

**PROGRESS ON MEASURES IN FM AND DFM LETTER OF 23 NOVEMBER.  
Position at 28 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:** Phase 1 – Road humps were installed in Ardoyne Road and Hesketh Road by 25 January 2002, the date originally envisaged, despite civil unrest in the area during part of the construction period;

**Concern has been expressed by local residents to Bill Morrison that they feel the road humps in the upper section of Ardoyne Road are not as effective as the speed cushions on the lower Ardoyne Road. It is Road Service experience that road humps have been found to be the most effective measure in reducing traffic speeds to approximately 20mph. The speed cushion averages speeds of 24mph. The elongated road humps provided along this route with the 1 in 20 ramps are necessary due to the presence of the bus. The 1 in 20 ramps may be giving the impression of a smoother ride. Roads Service will monitor the situation.**

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 prepared detailed engineering drawings and contract documents and liaison has taken place with utilities about service alterations. Road Service has arranged for a contractor to be on 1 week's stand-by to proceed with implementation of the scheme. Roads Service is awaiting OFMDFM's order to proceed. 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. 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: Proposals for traffic calming measures in a further 13 streets in the Glenbryn / Hesketh / Wheatfield / Alliance areas and on Alliance Avenue have been designed and the statutory notice published in local papers on 1 February 2002. No objections have been received to date. The 30-day statutory period of notice runs to 3 March 2002. DRD Roads service hope to commence work week commencing 4 March, subject to availability of Contractor.

No-stopping zone on the Ardoyne Road. This issue has been put in abeyance and is subject to further discussion.

Turning circle in the grounds of Holy Cross School: Work completed.

**Community Action Challenge**

Overall: **Work in Progress**

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 19<sup>th</sup> 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. ]

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. All 15 schools included in the Executive's package have been informed in writing of financial arrangements for accessing the £30k allocated to each school and have had the details explained to them at a meeting with the Belfast Board in January.

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 has written to the Principals of Holy Cross and Wheatfield Primary Schools and parents of pupils who sat the transfer test to advise of procedures for claiming special circumstances should they feel it appropriate.

The steering group to oversee the youth initiative for North Belfast has been constituted and met for the first time on 27 February. The group comprises representatives of schools, the BELB, CCMS, DE and the Education and Training Inspectorate.

### **Counselling**

Community Mental Health Teams in North Belfast received 112 referrals for counselling support arising from troubles-related trauma between September 2001 and end January 2002. Work with these cases is ongoing.

Arrangements have been made for a team from the Family Trauma Centre to relocate the Friday morning clinic to Lincoln Avenue Health Clinic and the North West Belfast Health and Social Services Trust has released staff to offer sessional psychotherapy and cognitive therapy. However, the major provision of counselling services is within the voluntary sector.

The North and West Belfast Health and Social Services Trust has received a non-recurrent allocation of £104,000 from OFMDFM through the DHSSPS to assist in addressing these needs. This has enabled funding of the counselling services and other support activities through to the end of March 2002.

### **Other Issues**

#### **Protection for houses at the interface**

Within the terms of a scheme recently announced by DSD, a total of 69 properties in private ownership have been identified in the Glenbryn Park/Alliance Avenue areas for additional security measures. Typical work includes the fitting of solid core rear doors and laminated glass/metal grilles, dependent on individual circumstances. A contractor



has been appointed to complete the works, which should commence in March.

### Glenbryn Redevelopment

NIHE has appointed a consultant to complete a Housing Concept Plan for the redevelopment of the Glenbryn area. Contact is being made with a number of interested groups, with a view to developing options for March/April and submission to the Planning Service in early summer.

Advisory Services: CRUA has begun 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, although DRD has indicated that there can be no funding for community transport in urban areas. The consultant appointed to support Upper Ardoyne has been requested to include this issue in his discussions with the local group.

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

28 February 2002.