

Date: 21 February 2002.

cc PS/Mr Leslie
PS/Mr Haughey
PS/Mr Loughran
PS/Mr Haire
Mary Bunting
Danny McNeill
Alison Coey
Mr Barrington
Mr McNarry

From: Derek Wheeler

Dr Bill Smith
Wesley Shannon

PROGRESS REPORT – 19 FEBRUARY 2002.

1. Dr Smith requested further information about my report of yesterday.

Alliance Avenue Intersection

2. I can confirm that Ardoyne interests are now clearly committed and engaged on the proposal to develop the intersection at Alliance Avenue. It is not yet entirely clear when their consultations will be completed. The first stage is for the consultants, Bill Morrison and Mary McKee to develop some of their ideas in further detail so that they can go back to their community. I believe it will be the week after next before the consultants can complete their part in the process, but this is subject to further consultation with Roads Service which Morrison will progress as quickly as possible. Ardoyne have undertaken to press forward their discussions in their own community very rapidly.

3. I am not sure that it would be helpful at this stage to go into detail about the likely outcome but I am pleased by the extent to which both sides are involved in the process. I am glad that the Ardoyne interests agree the principle of development and that they are so clearly focussed on the need to ensure that the development must help both communities feel more secure. I am satisfied that they are working toward a position that would clearly aim to reduce tension at this interface.

Joint Community Forum

4. Attached at Annex A is a copy of the draft Memorandum of Understanding on Procedures that I have offered to both sides as a possible model for the Joint Forum.

Security Issues/Policing

Attached at Annex B is the report on policing supplied by NIO.

Derek Wheeler

22 February 2002.

ANNEX A

**PROPOSED ARDOYNE/UPPER ARDOYNE
JOINT COMMUNITY FORUM**

**DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING ON PROCEDURE**

DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON PROCEDURE

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Memorandum is made between representatives of the Ardoyne and Upper Ardoyne communities and sets out supplementary procedural arrangements relating to the proceedings and operation of the Forum, which is hereby established.
- 1.2 The Memorandum is an informal understanding and is not legally binding. Subject to that understanding, both communities will act in accordance with the procedures set out in the Memorandum. [If required, a formal constitution for the Forum will be drawn up for agreement by the Forum.]

2. Purpose of the Forum and Membership

Purpose

- 2.1 The purpose of the Forum will be to develop a joint mechanism where consultation, co-operation and action can take place to improve the quality of life for everyone in the area, including safety, security, physical, educational, environmental, social and related issues.

Membership

- 2.2 Membership of the Forum will comprise representatives of Ardoyne and Upper Ardoyne. Each community will select up to [] representatives.

3. Frequency and Format of Meetings

The Forum will meet on a regular basis with at least [two] representatives present from each community. At each meeting the Forum will agree a provisional schedule of future meetings, to be reviewed and updated at successive meetings. Additional meetings may be held by agreement.

3.1 Venue/Chair

The venue of all meetings will be agreed in advance in neutral venues but decided on by each side and confirmed through the Forum Secretariat as early as possible.

3.2 Meetings of the Forum will be [co-chaired/ chaired by a neutral facilitator agreed by both communities,/ chaired in rotation.]

Support/Servicing

3.3 Forum members may be accompanied by advisers and other supporters, by agreement.

3.4 In respect of each meeting there will be close and structured liaison between the two communities with a view to the efficient preparation of meetings and the discharging of such other tasks as may be assigned. [A Forum Secretariat will provide support for these arrangements.]

4. Decision-making

4.1 Any decision made by the Forum must be unanimous.

4.2 All Forum decisions will be recorded in an agreed minute of the meeting. A joint statement, reflecting any decisions reached, may be issued after each meeting. Both sides undertake to report decisions in an appropriate way to the respective community.

4.3 Unless otherwise agreed between them in the Forum, each community shall be separately responsible for taking whatever action may be necessary to ensure the implementation in its own area of a decision of the Forum.

5. Agendas

5.1 The Agenda for all Forum meetings will be agreed in advance, by each side, [initially through the Senior Liaison Officer.]

5.2 It will be open to either side to propose any matter for consideration or action at any time, and each shall, as a minimum, permit the other side to state its view or outline its proposals in regard to any matter of concern to it.

5.3 Notwithstanding paragraph 5.2 above, agendas will primarily be prepared in the light of an agreed Forum work programme (see immediately below).

6. Work Programme

The Forum will:

- 6.1 Exchange information, discuss and consult with a view to co-operating on matters of mutual interest.
- 6.2 Use best endeavours to reach agreement on the adoption of common policies in areas where there is a mutual benefit, and make determined efforts to overcome any disagreements.
- 6.3 The Forum will set its own overall parameters. Within that context the Forum, at its meetings, will review and agree a work programme, covering matters of mutual interest.
- 6.4 Each side in the Forum will, as far as possible, keep the other side informed of significant developments in its area in regard to matters relevant to the work of the Forum.

7. Funding

- 7.1 Arrangements for meeting the costs of meetings of the Forum will need to be worked out.
- 7.2 Arrangements for meeting any Staff costs arising from the Forum will need to be worked out.

8. Secretariat

8.1 The Forum will have a Secretariat, initially provided by the Senior Liaison Official, whose functions will include:

- ◆ preparing a draft agenda for each meeting;
- ◆ making the necessary practical arrangements for the meeting in conjunction with representatives of both sides of the community;
- ◆ producing a comprehensive programme for the meeting;
- ◆ ensuring that all papers to be considered at the meeting are issued for study in advance of the meeting;
- ◆ producing a draft joint statement in conjunction with representatives of both sides of the community;
- ◆ [the Liaison Officer will attend initial meetings and prepare a draft minute of the meeting for subsequent agreement by both sides.]

8.2 Each side will provide all necessary information to the Secretariat. All information supplied to the Secretariat will be treated as strictly confidential unless otherwise stated by both sides.

9. Dispute Resolution

9.1 The Forum, or a sub-group of the Forum, will meet by agreement as necessary to resolve disagreements between the two sides, where issues may have implications for the workings of the Forum as a whole.

10. Amendment

10.1 Amendments to this Memorandum may be proposed at any time by either side and will take immediate effect by mutual agreement unless otherwise specified.

11. Review

11.1 Any aspect of the work of the Forum may be reviewed at any time, by agreement, between the two sides of the community.

ANNEX B

**FROM: ALAN TIPPING
SECURITY POLICY AND OPERATIONS DIVISION
22 FEBRUARY 2002**

cc: David Watkins
Margaret O'Mara
Mary Madden

Derek Wheeler

POLICING AT ARDOYNE AND GLENBRYN

Your note to Mary Madden refers.

2. Following extensive consultation with local community groups, an agreement was reached on the aims and objectives of the Ardoyne Policing Team, which are as follows:

Aim: To provide reassurance to both communities and promote confidence for future pro-active problem solving.

Policing Objectives:

- (a) Enhance relationships between police and all sections of the community.
- (b) Maintain public order through liaison with community groups.
- (c) Improve the overall quality of life for residents.

Area Covered: Area bounded by Crumlin Road (including Mountainview), Ballysillan Road, Oldpark Road and Hillview Road.

Personnel: There are currently 2 x Sergeants and 18 x Constables dedicated to this unit with an Inspector in overall charge.

or Liaison Official, North Belfast

Patrolling Pattern: 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, including beat and mobile patrolling.

3. I hope this covers the points you raised, but please contact me on 27017 if you require additional information.

(Signed)

ALAN TIPPING

SHA ☎ 27017