

# COMMUNITY FOCUS!

Issue 5 Winter Edition

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Making Positive Change in the Duncairn Area



INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND

## North Belfast Peace Walls Project



INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND

*"Promoting dialogue and positive actions to re-image, improve or remove interface barriers, fences, gates or walls in partnership with our communities, government and statutory agencies"*

## Duncairn Community Partnership

Duncairn Community Partnership Peace Walls Programme delivers a co-ordinated and collaborative approach to dealing with the multitude of issues associated with the removal of Peace Walls. The Peace Walls programme is unique in that it brings together communities, government/statutory agencies and funders in an accountable partnership to assist in the eventual removal of peace walls, barriers and gates erected during the former conflict.

Membership of Duncairn Community Partnership is built on three core principles to which all partner groups must clearly reflect in their constitution and subscribe to. These are;

- Working with all groups who are actively committed to the wider peace process and normalisation of our communities.
- Working with local community groups with strong roots in community development who promote and fully support the ethos and delivery of positive community relations in the Duncairn area.
- Working with community groups committed to inclusive peace-building through engagement at a local level whilst supporting and promoting the PSNI and all other legitimate sources of law and order.

The Partnership successfully continues to build relationships and trust with a view to eventually reducing or restructuring a number of physical barriers in this area. Our work to date has seen a number of pedestrian security gates open on a daily basis, the removal of security grills from windows, the removal of Newington Street security barrier, the ongoing support and promotion of Alexandra Park Peace Gate, Delaware Shared Housing Complex, Cityside Retail Park and transformation of Limestone Road and Duncairn Gardens interface areas. All this work includes direct engagement and consultation with local residents particularly those who live directly in the shadows of interfaces. Duncairn Community Partnership empowers residents on both sides of the interfaces to take joint-ownership of the transformation process. This is supported by a range of cross-community and single identity workshops, seminars, events, and activities based on the themes of sectarianism, division, segregation and the negative impact this has on our communities. At our core, community safety is a key priority and theme which helps to facilitate inclusion and participation. **Improving community safety, increasing the wellbeing of children and families will help to secure a brighter and safer future for all interface residents**

### in this edition!...

IFI Peace Walls Residents Survey

see summary on page 5!

### Update - DCP Peace Walls Events



see pages 2 & 3

## Community Safety

see pages 6 & 7

### Christmas Event for families!



see back page for details!

**SAY NO TO HATE CRIME**

CALL YOUR LOCAL POLICE



**101**

IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL 999

**Merry Christmas!**

# Duncairn Community Partnership Event

## Over 80 Local Residents Participate



Building on the success of our International Peace Day 2016 event, DCP delivered an afternoon of cross community activity and engagement through our 'Meet the Neighbours' event held on the 24th September 2017 in MacCroy Church Hall, Duncairn Gardens. We organised this event to gauge and measure support for the various aspects of our good relations and Peace Walls programme. The event was aimed at residents who live closest to, or in the shadows of, existing interface areas in the New Lodge, Tigers Bay, Limestone Road and Mountcollyer areas. **Residents were very positive and enjoyed the opportunity of participating and getting their views heard through facilitated discussion.**



Residents were given opportunities to discuss issues such as shared space, community safety at interfaces, cultural diversity and various aspects of our ongoing 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 this event was very positive with a majority of residents acknowledging a marked improvement in community relations and a significant decrease in interface violence.** The event also identified a willingness among residents to further engage with each other in relation to making positive improvements/changes to some of our interface barriers.

Improving Community Relations  
 Creating Opportunities for Jobs and Investment  
 Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour

Newington  
 Mountcollyer



# Dun Cairn Community Partnership Event

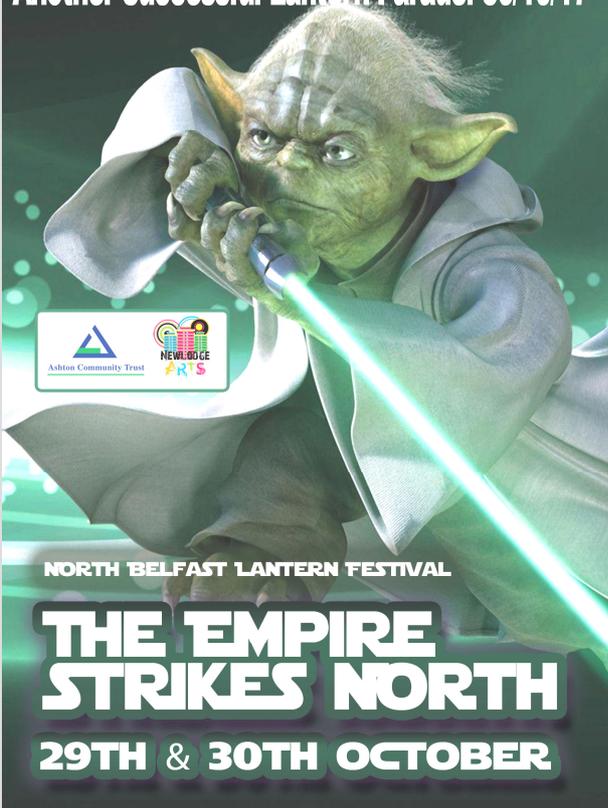
## Alexandra Park Outdoor Cinema

Alexandra Park Outdoor "Star Wars" Cinema Event . 29th October 2017



On Sunday 29th October 2017 Dun Cairn Community Partnership along with New Lodge Arts, organised an outdoor fun event for children 11am to 3.30pm in Alexandra Park, where local children and their parents enjoyed participating in a wide range of activities and events promoting good relations and social interaction between families. Later, in the evening, a "Star Wars" themed family outdoor cinema event transformed the Park to promote the shared neighbourhood ethos of Alexandra Park whilst also providing an opportunity to consult local residents on the progress of our IFI funded Peace Wall programme. In keeping with other good relations events, feedback from this event was excellent with residents feeling more positive about their neighbourhood whilst also expressing an overall improvement in community relations.

### Another Successful Lantern Parade! 30/10/17



Organised by New Lodge Arts, thousands of North Belfast residents got involved in this annual cross community event aimed at promoting peace and reconciliation between our communities. Setting off from the Girdwood Community Hub, the lantern parade wound its way to Alexandra Park where families enjoyed an evening of numerous events and activities.

#### SCHEDULE:

##### Sunday 29th October 2017 – Alexandra Park

11.30am – 3.30pm: Activities will include circus performers, lantern making, music, visual arts, storytelling etc

6pm-8pm: Outdoor cinema showing a StarWars Film. **Bring a chair, blanket, brolly and wear your wellies.**

##### Monday 30th October 2017 – Alexandra Park

11.30am – 3.30pm: Activities will include circus performers, lantern making, music, visual arts, storytelling etc

Lantern Parade departs Girdwood Community Hub at 6.30pm and make it's way to Alexandra Park. We are encouraging as many people as possible to come and watch the parade before entering the park. The parade route will be: Cliftonpark Avenue, down Cliftonville Road, up Antrim Road, across Atlantic Avenue, down Limestone Road and into Alexandra Park via Mileriver Street.

6.30pm-9pm: Main event in Alexandra Park. Gates open at 6.30pm

There will be an array of performers, music, food stalls, UV disco and of course fireworks. Entrance via Mileriver Street (side of Currie Primary).



## DCP Peacewalls Programme

Engagement with the Peace Walls Programme occurs through grassroots programmes aimed at developing and delivering a range of confidence and relationship-building interventions within and between interface communities. These are facilitated by community representatives in collaboration with relevant statutory agencies. The Programme has been in operation in the Lower North Belfast area (*an area historically affected by the worst of the Troubles with a disproportionate number of deaths occurring in this area during the conflict*) since 2012 and is facilitated by the Duncairn Community Partnership (henceforth DCP). To date DCP has reported significant progress at a number of sites including:

- removal of the Newington Street Barrier in consultation with the local community and the Department of Justice (DoJ);
- opening of all six security gates at Duncairn Gardens from early morning until early evening (Monday to Friday);
- removal of the peace fence between North City Business Centre and Hillman Street;
- replaced grills on most of the windows of houses at Duncairn Gardens with toughened glass;
- reimaging of peace walls at Lepper Street and Syringa Street; and
- extension of opening times of the peace gate in Alexandra Park in line with normal park hours



The second phase of the Programme focuses on a further ten identified peace wall sites across the engagement area with DCP reporting that the Programme is well-established in the area and residents are more open to addressing the topic of barrier reimaging, reduction and/or removal.

Despite commitments in both the Programme for Government (2011-2015) and within the TBUC strategy document (2013) that change to the barriers will only happen in consultation with communities most affected, there remains limited quantitative data on residents' views to such change. To address this and in order to aid planning and development of the second phase of the programme and deliver the wider outcome of the PWP, DCP gathered survey data from 137 of the most impacted residents at these 10 identified sites. This is a continuation of work undertaken by DCP to promote engagement between and within communities and to provide opportunities for residents to voice their concerns about barrier removal, ensure any future alterations are resident-led and move towards overcoming the psychological barriers that hinder change.

The objective of the survey is to baseline attitudinal positions from residents of both community backgrounds in order to establish an area-specific profile and provide Peace Walls Programme staff with information to aid the development of future initiatives from an evidence base.

The survey summary opposite outlines some of the key findings from the survey in relation to residents' key concerns about the peace walls, their current attitudes towards the role of the peace walls, the current status of community relations in the area and views on the future status of the barriers.

These findings are presented in relation to results from all respondents and from both communities (when relevant) and are discussed in greater detail in the full survey report. **Copies of the full report are available from DCP. Please ring us on 02890352165 or email us at [info@duncairn.com](mailto:info@duncairn.com) to request a copy**

## Summary of DCP Base Line Survey

The Duncairn Community Partnership (DCP) baseline attitudinal survey report is one of six carried out in the local communities impacted by physical barriers as part of the International Fund for Ireland's Peace Walls Programme.

**Unlike other studies, these surveys concentrate on the views of those most affected by change to the barriers, the people who live closest to them and who would be taking the biggest risks.** The surveys show that fear continues to be a key issue for many, yet most want to see physical change in place for future generations. Positive change will only be enabled when agencies work together to ensure local voice is prioritised and after-care protection of life and property is in place and effective.



**An encouraging 25% of respondents** want the barriers removed now with a further 33% wishing to see this happen in the future and an additional 26% willing to see de-classification, re-imaging or providing greater accessibility (gates opened for longer hours).

**71% want the barriers removed** in the lifetime of their children or grandchildren.

**Improved safety and security measures** are ranked as the main factors that could influence positive attitudinal change to the removal of peace walls. While these statistics provide a strong baseline for the future work of

the Duncairn Community Partnership Peace Walls Programme, the **36% who want some form of barrier to remain** cannot be overlooked with **12% wishing to maintain the status quo**. A confidence building community engagement strategy will be needed to address these concerns.

**57% of respondents record regular interaction** with the other community and, while this decreases to 39% in relation to interaction with their neighbours across the peace barriers, **this remains a very encouraging percentage** which can be built upon in the coming phase of the DCP PWP.

**These results are significant and indicate that communities are willing, with support, to work towards positive change.** While challenging, it underscores that if progress is to be realised, community goodwill and ambition must be met in full by tangible action from relevant statutory authorities backed by strong political leadership. Ring-fenced resources and funding is part of delivering change as is the need for a detailed and considered strategy that aligns the efforts of those who own the physical structures, including the Department of Justice, local authorities, Northern Ireland Housing Executive and others. Without this, we may ultimately be taking communities to a place where they cannot advance any further, causing frustration and anger and effectively negating progress made.



IFI chair, Dr Adrian Johnston & other Peace Wall representatives at the official launch of the PWP survey on 24/10/17

**Please note! the full detailed survey findings for this area are available now from Duncairn Community Partnership. Tel 02890 352165**

# POLICING & COMMUNITY SAFETY

Report all Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour



CALL YOUR LOCAL POLICE

101

IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL 999

Duncairn Community Partnership Working in Partnership to Develop Safer Stable Interface Areas Duncairn Community Partnership



Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour Together

Personal, Professional, Protective Policing

Police Service of Northern Ireland

**TOGETHER**

DIAL 101

For non-emergency calls & general enquiries

Emergency calls - 999

Emergency text phone - 18000

An **emergency** is where serious injury has been caused or is threatened or a crime is in progress and the suspects are at or near the scene.

Police Headquarters - 028 9065 0222

Crimestoppers - 0800 555 111

Specialist text line for use by the deaf, auditory and speech impaired only:  
**028 9090 1300**

Report Non Emergency Crime Form  
[www.report.psnl.police.uk](http://www.report.psnl.police.uk)

## Police Thank North Belfast Community For Support

Thanking the people of North Belfast for their continued support and help in addressing criminal behaviour in the area, Chief Inspector Stephen Burns said, "The Information provided by the community, whether that's through direct contact by calling us on 101 or provided at community meetings or through local representatives, all forms an integral part of how we develop our patrolling strategy and carry out operational activity across North Belfast. "Sometimes, due to the ongoing nature of investigations and operations looking at specific issues, we are not in a position to discuss or it can take some time to highlight progress, which can make it appear that we aren't addressing the issues. But when arrests are made, we announce details on our various social media platforms, issue information to local media outlets and contact local community representatives to tell them what we have been able to do. An example is operation Torus—"We are working hard to disrupt and arrest drug

dealers involved in the sale and supply of drugs, bring those responsible before the courts and work with the community and partner agencies to reduce the threat of this incredibly harmful and illegal activity. "During operation Torus, our recent anti-drugs operation, in North Belfast alone, our preliminary figures indicate that we carried out 44 searches of properties, people and cars for drugs. We made 13 seizures of suspected drugs worth over an estimated £17,000 and made 13 arrests, with more planned in the coming weeks. "We continue to use information coming from the community to ensure our patrols and operations are in the right place at the right time to tackle this issue, so please

Be a SQUEALER on a Drug DEALER

SAY NO TO DRUGS

CALL POLICE ON 101 OR 999 in an emergency

keep telling us about criminality in your area. **Antisocial behaviour in the Limestone Road area.** "Following reports of antisocial behaviour and the throwing of a number of petrol bombs in the Limestone Road Area earlier this month, thanks to help from the community we were able to identify and arrest a 14 year old boy in relation to the incident. The young man has since been charged with a number of offences, but this underlines the importance of our ongoing appeal to the parents and guardians of young people; you really need to know where your children and young people are, who they're with and what they're getting up to. While this one arrest has had a real impact, reducing the number of incidents we've been called about in recent weeks, the last thing any of us wants is young people getting injured or worse. **What can for some seem like messing around, can quickly get out of control, and ultimately end up in a criminal record which could affect education, job and travel opportunities in the future.** Our young people really need to understand this message. Chief Inspector Burns continued "I would also like to reassure the community that we have the appropriate number of police officers available 24/7 across North Belfast, but like all other critical front line public services, policing has had to deliver significant efficiencies. While overall, the crime figures for North Belfast are currently on a downward trend, we are grateful to the local community for their continued support. **The best way the community can help us to address crime in North Belfast, is to keep contacting us with information, no matter how small, about any suspected criminality on the non-emergency number 101, so we can work together to do something about it."**

Would you like to find out more about Duncairn Community Partnership?

Would you be interested in volunteering some of your free time with us?

Have you noticed a difference in Anti-Social behaviour at the Interfaces?

Would you be interested in helping to organise and deliver cross community events and activities etc? If so then please contact us → → →

HOW TO CONTACT US!

Web: [www.duncairn.com](http://www.duncairn.com)

Phone: 028 90352165

Email: [info@duncairn.com](mailto:info@duncairn.com)





Report all Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

# POLICING & COMMUNITY SAFETY

## Useful Community Safety Organisations

**NI Housing Executive North Belfast District Office**  
32-36 Great Victoria Street, Belfast, BT2 7BA T: 0344 892 0900  
Email: belfastnorth@nihe.gov.uk Web: www.nihe.gov.uk  
Anti-Social behaviour, nuisance and neighbourhood issues

**Newington Housing Association**  
300 – 302 Limestone Road, Belfast , BT15 3AR,,  
Email: admin@newingtonha.co.uk Phone: 028 90 744 055  
Fax: 028 90 747 624 (9:00 am – 4:00 pm on weekdays Closed  
on Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays) Out of Hours  
Emergency Number: 08007313081 Anti-Social behaviour,  
nuisance and neighbourhood issues

**Belfast City Council Environmental Health Services**  
Cecil Ward Building 4-10 Linenhall Street, Belfast, BT2 8BP  
Tel: 028 9027 0428 Email: envhealth@belfastcity.gov.uk  
Web: www.belfastcity.gov.uk/environmentalhealth  
Dog wardens animal welfare, noise control, food safety,  
pollution control, health and wellbeing and consumer safety.

**Belfast City Council Anti-Social Behaviour Officer**  
Cecil Ward Building 4-10 Linenhall Street, Belfast, BT2 8BP  
Trevor McDonald (North Belfast) Tel: 028 9032 0202  
ext 6914 / 3324 Email: envhealth@belfastcity.gov.uk

**Belfast City Council Community Safety**  
North Belfast Policing & Community Safety Partnership  
Belfast PCSP, Belfast City Hall, Belfast, BT1 5GS  
Tel: 02890 270469

**Department of Justice**  
Block B, Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate  
Belfast, BT4 3SG, Tel: (028) 90523784.  
**Contact: Michelle Wilson** Interface Worker  
Web: www.justice-ni.gov.uk .

**Social Services Gateway Services/Child Protection**  
*Anyone can contact this service directly in one of the following ways:* By phone: During office hours (9.00am – 5:00pm) contact Gateway on 028 9050 7000. At all other times (through the night, at weekends and over Bank Holidays) contact the out-of-hours Emergency Service: 028 9504 9999  
In person:  
Speak to a Duty Social Worker at Gateway Services  
110 Saintfield Road  
Belfast  
BT8 6HD



DOJ's John Chittick taking time out with DCP staff Kate Clarke and Leeanne Marshall at a recent NIHE Peace Walls event held in Cookstown

## DELAWARE SHARED HOUSING COMPLEX

FROM THIS



TO THIS!



Acquired in 2010, this unique development was a partnership between Newington HA, North Belfast Housing and the communities of Tigers Bay and Newington. The complex straddles the Tigers Bay/ Newington interface which was at one time the most contentious interface in Northern Ireland.

**Delaware is now home to 22 households from both sides of the community in a shared housing project.** This project is supported by a multi-agency forum with representation from the residents of the building, members of both communities, cross community workers, the PSNI and both Newington & North Belfast Housing. The Delaware complex has helped to totally transform the Limestone Road interface whilst also promoting a shared neighbourhood ethos in keeping with the Government's TBUC strategy.

# 'Peace Walls'

... an exhibition of current work  
in Interface Communities

20th—24th November 2017

at **Ulster University**

**York Street**



Follow DoJ Interfaces Programme on :



## DoJ Led Interface Programme

The Interface Programme has been established to deliver the commitment made by the Northern Ireland Executive to remove all Interface structures by 2023 under the Together: Building a United Community Strategy. This headline action is anchored within the strategy's key priority of Our Safe Community, and is also linked to other Executive Strategies;

1. Community Safety Strategy – to seek agreement with local communities to reduce number of interface structures
2. New draft Programme for Government further commits to T:BUC delivery
3. Fresh Start – contribute to conditions enabling peace walls removal through confidence and relationship building

The Department of Justice (DOJ) is the lead department in delivering this key commitment.

The Interface Programme focuses on the structures which the DoJ is responsible for, currently numbering 50, and in addition structures put up by the NI Housing Executive at 15 Locations. These structures are in Belfast, Derry/Londonderry, Portadown and Lurgan.

**DoJ Interface Team is working with communities to address physical barriers of division.'**

We do this by increasing cross departmental working and collaboration with all stakeholders

- facilitating communications between government and community

groups to create an environment for physical and social change

- supporting the development of increased confidence in community safety and develop new initiatives to deliver on the T:BUC 2023 target
- supporting work which seeks to increase capacity at community level
- supporting communities to reduce community tensions
- maintenance of existing structures and reducing the number of interface structures

Duncairn Community Partnership  
Cross Community

# Santa's Grotto

Fri 8th December 2017

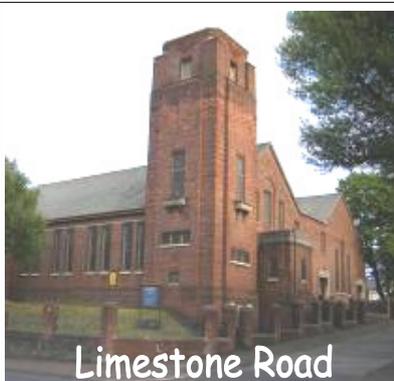
2pm to 6pm

MacCrorry Church Hall  
Duncairn Gardens



## YOUR HELP REQUIRED!

Our community has more to fear from drug dealing and criminality than sectarian related interface violence. A small minority of people are trying to destroy the very fabric of our society by smothering this area with illegal drugs. They deliberately target our children and vulnerable adults in the hope of creating addiction and reliance on illegal drugs. Addicts soon find themselves committing local crime as a means of paying for their drug addiction. Family breakdowns and severe mental health problems lead some to contemplate suicide as the only means to escape their addiction. **Don't let drug dealers destroy our community! Report them to Police on 101 or 999 in an emergency**



Limestone Road

## Annual Community Carol Service

# NEWINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Wednesday 6th December at 7pm  
Currie Primary School Choir



# PIPS

281 ANTRIM RD, BELFAST

Public Initiative for Prevention of  
Suicide and Self Harm

We're here to Help

Ring us on: 028 90805850

or call into our offices today