The Stakeholder Forum

A Happy New Year to all our colleagues, friends and supporters from the CCG Team and thank you for your continued attendance at and support for the Stakeholders Forum and the CCG Project.

As we enter the exciting construction phase of the project the Stakeholders Forum will continue to play a key role in the delivery of the Connswater Community Greenway, ensuring that key stakeholders have the opportunity to engage directly with the CCG Team and the contractors. At the Stakeholders Forum we will continue to provide updates on project progress and we hope that you will continue to provide us with feedback, ideas and raise issues throughout the construction period, helping us to ensure the joint success of the CCG.

Many thanks to Rachael, her staff and volunteers in Walkway Community Centre for hosting Octobers Stakeholders Forum on and for the wonderful lunch which is always much appreciated.

Progress update

The construction is to commence in February 2011 with completion in early 2013.

Key Milestones; October 2010 to January 2011

- CCG Contractor appointed—November 2010
- Meet the Contractor Suppliers Day—9 December 2010
- Public Inquiry re Orby Chase/Dixon Playing Fields—19th January 2011
- January 2011—Design Development including decision re theme for new public square

CCG Contractor appointed

East Belfast Partnership was delighted to announce the appointment of the Joint Venture, SIAC (NI) Ltd and Galliford Try Infrastructure as the main contractors for the construction of the Connswater Community Greenway and East Belfast Flood Alleviation Scheme in November 2010. the launch event was held at the Connswater Community Centre and the Connswater River with the announcement being made by First Minister Peter Robinson MLA.
Supply Chain Event for sub contractors
Throughout the development and delivery of the Connswater Community Greenway, East Belfast Partnership has worked to ensure that the CCG presents employment opportunities for local people and also for businesses to benefit. The CCG Contract already contains a number of social clauses including apprenticeships and employment for the long term unemployed. We are also keen to ensure there was an awareness of the opportunities for local sub-contractors and suppliers through the Connswater Community Greenway/East Belfast Flood Alleviation Scheme.

Teaming up with the Skainos Project and Titanic Quarter we organised a Supply Chain Event on 9th December 2010 inviting local businesses across Belfast to meet the contractors for all three projects. Connswater Joint Venture for the CCG, Farrans for the Skainos Project and Harcourt Developments for Titanic Quarter all provided representatives at an event held in the Abercorn Suite of Titanic House. Connswater JV provided each attendee with a list of opportunities in relation to both sub-contracting and the supply of materials with each business being offered the opportunity to register their company details. This has enabled Connswater JV to develop a database of local companies that can be used as the project enters the construction phase.

The event was extremely popular with 89 local companies attended the event with a number of these registering an interest in the Connswater Community Greenway. Each of those registering with Connswater JV have been contacted and asked to compete a questionnaire. Those that have successfully completed the questionnaire have been added to the Connswater JV procurement database and may be invited to tender for relevant pieces of work.

The event proved to be hugely successful from both a CCG and our contractors perspective and will hopefully enable local contractors the opportunity to compete for elements of the construction of the Connswater Community Greenway.

University of the Third Age CCG Walk
On Thursday 6 January over 30 walkers from the University of the Third Age, a lifelong learning cooperative for older people, braved the cold weather for a guided walk along part of the Connswater Community Greenway route. Walking from Victoria Park, along the CCG route to Orangefield Park the walkers were shown CCG plans for the area. Many thanks to Eric for organising what was an enjoyable and informative day and to all the participants for braving the cold to hear about the CCG and enjoy the company and craic. Anyone wishing to join or organise a similar walk should contact Sean on 90467930, e-mail sean@eastbelfastpartnership.org or call into the CCG office for assistance and support.
The Contractors—who are they?
Connswater JV is a partnership of two companies, SIAC (NI) LTD and Galliford Try Infrastructure bringing together the skills and expertise of one of the largest construction companies in Ireland (SIAC) and one of the UK’s largest construction companies (Galliford Try Infrastructure).

SIAC(NI) LTD was established in 2007, relocating to Belfast in June 2010 and have quickly established themselves as a key contractor in the delivery of public realm regeneration projects with the completion of the new civic square in Armagh (pictured), new public realm/streetscaping in Lurgan and Portadown and work underway at Ebrington Barracks Public Realm Scheme which will be the centre point of Londonderry’s City of Culture event in 2013.

Galliford Try Infrastructure Ltd specialise in work for the water, highways, rail, flood alleviation and renewable energy sectors across the UK.

Peter Heathershaw, Director of Galliford Try and Connswater JV has stated “We are delighted to be working on such a significant scheme and are looking forward to drawing on our experience of regeneration and waterside schemes in other parts of the UK to the long-term benefit of Belfast.” whilst Kieran Doyle, Director of SIAC (NI) Ltd and Connswater JV was quoted as saying “we recognise the benefits of this scheme to the local community and will draw on our extensive public realm and flood protection scheme experience to progress the timely completion of areas in advance of the contract completion date.

PARC Study (Physical Activity on the Rejuvenated Connswater) Update
Following initial survey work in August 2010 researchers from Queen’s University Belfast (QUB) and a team of 16 volunteers from east Belfast will be returning to key points along the CCG route to continue their park and path activity surveys with view to establishing baseline data on park and open space use ahead of the CCG Construction. These surveys will take place in week commencing 31 January and both QUB and the CCG Team are indebted to all those volunteers from east Belfast who are taking part.

In addition to the survey work, QUB have just completed 15 focus group discussions with community groups across east Belfast. These focus groups were used to determine attitudes to physical activity and, in particular, to identify perceived barriers to engaging in activities and to find out the communities thoughts on what type of interventions or initiatives might encourage people to engage in activities along the CCG route. QUB and the CCG Team would like to thank all those community organisations for their energy, commitment and time. It is hoped that the information, opinions and ideas gathered through these focus groups will inform the development of the Greenway and associated healthy living initiatives.

Any community organisation, employer or local school interested in becoming involved with the PARC study should contact either Sean Brannigan of CCG Team or Dr Ruth Hunter (QUB) through the Connswater Community Greenway office.

Key tasks for the next quarter
- Construction commences -Feb 2011
- Land Assembly and Public Path Creation Orders progressed
- Stakeholder and community engagement - Further public meetings and community activities along the CCG route focusing on the construction programme
- Community Garden sites identified and approved
- Treatment of Invasive Species in March and April along the route
- Lobby for funding for East Belfast Flood Alleviation Scheme

Ongoing Activities
- Land Assembly
  Being undertaken by BCC in accordance with agreed programme and budget
- Flood Alleviation
  Working with Rivers Agency to address flooding in the CCG area on the Connswater, Knock and Loop Rivers.
- Invasive Species
  Contractor to take on management of invasive species in the CCG area.
- Multi Agency Team
  Co-ordination with other key projects progressed within the Connswater Community Greenway area.

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Connswater Community Greenway/East Belfast Flood Alleviation Scheme draft construction programme.

A construction programme has been drafted and agreed by Connswater JV (The Contractor) and the project. Whilst this currently accurate there may be some slight amendments to dates as the construction progresses due to unforeseen circumstances. The programme should, however, only vary by a matter of weeks or days. The detail below relates to work commencing 2011, further sections are due to commence in 2012 with construction scheduled for completion late 2012/early 2013.

Ahead of work commencing on each individual section Connswater JV are committed to ensuring that those residents/businesses impacted on by works will be kept informed through public meetings etc…of work commencement dates, extent of works etc…

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Red Sky culvert</td>
<td>January 2011</td>
<td>June 2011</td>
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<td>Castlereagh Road culvert</td>
<td>February 2011</td>
<td>January 2012</td>
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<td>Ladas Way culvert</td>
<td>March 2011</td>
<td>August 2011</td>
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<td>Clara Park culvert</td>
<td>February 2011</td>
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<td>Knock River Section 1</td>
<td>February 2011</td>
<td>September 2011</td>
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<td>(Sandown to Claroanwood)</td>
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<td>Knock River Section 2</td>
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<td>(Claroanwood to Grand Parade)</td>
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<td>Loop River Section 4</td>
<td>January 2011</td>
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<td>(Elmgrove to Castlereagh Road)</td>
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<td>Loop River Section 3</td>
<td>March 2011</td>
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<td>(Castlereagh Road to Ladas Way)</td>
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<td>Grand Parade culvert</td>
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<td>(Ladas Way to Ladas Drive)</td>
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<td>Holywood Arches</td>
<td>August 2011</td>
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<td>Cregagh Road</td>
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Find out more

With 41,000 people living along the CCG route and with the Greenway passing through business parks etc… this is a project that will have a huge impact on local residents, schools, communities and businesses. It is also a community led project and we are, therefore, keen to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to learn more about the project and to become involved with its development and delivery. You may have ideas about what you would like to see along the CCG route, you may have concerns about some of the proposals or you may wish to become involved through volunteering, community adoption schemes or special interest groups such as cycling, orienteering etc…

To ensure that the project achieves its full potential we are keen to talk to individuals or groups and describe and explain what the project is about and what we hope it can achieve. We want to hear your thoughts, ideas and concerns and we want your help in delivering a project that the whole of east Belfast can be proud of.

If you want to find out more or feel you have something to contribute to the project please contact our Community Engagement Officer, Sean Brannigan, at the address and telephone number below. Alternatively you can e-mail sean@eastbelfastpartnership.org.