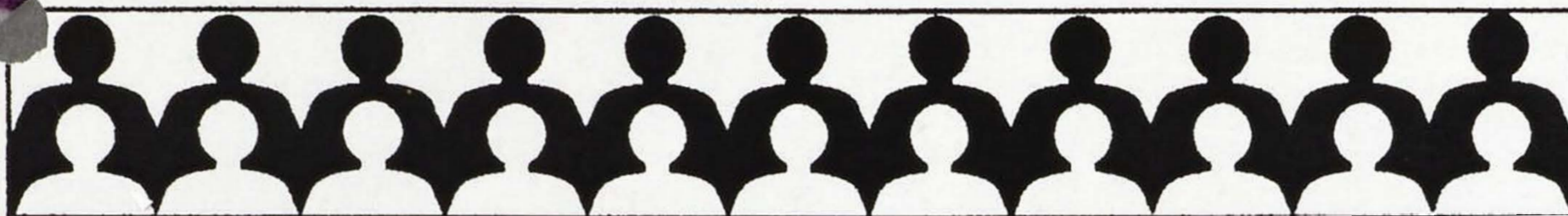


## Twaddell/Woodvale Residents Association



*The Cabin*

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November 26 2001

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Mr D Trimble MP MLA  
First Ministers Office  
Northern Ireland Assembly  
Parliament Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
BELFAST  
BT4 3SS

Dear Mr Trimble

On behalf of my fellow committee members and myself can I say how glad we are to see that the Northern Ireland Office and our Assembly are listening to people on the ground as we see the Holy Cross situation begin to be diffused. Undoubtedly your intervention along with that of the Deputy First Minister has been a major factor in breaking the impasse.

It is unfortunate that NIO officials did not respond to the representations made by our organisation almost three years ago and more recently in the early part of this year when we again highlighted the need for and indeed the benefits of CCTV at the Ardoyne interface.

My reason for writing to you is to say that we sincerely hope that in the "rush" to resolve the issues raised as a result of the Holy Cross situation our community are not left out of the loop.

For your information, since June 19<sup>th</sup> we have recorded over 60 incidents in the Twaddell Avenue area many of these involving attacks on homes, cars, property and residents with some resulting in hospital treatment. A number of these attacks were as a direct result of sectarian confrontations on the Ardoyne Road.

**WORKING FOR THE COMMUNITY IS OUR PRIORITY**

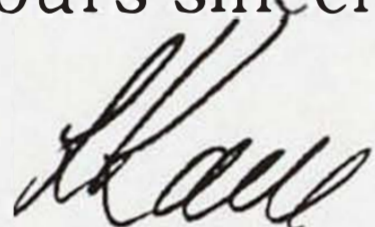
Accepted as a charity by the Inland Revenue - Reference number XR37724

Our catchment area is disproportionately high with elderly (36% in the 60+ age bracket as opposed to 19% in other comparable wards in Belfast). For example, of the 50 houses from the top of Twaddell Avenue to its junction with Crumlin Gardens only 5 homes are occupied by families, the remainder are occupied by residents either retired or reaching retirement.

Despite all the odds our community is working hard to revitalise with the development of a youth facility, a senior citizens club, a CAB outreach worker, NIHE outreach facility and a very busy advocacy service operated from our premises, serving all our residents as they interact with both voluntary and statutory agencies. In monetary terms we have seen a £200,000 investment in this area over the last four years, unfortunately this may all be wasted as we are about to lose our development worker due to lack of funding. Apart from all the ground breaking work he has been involved in during the last two years he has been actively involved in diffusing some very complex and potentially confrontational sectarian situations over the summer months as well as working in a proactive role with a variety of agencies.

In the development of the suggested community forum I am asking that you ensure TWRA are included. Any assistance you can offer or suggest in securing funding to keep our development worker in post would be much appreciated. In concluding can I extend an open invitation to you to visit us at TWRA. Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Len Kane  
CHAIRMAN