



Subject:	Colin Interpretive Heritage Trail
Date:	24 September 2021
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
Contact Officer:	Alistair Charles, Project Sponsor

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The Council has received a request from the Colin Neighbourhood Partnership (CNP) to place one of the interpretive panels from the planned Colin Heritage Trail within the Council's new park in Colin (Páirc Nua Chollann).
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to note this report and consider the request from CNP to locate Panel 4, which commemorates the life and achievements of Professor Frank Pantridge, within the grounds of the Council's New Park in Colin (Páirc Nua Chollann).
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Colin Neighbourhood Partnership is currently working with the local community to develop a heritage walking trail across the Colin area.

3.2 The trail will include a series of interpretive panels telling the stories of notable landmarks and historical figures from in and around the Colin area.

The trail currently includes the following panels, as set out by Colin Neighbourhood Partnership:

1. Cloona House

The Victorian mansion was the original home of Nicolas Grimshaw, a leading linen manufacturer, and his wife, Eleanor and their family. The house was also home to other notable occupants such as Beatrice Grimshaw (see panel 5) and Alfred Jaffe (older brother of former Lord Mayor Otto Jaffe). During WWII, the house was leased to the MoD and became the home of the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the British Army in Northern Ireland. Several major military operations were planned in Cloona House. In 1982 the house was sold to the local parish and now serves as a community hub.

2. Belle Steele

Belle Steele was a courageous Protestant woman who lived in the Colin area in the 18th Century and risked her own life to assist her Catholic neighbours at a time of persecution. At the time Catholic Masses were forbidden and as such were held in secret. At this time Belle became the trusted custodian of the sacred vessels and vestments used by the priest for this secret worship. Tradition records that she kept a small cow horn to summon people to mass and to warn the priest of any advancing 'red coats' (soldiers).

3. Teeling's Mill

Linen was an important industry in the Colin area with flax widely grown. The mill was developed by Luke Teeling, a successful linen and wine merchant. Luke's sons, Bartholomew and Charles Hamilton both grew up to be revolutionaries and joined the Society of United Irishmen founded by Dublin lawyer, Wolfe Tone. Bartholomew was executed for treason in 1798 and Charles went on to edit the Ulster Magazine, following a long stint in Kilmainham Gaol.

4. Frank Partridge

After studying medicine at Queens University, Pantridge joined the Royal Army Medical Corps at the onset of WWII. During the retreat of Johore, Pantridge was wounded and awarded The Military Cross for bravery. Following the subsequent Battle of Singapore, Pantridge was captured and tortured by the Japanese and became a PoW. Forced into slave labour he developed heart disease but was determined not to die in far off Burma.

In 1945, Pantridge was released following the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Despite being plagued by ill health Pantridge became a consultant cardiologist at the RVH and in 1965, along with Dr John Geddes and Alfred Mawhinney, invented the world's first portable defibrillator, using car batteries to create the current. The portable defibrillator has gone on to save millions of lives across the world earning Pantridge the title, 'The father of emergency medicine'. Remarkably, Pantridge went on to live to the age of 88, dying on Boxing Day, 2004.

5. Beatrice Grimshaw

Beatrice Ethel Grimshaw, explorer, sports woman, record breaker, journalist, travel writer, novelist, coffee and tobacco plantation owner, explorer, photographer, and celebrity of her time, was born 3 February 1870 at Cloona House. Beatrice was the great great grand daughter of the house's original inhabitant, leading linen manufacturer, Nicolas Grimshaw.

After studying at Margaret Byers' Ladies Collegiate College (which later became Victoria College), Beatrice became a journalist in Dublin and converted to Catholicism. A keen cyclist, in the early 1900's Beatrice is reported to have broken the women's world 24 hour cycling record by five hours. Beatrice quickly achieved prominence for her non-fictional travel books and a raft of novels, set in the exotic tropical locations she visited in the South Seas. From 1907 to 1934, she lived in Papua New Guinea, where alongside her writing, she ran a coffee plantation. It was during her 30 years in Papua that Beatrice undertook the majority of her writing, publishing almost 50 books covering fiction, travel writing, and popular romance.

Beatrice's eccentricity and support for Women's rights is evidenced by the following quote; *'Women are not as clever as men- let the equality brigade shriek if they like- but neither are we as stupid'*. *Beatrice Grimshaw, 1907.*

6. Bobby Sands

Bobby Sands was born in Newtownabbey in 1954 after which his family were relocated to the religiously mixed Rathcoole estate. With the outbreak of the troubles in 1969, Sands was forced to leave his first job in a coach building firm following sectarian threats and the family were forced to relocate to Twinbrook estate. Following the introduction of internment in the early 1970's, Sands joined the Provisional IRA. Following a three year imprisonment in Long Kesh for possession of weapons, Sands became a community activist in Twinbrook and developed the community newsletter, Liberty.

	<p>In 1976 Sands was sentenced to 14 years imprisonment in the Maze prison following an IRA bombing. By this time Sands extensive writing and poetry meant he was viewed as a Republican thinker and propagandist. In 1981 Sands began a second hunger strike in support of prisoners' 'five demands'.</p> <p>As his physical condition deteriorated Sands was dramatically elected to Westminster in a by election for Fermanagh/South Tyrone. However, the British Prime Minister at the time, Margaret Thatcher, continued to refuse any concessions to the prisoners.</p> <p>Bobby Sands died on 5th May 1981, the 66th day of his hunger strike, and it is believed over 100,000 lined the streets of West Belfast during his funeral. Today, in the wake of the peace process, Sands' election is seen at the beginning of a shift by the Irish Republican Movement towards electoral politics and, ultimately, to the ceasefires which led to the Good Friday Agreement.</p> <p>3.3 Colin Neighbourhood Partnership is requesting that Panel 4, which commemorates the life and achievements of Professor Frank Pantridge and is located within the grounds of the Council's New Park in Colin (Páirc Nua Chollann) close to the Pantridge Road entrance is approved. Members will note that the other proposed panels are within the Colin area and are, therefore, not subject to approval by the Council as they are not located on its land.</p>
	<p>Financial and Resource Implications</p>
3.4	<p>None - installation and maintenance costs will be covered by the CNP.</p>
	<p>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</p>
3.5	<p>The Council is not the promoter of the Colin Heritage Trail as a collective entity. No equality, good relations or rural needs implications have been identified for Panel 4 (Professor Frank Pantridge) which is the only panel requested to be on Council land.</p>
4.0	<p>Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None</p>