

Signage Scheme Proposal for the Gaeltacht Quarter

Introduction

The proposal for this signage scheme comes on the back of the recommendations of the West Belfast and Shankill Taskforce 2002 and everything that has come from that, The Dutton Report 2004 and other efforts to develop the Gaeltacht Quarter in this period including Glás le Fás & the big Gaeltacht Quarter plan. The Gaeltacht Quarter is included in the programme for government & we believe that this is the time to increase the viability of the Irish Language in the Gaeltacht Quarter.

The Boundary of the Scheme

We propose that a comprehensive signage scheme for the Quarter be developed, with the boundary as follows, the Western boundary of Kennedy Way and the Monagh Bypass leading on to the northern boundary to the Upper Springfield Rd on both sides of the Road up to the Ballygomartin Rd and continuing on to Lanark Way. From there it should follow the Peace wall meeting the eastern boundary at Divis Street and from there to the southern boundary leading to Durham St/Grosvenor Rd on the side leading to the City Centre where the Grosvenor Rd meets the M1 Motorway and continuing down the Motorway on the City Centre side leading to Kennedy Way again.

The scope of scheme

Different types of signage should be included in this scheme that covers i) Welcome Signage on the main throughfares into the Quarter ii) Directional signage for tourists and residents alike that cover the main buildings, the natural places of interest etc... within the Quarter. iii) A street and road signage scheme. iv) Directional signage that cover the proposed network of linear walkways. v) A complete signage scheme within the Quarter and in the City Centre that integrate the Quarter with other existing Quarters in Belfast and that specifically include the Quarter in the directional and tourist signage in Belfast City Centre.

The Design of the Scheme

The design of the signage relating to the Quarter should be unique and consistent with the Gaelic character of the Quarter and should be specifically related to the existing designs in terms of publicity and publications relating to the Gaeltacht Quarter. The Irish language must be prioritised within these signage proposals.

Next Steps

To establish a working group with representatives from statutory and public stakeholders involved that will be linked to the Gaeltacht Quarter Steering Group and to bring to the fore their work in the wider context of the efforts that are being made at

Steering Group level to ensure a holistic, strategic approach for the promotion of the Quarter,

To agree guidelines for the Working Group.

To agree a working timetable for the Working Group as soon as possible.

To make contact with Queen's University Belfast in terms of their scheme to standardize the Street names, road names and the names of areas.

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