMAINING
£800,000	£796,000	£4,000

Members have committed their allocation thus far to 11 projects. Since the last update received by members in June 2016, a number of projects have progressed including:

- Sandy Row Community Forum and Sandy Row Orange Hall projects have both passed through Due Diligence; and
- St. Georges ABC and Ballynafeigh Community House have moved from Stage 2 to Stage 3 and both projects have signed their funding agreements – with construction expected to commence in the coming weeks.

A more detailed progress update on all projects has been circulated to the Working Group.

## 3 Remaining Balance

Members will note that there is a total of £47,900 remaining in the Local Investment Fund (£43,900 from LIF1 and £4,000 from LIF2) budget. At the meeting on 20th June, members agreed that, as alleygates could not be funded under LIF, the group would decommit the amount required to fund additional gates

and request that these remaining gates are taken forward under the Capital Programme with the costs to be met by the decommitted LIF monies.

Exact prices for the additional gates will not be known until February/ March 2017 and it is, therefore, recommended that members make no further LIF investment decisions until this time when it will be clear how much needs to be decommitted.

#### **4 Recommendations**

The Working Group is requested to:

- note the update on all LIF and LIF2 projects being delivered in South Belfast; and
- make no further LIF investment decisions until the exact prices for the additional alleygates are known in the New Year.”

After discussion, the Working Group adopted the recommendations.

#### **Next Meeting**

The Working Group agreed that its next meeting, which was scheduled to take place at 5.00 p.m. on Monday, 31st October, should commence at the earlier time of 12.30 p.m.

It agreed to receive at that meeting an update on the South Belfast Urban Villages programme from the Programme's Co-ordinator.

Chairperson

# West Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 29th September, 2016

## MEETING OF WEST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor Magennis (Chairperson);  
The Lord Mayor (Alderman Kingston);  
Alderman McCoubrey; and  
Councillors Austin, Beattie, Bunting,  
Collins, Corr, Garrett, Heading, Hutchinson, McConville,  
O'Hara and Walsh.

In attendance: Mr. D. Rogan, Head of Contracts;  
Mr. C. McCabrey, Economic Development Manager;  
Mr. G. Dickson, Policy and Performance Analyst; and  
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors Attwood, Bell, Grove and McVeigh.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 25th August were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declaration of interest were reported.

### **Election of Chairperson**

The Working Group was reminded that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 24th June, had agreed that a policy should be introduced whereby each Council Working Group would be required to consider the appointment of a Chairperson on an annual basis. That item of business would be placed on the agenda for the first meeting of each Working Group following the Annual meeting of the Council each year.

Accordingly, nominations were sought for the position of Chairperson of the West Area Working Group.

The Working Group agreed that Councillor Magennis be re-elected to serve as Chairperson for the period to end on the date of the Annual meeting of the Council in 2017.

### **Update on the Innovation Factory**

The Chairperson welcomed Ms Jo Willett from Oxford Innovation to the meeting.

The Economic Development Manager advised that the official launch of the Innovation Factory (IF) had been held earlier in the day and reported that this had been a very positive event that had been well attended.

The Members then watched two short videos on the IF that had been played at the launch event, which provided an insight into the facilities on offer.

Ms Jo Willett advised that the facility was scheduled to open the week commencing 3rd October, and reported that Oxford Innovation had received 30 enquiries, to date, from businesses that were interested in taking space and they were hopeful that at least 15 of these would be signed up in the near future.

She then outlined the vision for the operation of the IF as a shared space and a driver for social regeneration and improved community relations within the locality which included:

- managing the IF as a shared space;
- embracing Good Relations and Shared Space; and
- the desired outcomes.

She advised that, to date, all of the necessary ingredients for making the Innovation Factory a positive legacy for the city had been delivered and she detailed to the Members the sub-contract arrangements, staffing structure and social regeneration activities.

Following a number of questions the representative left the meeting.

Noted.

### **Presentation from the Glencairn Group**

The Chairperson welcomed Members of the Glencairn Community Project to the meeting, Ms. S. Dickson and Ms. T. Tinsley, along with the architect Mr. M. Hare.

The representatives provided the Members with background information on the Group and outlined its proposal for the development of a new community building or 'hub' in the Glencairn Estate. They advised the Working Group that they envisaged that the finished project would help facilitate educational, recreational and positive community activities and significantly improve the opportunities available to the Estate's residents.

Ms. Dickson outlined that they were seeking:

- funding of £747,125 for the capital cost of the building;
- technical support and management of the project;
- ongoing support from Belfast City Council community development team; and
- on-going support via revenue grants

The representative addressed a number of questions following which they left the meeting.

The Working Group were advised that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting held on 23rd September, had agreed an additional allocation of £1.2million to be ring fenced for projects within the Shankill area of the Court District Electoral Area.

The Head of Contract advised the Working Group that the Strategic Policy and Resources minutes still had to be ratified by Council and therefore any discussion/decision would be subject to the Council's ratification of the minutes.

A number of Members expressed support for the project given the historic lack of funding in the area.

Discussion ensued, during which it was noted that the proposal/request included the provision of a MUGA Pitch, with a cost estimate of £55,300, having been included in the overall total cost figure. The Members were in agreement that the development of a MUGA would require more investment than had been allowed for in the estimate, particularly given that the figure did not allow for the provision of lighting.

Following a query regarding the sustainability of the project, the Head of Contracts advised that, as with all proposals, it would be required to progress through the due diligence and stage approval process at which sustainability would be thoroughly tested.

During discussion, a Member outlined the variances throughout the city in terms of community facility provision and he urged officers to progress the ongoing community facility review as quickly as possible as this would help shape the Council's future investment in provision, support, and service delivery within neighbourhoods and across the city.

It was noted further, that the Council would not be willing to provide support towards the management of the facility once operational. Following discussion it was,

Proposed by Councillor Hutchinson,  
Seconded by Alderman McCoubrey, and

Agreed that, subject to the ratification of the Strategic Policy and Resources Minutes of 23rd September regarding the additional BIF funding of £1.2million, that £700,000 be awarded to the Glencairn Community Project to assist with the capital build of the facility, subject to it passing the stage approval and due diligence process. It was further agreed that should there be any funds remaining as a result of projects no longer being viable, that consideration would be given to assisting with the provision of the MUGA.

### **Belfast Investment Fund**

The Head of Contracts reminded the Area Working Group that £22 million had been assigned to the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF), with £5.5 million to be allocated to projects in the west of the city. An additional £5 million was then ring-fenced to the new areas of the city following local government reform, £2.5 million of which was for the Colin area.

He then provided the Members with a brief overview on the current status of the BIF projects and highlighted the projects that had been recommended to be moved through the stage approval process/added to the BIF list and reported that £700,000 ring-fenced for Glencairn to progress to Stage 3 (committed) on successful stage approval.

The Members requested that, out of the additional £1.2 million ring-fenced for the greater Shankill area (subject to Council ratification of the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee Minutes of 23<sup>rd</sup> September), the Royal British Legion (Oldpark/Cavehill Branch) be added as a stage 1 emerging project, with the view to awarding £500,000 to build a purpose built facility in the Tennent Street area that would be used as both a headquarters for the branch and by the local community.

It was agreed that, subject to the ratification of the Strategic Policy and Resources Minutes, of 23<sup>rd</sup> September, regarding the additional BIF funding of £1.2million that the Royal British Legion be awarded £500,000 on condition that the proposal passes the due diligence process.

### **Local Investment Fund Update**

The Head of Contracts advised the Working Group that, through the original Local Investment Fund (LIF) allocation, Members of the former West and Shankill Area Working Groups had supported 24 projects, to date, through the full allocation of £1,617,500. He reported that of the 24 projects, 21 projects (totalling over £1.1 million of LIF investment) had been completed and the remaining 3 were at delivery stage.

The officer continued, that, when the second phase of the LIF fund was agreed, £1,200,000 had been allocated to the West AWG. He reported that, to date, a total of 17 new projects had been agreed for in principle support, as well as additional support to two LIF 1 projects. Of the 17 projects, 7 were preparing for due diligence, 9 had progressed through due diligence awaiting contracts to be drawn and one was preparing for construction. Currently, all £1.2 million had been allocated.

He then drew the Members' attention to a table that provided the details of all 41 projects and highlighted the projects where there had been significant progress since the last update.

Noted.

### **Notification of Future Agenda Items**

The Working Group agreed that Urban Villages would address the next meeting to provide an update on its ongoing projects and they also agreed to receive feedback on the recent workshop.

The Chairperson advised that requests had also been received for presentations on the Department of Justice Interfaces and the West Belfast Partnership Board.

Noted.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The Working Group agreed to hold its next meeting at 4.30 p.m. on Thursday, 27th October.

Chairperson

# North Belfast Area Working Group

Wednesday, 5th October, 2016

## NORTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor McCabe (Chairperson);  
The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Campbell;  
Aldermen Convery, L. Patterson, McKee  
and Spence;  
Councillors Clarke, Corr-Johnston, Magee,  
and McCusker.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and  
Neighbourhood Services;  
Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;  
Mr. S. Walker, Departmental Portfolio Program Manager;  
Mr. D. Rogan, Head of Contracts;  
Mr. G. Dickson, Policy Analyst; and  
Miss E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

An apology was reported on behalf of Alderman Browne.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 24th August were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

### **Declaration of Interest**

The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Campbell, reported that she was a Member of Grace Women's Development Limited. Councillor Corr Johnston declared an interest in so far as her employment was linked to Northern Ireland Alternatives.

### **Election of Chairperson**

Moved by Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Campbell,  
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

**Resolved** – that Councillor McCabe be elected as Chairperson of the North Area Working Group.

### **Girdwood Community Forum - Update from Representatives**

The Chairperson welcomed Members of the Girdwood Community Forum to the meeting, Mr. M. Maguire, Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum, and Ms. R. McGreevy, representing Thorndale, Duncairn and Kinnard Residents Group.

Mr. Maguire outlined the contents of the report that had been submitted to the group for consideration, which included the following points for discussion:

- changing facilities for the Girdwood sports pitches;
- the need for toilet facilities for the Girdwood Youth Space;
- the possibility of fencing around the new sports pitches;
- community management of the Girdwood Community Hub; and
- issues with car access and bollards in situ.

In response to the issues raised, the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services advised that the approval for the fencing to be erected around the sports pitches had been reached and would progress shortly. He also advised that the other issues raised were still to be actioned, however, a short term solution for the temporary provision for changing facilities were being considered. He confirmed that a feasibility study had been completed for the toilet facilities and potential costs would be considered.

The Director of Property and Projects confirmed that he would liaise with the Department for Communities regarding the current bollard issue at the site and would also discuss the potential of other partnerships for the changing facilities.

During discussion, Members of the Group praised the work of staff and Girdwood Community Forum for the initial success of the Community Hub.

After discussion, the Chairperson thanked the representatives from the Girdwood Community Forum for attending and the Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

The Working Group also noted that the outstanding action would be kept on the agenda of the North Area Working Group so that Members could be updated of project timescales at each meeting.

### **Presentation - Urban Villages**

The Working Group was reminded that, at its meeting on 24th August, it had been agreed that representatives from Urban Villages be invited to attend the Working Group.

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting, Ms. L. Farrell, Programme Director, and Mr. J. Hynds, North Belfast Co-Ordinator, representing Urban Villages. With the permission of the Chairperson, Ms. Farrell tabled copies of the presentation.

Ms. Farrell outlined the purpose of the Urban Villages initiative, and highlighted that it was a key action within the Northern Ireland Executive's 'Together: Building a United Community' Strategy. She advised that the initiative had been designed to improve good relations outcomes and to help develop thriving places where there had previously been a history of deprivation and community tension.

She advised that delivery of the initiative would be focussed on five 'core' areas, which included North Belfast delivery in Ardoyne and Greater Ballysillan which would provide a focal point for action and investment. She highlighted that the concept of a wider area of influence, which was not sharply defined, acknowledged that thriving places required wider connections to both physical and social assets.

Mr. Hynds provided an overview of the methodology and strategic actions relating to the Ardoyne and Marrowbone initiative, and the Ballysillan initiative. He explained the various capital and pipeline projects planned for 2016-17 and provided examples of some of the community-led programmes available across the four strands: Education and Learning; Women as Community/Peace Builders; Working with Young People; Developing Community Capacity and Infrastructure.

Mr. Hynds also advised that their strategic projects worked collaboratively with the Council and other partners and the initiative encouraged collaborative working alongside local communities to shape specific actions.

During discussion the Members noted that the pre design project referenced in the presentation for Silverstream Crescent would undergo a consultation exercise regarding the use of the site and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive would be consulted as part of this research.

After discussion, the Chairperson thanked the representative from Urban Villages for attending and the Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

### **Presentation – GROW Northern Ireland**

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting, Ms. S. Craig, Director, and Mr. C. Sands, Development Officer, representing GROW, together with participants and volunteers of the organisation.

Ms. Craig presented information regarding the work of the charity that had been taking place in North Belfast. She informed the Group that GROW offered opportunities for people of all ages and ability to get involved with growing food and connecting with their community and invited the Members to the site to view the work in action.

With the permission of the Chairperson, she tabled some newspaper articles regarding their work, along with an outline of their Reaching-out Programme for 2016. She also presented a video which highlighted the three year project managed by GROW working with Newington Day Centre and Camberwell Court to develop community gardening models and opportunities for older people (60+) in North Belfast.

Ms. Craig introduced volunteers and participants of the community gardens who explained how participation in the GROW community garden had helped their health, gain confidence, make new friends, grow their own food and connect with their local community.

During discussion, Ms. Craig suggested that GROW would benefit from a long term lease agreement for the land in use at the Waterworks site, and requested that the possibility of additional land to the side of the current site be considered for lease, as there was a waiting list of potential participants.

After discussion, the Chairperson thanked the representatives from GROW NI for attending the Working Group.

The Working Group noted the information provided and that GROW NI were due to meet with staff from the Parks Department shortly.

The Working Group agreed that a report be submitted to the next meeting regarding the options for land/lease agreements, an example of a lease and an outline of previous requests that the Council had received from GROW NI.

### **Alexandra Park - Update on Consultation**

The Working Group were reminded that, in December 2015, the People and Communities Committee had agreed to complete a consultation exercise on an outdoor classroom proposal for Alexandra Park to gather feedback on:

- the development of the park to date;
- emerging priorities;
- options on community engagement in the park (including a review and refresh of the Steering group particularly to reconnect local residents and revitalise a broader plan for the park); and
- a position on the outdoor classroom, and any mitigating actions.

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services advised that the independent consultant appointed had recently completed stage 3, the engagement round of the approach, and feedback had indicated the need to use the consultation process as a means of generating other ideas and proposals to animate the park more widely.

During discussion, it was noted that the Duncairn Community Partnership membership was currently being renewed, and that Membership of the board would be provided to the Group, once confirmed.

The Working Group noted the contents of the report and the proposed extension of the consultation engagement exercise.

### **Local Investment Fund Update**

The Director of Property and Projects provided an overview of the report which included an update on the progress of those projects which had yet to be completed under Local Investment Fund (phase 1).

He highlighted that, following the withdrawal of support for the Upper Ardoyne Youth Club (American Themed Diner) in February, 2016, £27,000 remained of Local Investment Fund (phase 1), to be reallocated by the Group.

He advised that 35 projects, from Local Investment Fund (phase 1 and 2), had been formally approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and highlighted the projects whose status had changed since the last meeting. He confirmed that, through the Local Investment Fund (phase 2), the Area Working Group had committed £571,400 of its £800,000 allocation.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed that the aforementioned remaining £27,000 Local Investment Fund (phase 1), be reallocated to the Ballysillan Youth for Christ proposal under Local Investment Fund (phase 2), and that the following proposals be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for approval:-

<b>LIF 2 Proposal</b>	<b>Originally Proposed By</b>	<b>Up to £</b>
<b>Greencastle Orange Hall</b>	DUP	£35,000

<b>Ballysillan Youth for Christ</b>	DUP	£20,000 (£47,000 in total)
<b>Church of the Nazarene</b>	DUP	£10,000 (additional)

### **Belfast Investment Fund Update**

The Director of Property and Projects provided a brief overview in relation to the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF). He reminded the Working Group that the following projects had been agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 23rd September:

PROJECT	CURRENT STAGE	NOTES
<b>NORTH</b>		
Cancer Lifeline	Stage 2 – Uncommitted	<b>Move to Stage 3 – Committed with a maximum allocation of £650,000</b> - Subject to the successful acquisition of the adjoining site, the return of a satisfactory tender and the Council acting as delivery agent for the project
Grace Family Centre	Stage 2 – Uncommitted	<b>Move to Stage 3 – Committed with a maximum allocation of £1,600,000</b> - Subject to planning being obtained, the return of a satisfactory tender and the Council acting as delivery agent for the project
Malgrove	Stage 1 – Emerging	Hold at Stage 1 - Emerging
Cliftonville Community Forum	Stage 1 – Emerging	Hold at Stage 1 – Emerging
Old Grove Masterplan	Stage 1 – Emerging	Hold at Stage 1 – Emerging. <b>Agree that a total of £2.25m be ring-fenced for emerging projects</b>
Ballysillan Masterplan	Stage 1 – Emerging	

After discussion, the Group agreed that the following projects be assessed for feasibility:-

- the development of the former LIDL site (Strategic Investment Board);
- Old Grove Masterplan - Shared Community Hub between Basement Youth Club and Midland Boxing Club; and
- Sunningdale Community Centre.

### **Future Agenda Items**

The Working Group noted the following outstanding deputation requests:-

- Belfast Hills; and
- Women's Tec.

Chairperson

# East Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 6th October, 2016

## MEETING OF EAST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Alderman Haire (Chairperson);  
The High Sheriff of Belfast, Alderman Rodgers,  
Alderman Sandford; and  
Councillors Armitage, Brown, Copeland,  
Graham, Howard, Jones, Kyle, Mullan,  
Newton, O'Donnell and O'Neill.

In attendance: Mr G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;  
Mr R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;  
Mrs R. Crozier, Assistant Director of City and  
Neighbourhood Services;  
Mr D. Rogan, Head of Contracts; and  
Mrs L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported from Alderman McGimpsey and Councillors Johnston and Kennedy.

### **Minutes**

The Working Group agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 15th September, 2016, were an accurate record of proceedings.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Alderman Rodgers declared an interest in the Belmont Bowling Club and in the Lagan Village Youth and Community Group, in that he was a board member.

Councillor Copeland declared an interest in the Lagan Village Youth and Community Group in that she was a board member.

Councillor Newton declared an interest in the Lagan Village Youth and Community Group in that he was a board member.

### **Tullycarnet Primary School – Update**

The Head of Contracts provided the Working Group with an update on the Tullycarnet Primary School proposal and explained to the Members that the school estate was owned by the Department of Education and that it would not provide the tenant with security of tenure. He advised the Members that, if the project did not pass due diligence, engagement with the Education Authority at a Director level would be required to highlight that the Council wished to invest in community facilities but that it would not be possible if the department would not provide security of tenure.

Noted.

### **Lisnasharragh and Ormiston Members - Briefing Session**

The Director of Property and Projects reminded the Working Group that a briefing session had been scheduled for Monday, 24th October, for those Members who represented the Lisnasharragh and Ormiston District Electoral Areas, to discuss the additional £2 million of the BIF which had been ring-fenced for projects in the newly transferred areas of outer east.

### **Presentation - EastSide Urban Villages**

The Working Group was advised that Ms. Linsey Farrell, Programme Director of Urban Villages, and Ms. Barbara Wallace, Eastside Urban Villages Local Coordinator, were in attendance and they were admitted to the meeting.

The Programme Director outlined to the Working Group that the Urban Villages Initiative was a key action within the Northern Ireland Executive's 'Together: Building a United Community' Strategy. She explained that it was designed to improve good relations outcomes and to help develop thriving places where there had previously been a history of deprivation and community tension. She explained that the EastSide Urban Village consisted of a section of the Newtownards Road, from Bridge End to Grampian Avenue.

The Members were advised of the strategic framework for the EastSide Urban Village and she provided the Area Working Group with an overview of the objectives and outcomes for it.

During discussion, Ms. Farrell confirmed that 'EastSide', and the other four Urban Village sites, had been chosen by the Ministers of the Executive Office. Ms. Wallace confirmed that she had attended a number of the Council's Locality Planning events and that they were looking forward to working with the Council on community-led programmes.

In response to a Member's question, the representatives from Urban Villages confirmed that they would provide the Area Working Group with a list of the groups and agencies that they had consulted with so far.

The Chairperson thanked Ms. Farrell and Ms. Wallace for their presentation and they left the meeting.

### **William McFadzean VC Memorial – Update**

The Area Working Group considered the undernoted report:

- “1. Purpose**
  - 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide an update and summary note to the members of the East Belfast Working Group to assist and inform their decision making process.**
  
- 2. Background**
  - 2.1 The East Belfast Working Group agreed in September 2015 to consider a request from the William McFadzean Victoria Cross Commemoration Committee to support the installation of a memorial stone to commemorate the contribution and**

bravery of Mr William McFadzean awarded the Victoria Cross during WWI.

2.2 As Mr Mc Fadzean had a local connection, living for part of his life on the Cregagh Road, it was suggested by the Group that it would be both fitting and timely if a memorial stone could be installed to coincide with repair work done on a small piece of ground or turning circle, adjacent to his former residence on the Cregagh Road.

2.3 The stone and installation was also considered timely as it would be part of a United Kingdom Initiative, overseen locally by the N.I WWI Centenary Committee Office to support the laying of stones, with a uniform design in a location that would have resonance with the V.C. recipient and be visible to the public. This is part of a national initiative to install permanent memorials to 400 recipients of the Victoria Cross, including eight from Northern Ireland. The stones proposed are relatively small measuring 600x600x50mm

2.4 Following representation to the working group the Council agreed to undertake a short consultation exercise to gauge the level of community interest and support for the initiative.

### 3. The Consultation Process

3.1 Following discussion within the Council it was agreed to host informal drop in sessions in the local community. Two locations were identified, St Finnian's Church and the Cregagh Library, with 4 sessions being organised on the following dates;

- Monday 27 June 2016 Cregagh Library, 6pm - 8pm
- Tuesday 28 June 2016 Cregagh Library, 2pm - 4pm
- Thursday 30 June 2016 St Finnian's Church 7pm - 9pm
- Wednesday 24 August 2016 St Finnian's Church, 7pm - 9pm

3.2 The sessions were hosted by an independent consultant who was responsible for discussing the plans for the site, to answer questions, to facilitate and record any discussions or relevant comments.

3.3 The drop in events were promoted by the Council through its web site, Facebook, using the local press and by providing and distributing posters to be displayed in local community centres and shops. Here the VC committee and the Cregagh Park Residents Group were very helpful in distributing posters. The sessions were also supplemented by meetings with the VC committee and with the Cregagh Park Residents Group.

3.4 Over the 4 sessions 32 people attended, drawn from residents, those with a particular interest in local and military history and Councillors specifically those representing the Lisnasharragh Council area. All those who

attended were asked to sign in and, if interested complete information cards and indicate if they wished be to be kept informed of progress.

#### **4. Summary of Key Points Arising**

**4.1** The following provides a summary of the main points of discussion based on the information and views offered:

- There was a majority in favour of the proposal, as presented, as it was seen to be tasteful, appropriate and a fitting memorial for an individual, with strong local connections. This view was echoed during the sessions on a number of occasions by those who would have connections with the armed services. This supportive view was also shared by the representative of the Cregagh Park Residents Group.
- It was recognised that the memorial stone could offer the potential to tie in with local history projects in local schools and act as another link in the history trail within East Belfast, adding to the Tourism offer in the area. The proximity to the House of Orange Museum, was seen as a strong 'tourism hook' to attract and retain visitors to the local area.
- If landscaped as indicated in the outline plans presented, this would transform the turning circle into an attractive piece of ground providing a link with the former landscaped ground outside the House of Orange. It was indicated that these grounds were always attractively landscaped and maintained, when owned by the former Castlereagh Council.
- There was a vocal group who suggested that a more fitting tribute would be to erect a bronze statue as had recently been unveiled in Bushmills to commemorate the life and sacrifice of Mr. Quigg awarded V.C. in WWI. It was proposed that funding for such an initiative should be sought from the Council and that this should be the focus of the work of the Committee.
- While the above summary provided a very positive endorsement a significant note of caution and criticism was offered by Mr. Nigel (William) McFadzean, grandson of the late Mr William McFadzean who attended 2 of the 4 sessions and was interviewed outside of the formal sessions. His view is summarised as follows;
  - Neither he or any of the family members were contacted prior to or during the development of the submission to the Council and were not consulted as part of the correspondence with the WWI committee in Northern Ireland.

- The family view as expressed by Nigel McFadzean is that the family were and are very modest and low key and would not wish to overly promote their family history and legacy nor elevate Mr.McFadzean's sacrifice over others.
- Their view is that his memory is commemorated sufficiently already by the unofficial plaque on his former residence, by a memorial plaque in Newtownbreda Church, his mention on the Thiepval memorial and Ulster Gate in France and significantly by having the official WWI Commemorative stone at his birthplace in Lurgan. The proposed memorial Belfast stone in his view is a replica. Having another duplicate stone in his view is pointless and diminishes rather than enhances Mr. McFadzean's memory.
- Nigel is currently supporting the installation of an official 'blue plaque' to be placed on the wall of William McFadzean's former house to replace the current plaque. This would give official recognition in a way which would have significance and permanence, as such plaques are maintained and retained on buildings regardless of change of ownership or use.
- He would be supportive of a statue as a fitting tribute, provided that the funding is raised through public subscription and the statue needs to find a prominent home e.g. in the grounds of the City Hall.

## **5. Conclusion**

- 5.1 The consultation process and individual discussions indicates considerable support for the proposal to place a memorial stone in the former turning circle, landscaped and maintained by the Council.**
- 5.2 A critical element, which has not been resolved, is to secure family support for the proposal. While the V.C committee and the Council could proceed, it could be considered inappropriate and insensitive to do so without the active support and engagement of his closest living family relatives. As part of the consultation process this has been pointed out to the Committee representatives, but as yet this has not been resolved."**

The Assistant Director of City and Neighbourhood Services provided the Working Group with an update on the proposed memorial stone, given that it had been initiated as a possible LIF project by the group, and reminded the Members that a report would be submitted to the People and Communities Committee for its consideration.

A number of Members stated that, whilst they had been in full support of a memorial stone commemorating William McFadzean VC before attending the consultation events, since hearing from William's grandson, they felt that the family's view should be respected.

During discussion, a number of Members questioned why the family had not been consulted at the beginning of the process. The Assistant Director confirmed to the Members that the proposal had come from the community and that the family had not been excluded.

A Member stated that the Council needed to determine whether it was the collective view of the McFadzean family or whether it was just one member which was opposed to the memorial stone. A number of Members pointed out that Mr. Mervyn Gibson had been involved in this project from the beginning and had spoken to the McFadzean family previously.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed that the Assistant Director of City and Neighbourhood Services would engage with Mr. Mervyn Gibson to discuss the outcome of the consultation exercise. It was also agreed that, if it was deemed necessary, the Council could organise a meeting with members of the McFadzean family, Mr. Gibson and those wishing to proceed with the memorial stone to determine the best way forward.

### **BIF – Update on Strand Arts Centre**

The Director of Property and Projects reminded the Working Group that it had requested an update in relation to the Strand Cinema proposal, specifically why it had increased its funding request from an initial estimate of £1.4million to £4.2million. The Director explained that the initial estimate of £1.4million had been for a bingo hall and lounge but that it had not met the objectives identified in the economic appraisal.

The Director confirmed that he had met with a representative from the Strand Arts Cinema project and that it was now requesting BIF funding of £1.8million, towards the overall project which was estimated at £4.2million, on the basis that it would seek funding from other sources.

In response to a Member's question regarding the ownership of the Strand, the Director confirmed that it was in private ownership and that assurances had been given that the necessary leases and agreements would be provided.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed that £1.8million of BIF would be ring-fenced for a period of two years, with an option to extend by a further year, for the Strand Arts Centre project, on the basis that it received additional funding from other sources which would enable the project to proceed. On advice from the Director of Finance and Resources, the Working Group also agreed that, out of the remaining £330,000 of BIF, £130,000 would be ring-fenced for pre-contract work on projects and £200,000 would be designated for contingency.

### **Local Investment Fund - Update**

The Director of Property and Projects advised the Working Group that the sod cutting event to celebrate the commencement of work on the new Dementia Garden at Palmerston Care Home, which had received LIF funding from the East Area Working Group, had been a success.

Noted.

**Connswater Community Greenway**

The Director of Property and Projects reminded the Members that the Connswater Community Greenway would officially be opened at 2pm on Saturday, 22nd October, 2016.

Noted.

Chairperson