

# COMMUNITY FOCUS!



Issue 3 Spring Edition

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Making Positive Change in the Duncairn Area

DUNCAIRN  
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP



INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND

Duncairn Community Partnership



PEACE WALLS PROGRAMME



## Belfast City Council Widens Consultation

Latest!  
Alexandra Park  
Update

Belfast City Council have decided to widen their original agreement to carry out community consultation in relation to the development of a cross community outdoor classroom in Alexandra Park. The Council are now seeking to take a wider and more strategic approach to the overall development of the entire Alexandra Park. This new strategic approach could lead to a number of other positive developments or improvements that would compliment the provision of our existing outdoor classroom proposal. Joe McVey, (Blue Print Development), has been appointed as a consultant to facilitate this work. Duncairn Community Partnership welcome the opportunity to work with Belfast City Council, Alexandra Park Steering Group and others committed to securing the long term future of Alexandra Park as an active shared space enjoyed by all in North Belfast.

*Alexandra Park Cross Community Outdoor Cinema & Consultation Event. October 16*



*"striving towards normality whilst developing community relations and creating safer stable interface areas"*

Duncairn Community Partnership, Intercomm Building, 290-292 Antrim Road, Belfast, BT15 5AA

Strengthening Relationships  
Transforming Communities  
Building Trust & Confidence  
Giving Residents a Stronger Voice

Tigers Bay  
New Lodge



## Duncairn Community Partnership "Meet The Neighbours" Event



Building on the success of the International Peace Day 2015 events, DCP delivered an afternoon of cross community activity and engagement through our 'Meet the Neighbours' event held in September 2016. DCP organised this event to gauge and measure support for the various aspects of our community relations and peace walls work. The event was aimed at residents who lived closest to, or in the shadows, of existing interface areas in the New Lodge, Tigers Bay, Limestone Road and Mountcollyer areas



Adults were given opportunities to socialise and engage on issues such as shared space, community safety, good relations and the peace walls programme. Participants were also asked to comment on the state of community relations in these areas in order that we could measure improvements or otherwise. Whilst all this was going on with the adults, children were provided with an afternoon of entertainment including face painting, arts, crafts and a magic show! Feedback from the event was very positive with a majority of residents acknowledging a marked improvement in community relations and a significant decrease in interface violence. This was in keeping with other previous surveys of local residents

**Duncairn Community Partnership welcomes volunteers!**  
**Volunteer in cross community events, activities, trips, visits, surveys etc..**  
**Contact Leanne Marshall or Kate Clarke on 028 90352165 for further details!**

# Dun Cairn Community Partnership Christmas Events Update

*DCP Limestone Rd Peace-walls Christmas Event*



## **Christmas Tree and Carol Event**

30th November 2016

100 Young People and Parents  
Another first!

A cross community shared space event for children and their parents held in what was, at one time, the most contentious interface in the province, Limestone Road. Christmas lights, an inflatable Christmas tree, tinsel and a marquee full of Carol singers was the perfect debut for this event.

Fresh tea, coffee and biscuits helped to keep everyone nice and warm whilst Santa's attendance assured there were presents for children and parents alike!

*DCP Senior Citizens Christmas Event & Consultation*



## **Senior Citizens Christmas Event**

8th December 2016

85 participants

A cross community day trip to Ballymena followed by dinner, presentation and a discussion on the many positive changes that have occurred at interfaces in Dun Cairn. The seniors welcomed and acknowledged the significant changes and hoped this work would continue in future years

*DCP Family Christmas Grotto Event & Consultation*



## **Christmas Grotto Event**

9th December 2016

1250 participants (parents & children)  
This annual event continues to grow in popularity with attendance now reaching 1250! Parents and children enjoyed a fantastic event with a varied programme of activities to entertain young and old. A true sense of normality free from any sectarian related suspicions or behaviour.

***Well done everybody!***

**The International Fund for Ireland** is an independent international organisation which was established by the British and Irish Governments in 1986. Financed by contributions from the United States of America, the European Union, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, the Fund promotes economic and social advance, and encourages contact, dialogue and reconciliation between nationalists and unionists throughout Ireland.

Duncairn Community Partnership is funded by the Fund through its Peace Walls Programme (PWP) which is aimed at developing and delivering a range of confidence and relationship building interventions within and between interface communities to help residents reach a position where they feel it is safe and appropriate to proceed with the removal of Peace Walls in their area. The Programme, which was developed by the IFI following consultation with all the key stakeholders, is designed to be the first stage in a process leading to the physical removal of barriers. Central and core to this work are those many residents from our communities who live in interface areas, particularly those residents who reside directly in the shadows of interface barriers. **As such, detailed community consultation and agreement is imperative before any physical changes can take effect.**



### Our Statutory Partners



### Youth Provision

Holy Family Youth Club,  
Mountcollyer Youth Club  
Star Neighbourhood Centre

These youth providers are members of Duncairn Community Partnership. Each have a long history of working with young people on a cross community basis in the Duncairn area. As such, they are ideal partners to develop and deliver youth work specifically relevant to the IFI Peace Walls programme. Young people have been involved in cultural identity training, mentoring programmes and anti sectarian work which has helped to develop the necessary skills and attitudes to facilitate tolerance and mutual respect for one another.

### Events For All

Events for all was established to manage DCP cross community events in the Duncairn area. Led by Kate Clarke and Leanne Marshall with support from Cecilia Heron (New Lodge Arts), this group has excelled in event organisation and management. Keep it up girls!

### Our Community Partners

Intercomm

Groundwork NI

Newington Housing Association

North Belfast Community  
Development & Transition Group

North Belfast Ministers Fraternal

North Belfast Interface Network

Malgrove

Newington Residents Group

Star Neighbourhood Centre

Mountcollyer Youth Club

Holy Family Youth Club

### Community Consultation

*DCP asks participants who attend our cross community events to complete short questionnaires that help us gauge opinions on the peace-walls and community relations events and activities held at different times throughout the year. This acts as a valuable consultation tool with those of you who attend our events. We will soon begin to survey residents from both our communities who initially live directly in the shadow of interface barriers, to ensure their views and opinions are also heard. Participation in our survey is completely voluntary and you are under no obligation to participate .*

Encouraging contact, dialogue and reconciliation between Protestant and Nationalists in interface areas

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