

**PROGRESS ON MEASURES IN FM AND DFM LETTER OF 23 NOVEMBER.
Position at 19 February 2002**

Community Safety/Environmental Changes:

Road ramps for Ardoyne Rd and part Hesketh.

- Overall: **Completed:** This work was completed 25 January 2002, although we are reviewing the effectiveness of some of the road ramps on the upper Ardoyne Road.
- Detail: The initial design was completed quickly and the statutory process was implemented on 28 November. First ramps were installed on Monday 7 Jan. although work was temporarily suspended from 9 Jan. Work completed 25 January as planned.

Alliance Ave Intersection

- Overall **Work in Progress.** A first design was completed by mid-January. This design, on which CRUA was very actively engaged, now fully reflects the wishes of people in Upper Ardoyne. Interests in Ardoyne are now engaged in further consultation on the proposal and this is being pressed forward urgently. The Ardoyne Focus Group is now actively engaged on this consultation, which will be completed as quickly as possible.
- Detail Brokerage with both communities is the responsibility of OFMDFM. The Planning Co-operative (TPC) submitted a letter of interest on 26 November and was commissioned on 28 November to consult with local communities about the concept and subsequently to prepare the design:(Responsibility of Bill Morrison.) DRD Roads Service is assisting with the design, contracting and project management process. Groundwork NI (Mary McKee) was also commissioned to prepare options for environmental treatment of the interface, with particular reference to the space created on the north-east corner of Alliance Avenue. Consultations with Ardoyne interests are not yet complete. This type of minor works does not require the statutory 30-day consultation process. DRD has a contractor ready to start at one weeks notice when OFMDFM gives the go-ahead. Expected duration of the contract, subject to the final details, is 3 to 4 weeks.

Other related measures on traffic calming

- Overall: **Work in progress,** currently in the statutory consultation period.
- Detail: Design work was completed on additional traffic calming measures for rest of Glenbryn, Wheatfield, Hesketh, Alliance Avenue and Alliance Road. Public consultation leaflets on the design were circulated to residents in January. The 30-day period for consultation commenced with public advertisements on 8 February.

Community Action Challenge

Overall: **On track**

Detail: This Project for all North Belfast was launched Mon. 3 Dec. 2002, supported by the First Minister, the Deputy First Minister and the Minister for Social Development, Nigel Dodds MP. Rev John Dunlop was appointed to lead the project. Further independent members appointed are: Monsignor Tom Toner, St Peter's Cathedral and Roy Adams, CEO of Building Design Partnership. Project in action by Monday 10 December

All six North Belfast MLAs appointed community representatives to the Advisory Forum, first meeting of which was held on 21 January. DSD and OFMDFM have attached a staff secretariat to support the team. An office for the support team has been established in Adelaide Street. The project has held discussions with public bodies and community groups (including local groups in Ardoyne and Upper Ardoyne) on how to support and strengthen community capacity and relevant skills. A series of 15 community consultation events will be held throughout North Belfast starting on 19th February. The report of the project is to be presented to Government by the end of May.

The project has recently commissioned a consultant (David Williamson) to facilitate discussions about the development of Upper Ardoyne, beginning with a planning meeting on Friday 15 February. Ardoyne Focus Group has also been offered consultancy support for community capacity-building purposes.

First progress report on the Project went to OFMDFM and DSD at end January. The team has met with the Minister for Social development and a meeting with the First Minister and Deputy First Minister is planned.

Education and Counselling

The Department of Education has already supported a package of short term measures at both Holy Cross and Wheatfield Primary Schools. It also has announced further measures to enhance youth and education services in North Belfast. This includes special provision for meeting the costs (approximately £100k) of refurbishing Wheatfield Primary School. An economic appraisal on Wheatfield Primary School has been completed and arrangements are being put in place for the roll out of agreed work. This work is separate from the three-classroom community project that is currently under appraisal by Belfast Regeneration Office.

Schools identified in the Executive package will be funded by education authorities under normal school funding arrangements. The schools themselves will determine their own requirements, for example, teacher substitution, classroom assistants etc. A number of schools have written to the Department outlining their particular circumstances and seeking inclusion in the package. After meeting with the education management interests, the Department is considering these requests.

The procedures for the recruitment of the additional youth workers are in place with advertisements for applications imminent.

The Department of Education has written to the Principals of Holy Cross and Wheatfield Schools enclosing a letter for distribution to parents to explain the arrangements for claiming special circumstances as part of the Transfer Procedure.

Counselling

The Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister has provided £104,550 to the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to enable it to provide additional funds through North and West Health and Social Services Trust to a range of organisations providing short-term counselling services.

Other Issues

Advisory Services: CRUA has begun moves to establish an advisory service for local residents. Grant applications made to CRC, NIHE and N&W Trust for a total of £12,000 to fund them up to March 2002.

Community transport. Research on this issue has been delayed. The consultant appointed to support Upper Ardoyne has been requested to include the topic in his discussions with local people.

Baby clinics: Survey of local mothers now complete and suitable arrangements have been made with each mother.

Security and Policing Issues:

These issues are for NIO and PSNI. The most prominent of the changes include the introduction to Ardoyne and Upper Ardoyne of a dedicated community policing initiative and the temporary CCTV camera now installed at Alliance Avenue. The Peace Wall between Alliance Avenue and Glenbryn has also been strengthened.

Joint Community Forum for Ardoyne and Upper Ardoyne

People representing both sides of the community have made contact and have discussed possible procedures and mechanisms for dialogue. The Senior Liaison Official is available to assist the process if required. The proposed Joint Community Forum could possibly cover up to three interfaces with Ardoyne: Glenbryn, Twaddell Avenue and Cambria Street.

The First and Deputy First Ministers have offered to support any joint request for facilitation or mediation.

Derek Wheeler

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OFMDFM

19 February 2002.