May 2011

AIMS OF THE STAKEHOLDER FORUM
- Share information
- Engage and understand the requirements of Stakeholders
- Promote the CCG
- Build positive partnerships
- Inform the management and maintenance of the CCG
- Ensure quality and sharing good practice
- Provide feedback to the Project Management Team
- Promote and support involvement of others

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT TEAM
Maurice Kinkead  
(East Belfast Partnership)
Anne McMurray  
(East Belfast Partnership)
Kyle Alexander  
(Strategic Investment Board)
Barry Donaldson  
(Castlereagh Borough Council)
Sammy Douglas  
(Belfast City Council)
Gerry Millar  
(Chair)
Gerry McAreavey  
(Department for Social Development)
Pat Aldridge  
(Rivers Agency)
Advisors
Emma McCracken  
(Central Procurement Directorate)

CCG STAFF TEAM
Wendy Langham  
(Programme Manager)
Heather Chesney  
(Communications & Admin Officer)
Sean Brannigan  
(Community Engagement Officer)

The Stakeholder Forum
Many thanks to the staff at St Mark’s of Dundela for hosting February’s Stakeholders Forum. As I’m sure everyone who attended will agree the Hall was superb and contributed to a particularly successful Forum with in excess of 80 people in attendance.

The Stakeholder Forum is a key tool in ensuring that key stakeholders, including residents and community workers are kept informed of progress and have an opportunity to identify issues and influence the project and we would encourage as many people to attend as possible. At the Stakeholders Forum we will continue to provide updates on project progress and we hope that you will continue to provide us with your support, feedback, ideas and raise issues throughout the construction period, helping us to ensure the joint success of the CCG.

Progress update
Key Milestones; February 2011 to May 2011
- Construction commenced April 2011—Section B10, Red Sky Culvert
- Design Development for Civic Square agreed—April 2011
- Public Art Brief developed and issued for CS Lewis themed art at new civic square—May 2011
- Design Development for Orangefield Park - May 2011

Greenway Santa Cycle
On 20th March 2011 anyone out and about in east Belfast would have been forgiven for thinking Christmas had come early with hundreds of cycling Santa’s taking to the street to raise money for and awareness of Bowel Cancer UK.

The Greenway Santa Cycle was the brainchild of the late Rosi Millar who, since she was diagnosed with the disease, had campaigned to raise awareness of Bowel Cancer in Northern Ireland.

All of us involved with the Greenway Santa Cycle would like to pass on our sincere condolences to her husband Martin, family and friends and hope that we can all continue to support the work Rosi’s great work.

We would like to thank all of those who supported this event whether through sponsorship, participation or volunteering as marshals. Special thanks to the Duke of Edinburgh Awards students from Ashfield Girls School for all their hard work and support.
Clean it up
On 8th April 2011 the Connswater Community Greenway teamed up with local residents, staff from east Belfast McDonald’s Restaurants, Tidy NI, Bloomfield Community Association and the Elim Pentecostal Church to clean-up the Hollow at Elm Grove.
The Hollow is the site of the Conn O’Neill bridge where the Knock and Loop rivers join to form the Connswater river and represents one of the hidden jewels in east Belfast. Unfortunately due to years of neglect, fly tipping and dumping it has been identified as one of the Belfast Telegraphs top 10 Belfast ‘Grot-spots’ despite it’s innate natural beauty. The area will benefit from an extreme makeover as part of the Connswater Community Greenway with landscaping and river restoration creating a beautiful ‘pocket park’, an outdoor classroom for the nearby Elm Grove and Avoniel primary schools, a new entrance and car parking, but needed some urgent attention immediately. Thanks to lobbying from local residents a team of volunteers of all ages descended on the Hollow armed with waders, boots and litter picks and proceeded to clear nearly 100 bags of rubbish as well as a full industrial sized skip filled with wood, bikes, furniture etc … removed from the rivers.
This was a huge effort by all involved working in very difficult circumstances. The team has transformed the area and delighted local residents who are keen to see the area benefit from the development of the Connswater Community Greenway.
Following the success of this event CCG staff, residents from Clarawood estate and members of staff from the Department of Justice embarked on a similar clean-up in Laburnum Playing fields on 18th April 2011. Again this was very well received with local residents and our thanks to Chris of the Department of Justice and Irene from Clarawood for their help and involvement.

Public Art Brief
With the design of the new ‘CS Lewis’ civic square at Holywood Arches being finalised and the contractor eager to start work on construction at this site, the Connswater Community Greenway’s Public Art and Gateways Team has been working hard to develop an artists brief to enable tendering for an artist to develop themed public art for the new square. Advertisements have been placed asking artists to express their interest in the commission. Following a short-listing process, selected artists will be invited to submit more detailed proposals including maquettes [small copies of the art piece(s)] before an artist is selected and commissioned to develop the art piece(s).
Developing a civic square at Holywood Arches builds on the links already in place in the area. The new square will be on east Belfasts main arterial route is adjacent to the Connswater Shopping Centre and retail park and the new Health Centre, and is where the Connswater Community Greenway and Comber Greenway’s intersect. The area also has ample parking .

Public art is a key element of the project and will reflect the cultural and industrial heritage of east Belfast. East Belfast Partnership is keen to further develop east Belfast's tourism product to ensure that the area benefits from public art that is reflective of the area and celebrates key features, people and places has been shown to work in other areas of the city and indeed Northern Ireland as a whole. Plans are underway for tourism and heritage trails along the CCG and we are looking at future celebrations and events that can be held in the square.
Out and About—Eco-fair at Dundela Infants

Many thanks to the staff and parents of Dundela Infants School for inviting the CCG team to attend their recent ‘Eco-Fair’ The staff team, along with the Connswater Duck, brought along the CCG stand, games and data projector. As usual the Connswater Duck proved hugely popular with children whilst their parents where able to find out information about the Connswater Community Greenway.

Attendance at events such as this are important for the CCG Team as they represent an opportunity to raise awareness about the project and to inform local residents of the vital regeneration work that is taking place on their doorsteps. The CCG Team would welcome invites from schools, community groups or events committees to participate in similar activities in east Belfast. If you are involved in any such events or are aware of anything of this nature coming up the CCG Team would greatly appreciate it if you could contact Sean @ 90467930 or e-mail sean@eastbelfastpartnership.org with details.

PARC Study (Physical Activity on the Rejuvenated Connswater) Update—PAL Launch

With the PARC study aiming to measure the impact of creating a new linear park through east Belfast on the health of local residents, Queens University are looking at interventions that would encourage exercise and usage of the Greenway. Perhaps the most exciting intervention planned is the use of the latest technology to track physical activity along the route using a loyalty card and a series of electronic sensors positioned along the route. This system is known as the Physical Activity Loyalty (PAL) Scheme and enables users to track their physical activity levels by swiping the microchipped card at the sensors. As well as building up reward points the system will track time spent, distance travelled and calories burnt all of which will be available to users through a dedicated website. Reward points built up will be redeemable through local businesses.

To ensure this new technology works properly the system is currently being piloted around Stormont Estate for the next 12 weeks with some 400 civil servants participating.

Key tasks for the next quarter

- **Final Design**—Orangefield Park, commence construction in Orangefield
- **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
- **Public Art Tender issued**
- **Continue to 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.
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

The 24 hr CCG Helpline number is: 02890458786