

Sheila Bradfield

02/06/02 12:47 PM

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Subject: UPDATE ON NORTH BELFAST

Please see attached from Mary Bunting.

Thanks.

Sheila



6.2 - minute to W Shannon etc.doc

Fax: (028) 9056 9244
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Our ref: SUB/82/2002

From Nigel Dodds MP MLA
Minister for Social Development

Date: 6 February 2002

cc: PS/Mr Loughran
Mr Hunter
Mrs Bunting
Mr Baker
Mr M Thompson
Mr Wall
Mr Johnston
Mr Crozier

Office of First Minister and Deputy First Minister

NORTH BELFAST

Reports

1. I have read with growing alarm Derek Wheeler's recent reports on the situation in Ardoyne, not least in regard to the implementation of the Ardoyne Road realignment.
2. This plan was an integral part of the package agreed last year between the two communities. Continuing discussions between them were only intended to agree the final design, not to reopen the issue or to impose preconditions.

Progress

3. Substantial progress has been made on various other issues, notably the provision of a package of security measures for private sector house owners in interface areas

and the establishment of the Community Action Project. In regard to the latter, I had a useful discussion on Monday 4 February with Dr Dunlop and his colleagues. I was pleased to review developments with them while encouraging them to focus on the community infrastructure element in their terms of reference.

Road Realignment

4. I understand that the Department for Regional Development stands ready to implement the scheme, but requires clearance to proceed from OFMDFM. Unless that clearance can be given quickly I fear that the hard won agreement reached last year will unravel. The implications of that do not bear contemplation and will undermine, perhaps fatally, the prospects of medium to long-term progress.
5. I believe it is imperative that all the parties involved in the implementation of this package understand that there is no link formal or otherwise, between the establishment of a community forum and proposals to realign the Ardoyne Road. I urge you to act quickly to break through the logjam. I would appreciate an early indication from you of progress in obtaining a satisfactory resolution to this matter.

NIGEL DODDS MP MLA
Minister for Social Development