

# COMMUNITY FOCUS!



Issue 2 Autumn/Winter Edition

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Making Positive Change in the Duncairn Area

DUNCAIRN  
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP



## ALEXANDRA PARK



### Belfast City Council Consultation Process

In November 2015 a delegation from Duncairn Community Partnership and Alexandra Park Steering Group were invited to a meeting of Councillors and Officers who make up Belfast City Council's North Belfast Area Working Group. The intent behind the meeting was to provide details of a proposal to develop a cross community outdoor classroom in Alexandra Park. To help with the presentation, the partnership commissioned a draft concept drawing of what an outdoor classroom could look like, (see below). The working group agreed to undertake community consultation as a means of measuring community support for such a proposal. Belfast City Council have now appointed consultants (Blue Print Development) who will carry out consultation in the coming weeks/months, to this end, keep your eyes open for further details of the consultation process.

#### DCP PEACEWALLS PROGRAMME

*Promoting dialogue and positive actions to re-image, improve or remove interface barriers, fences, gates or walls in partnership with residents, community groups, youth groups and a range of other relevant voluntary and statutory agencies*

#### Draft Concept for Outdoor Learning Space for Alexandra Park note - (this is an example of what could be done!)

- 1 Retain existing trees and shrubbery to boundary of proposed outdoor learning space with additional planting and bird and bat boxes to promote wildlife
- 2 Changable Boards with associated learning materials for outdoor learning activities
- 3 Willow Sculpture as focal point to upper educational zone
- 4 Sensory planting bed with bug hotels to promote diversity
- 5 Gravel or semi paved surfacing
- 6 1.20 metre high fencing with low level hedging to inside boundary
- 7 Entrance Arch with gate designed to relate to historical elements of the park or based on design workshops with local schools. The entrance linked with existing path network
- 8 Central focal sculpture relating to historical elements of the park or based on design workshops with local schools
- 9 West facing Timber Curved Bench with central teaching chairs to accommodate outdoor learning classes
- 10 Existing Peace Wall to be retained

Timber Seating for Outdoor Learning Space

Willow Sculpture

Sensory planting with seating

Double sided changable boards

Draft Sketch Design for Discussion Only. Not to Scale @ A2  
Sketch Design subject to detailed design, consultation with planning, ground investigation survey and budget availability

(please note - this is an example of what could be done on the site)

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

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## Duncairn Community Partnership Update

Duncairn Community Partnership is committed to the creation of safer, stable and prosperous working class interface communities. In doing so we recognise the need to build confidence within our communities and to support the development of local cross community empowerment initiatives and projects in a peaceful, non threatening environment. *It is widely acknowledged that peace walls and other structures serve to reinforce the barriers in people's minds.*

To bring about physical change requires residents to change perceptions, dispel myths and build trust with their neighbours. This is critical to creating the circumstances to achieve the ultimate goal of a society without barriers. Over the last six months we have been busy delivering a number of activities and events including;

**Christmas events** with over 1200 adults and children attending our cross community Santa's grotto event, choir service and senior citizens event.

**In February 2016** we hosted a workshop for a cross community group of volunteers. This helped to strengthen and develop relationships whilst enabling participants to explore common issues that affect both sides of our community pertaining to peace walls.

**In March 2016** the partnership delivered a cross community St Patricks Day event in Midland Boxing Club and a cross community Easter event in the Recy Community Centre in the New Lodge. Over 100 senior citizens attended and exchanged thoughts and ideas associated with Peacewalls.

**In June 2016** the partnership organised a cross community fun day for young people. This event successfully helped to reduce community tensions between young people before the Tour of the North parade.

**Thanks to all our volunteers** for their help in organising and delivering all these events and special thanks to the many children, adults and older people from our communities who attended and participated!

*Empowering communities through education, consultation and dialogue, and where appropriate, with the agreement of those residents living directly in the shadows of interfaces, making small steps towards positive change.*

### A Few of Our Achievements!



Delaware Shared Housing Complex



Alexandra Park Peace Gate



CitySide Shared Retail Park



Removal Of Newington Street Barrier

**Events For All**



**Promoting Duncairn Partnership  
 "out and about" with Ciaran Shannon**

DCP Partnership Manager

**First Minister  
 Arlene Foster**



**Deputy  
 First Minister  
 Martin McGuinness**



**North Belfast  
 MP  
 Nigel Dodds**



**Former  
 Sec of State  
 Teresa Villers**



**Taoiseach  
 Enda Kenny**



**PSNI Chief  
 Constable  
 George Hamilton**



