



Do you want your group to be featured in Interface?

Send us an article about the work you're doing, or about an issue affecting interface areas that needs to be talked about.

Alternatively, BIP can write an article in consultation with you. Or maybe you have some photos of a project you're working on that you'd like published.

Contact Paul Donnelly at paul@belfastinterfaceproject.org or 9024 2828.

Interested in joining?

Belfast Interface Project has three categories of membership:

Community group

Associate

Individual

If you support our vision, mission and values statements and wish to join BIP, please get in touch. We will send you an information pack or our Development Worker, Paul Donnelly, can come out to meet with you.

Vision - 'what we want to see':

Our overall vision is of a Belfast in which interface communities:

- Are free of intercommunity tension, intimidation and violence;
- Have come to terms with the legacies of the past;
- Are socially and economically vibrant, within an attractive physical environment;
- Enjoy freedom of movement in accessing facilities and services.

Mission - 'our part in bringing this about':

Belfast Interface Project is a membership organisation which aims to engage in the development of creative approaches towards the regeneration of Belfast's interface areas, through:

- Identifying good practice with which to inform and create effective regeneration strategies for interface areas;
- Enhancing and developing the knowledge-base regarding Belfast's interface areas;
- Influencing and effecting change that is

of practical benefit to interface communities;

- Developing, supporting, consulting with and lobbying on behalf of our membership.

Values - 'the key principles by which we will do this work'

Through promoting:

- understanding;
- the acquisition and dissemination of new knowledge;
- respect and tolerance;
- shared ownership of common issues, concerns, resources and opportunities;
- creativity and innovation;
- equity and accountability;
- self-help and mutual support.

Interface is the news-sheet of Belfast Interface Project and reflects the views and diversity of our membership groups. *Interface* seeks to promote good practice around interface community issues and increased communication between groups across the city. The editor reserves the right to amend articles where appropriate with the consent of the author. The views expressed in *Interface* do not necessarily represent those of the management committee.



Belfast Interface Project

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THIS ISSUE

Ballynafeigh
As young people see it

Groundwork NI in inner East Belfast

The changing nature of the interfaces

Intercomm's Peace Building programme

Member's profile
Muriel Bowyer

Response to racism from West Belfast

Belfast Interface Project first annual conference

Welcome to the first issue of "Interface" - the news-sheet of Belfast Interface Project

Belfast Interface Project (BIP) was formed in 1995 with a remit to seek to identify and assist in addressing issues of concern to nationalist and unionist interface communities in Belfast. BIP became a democratically accountable membership organisation in 2000 and we currently have a membership of about 30 community groups operating in nationalist and unionist interface communities of Belfast, as well as a smaller membership of associate agencies and individuals.

We aim to promote creative approaches towards the regeneration of Belfast's interface areas and our overall vision is of a Belfast in which interface communities:

- Are free of intercommunity tension, intimidation and violence;
- Have come to terms with the legacies of the past;
- Are socially and economically vibrant, within an attractive physical environment;
- Enjoy freedom of movement in accessing facilities and services.



Given the levels of disadvantage across Belfast's interface communities, we know that this vision will not be realised overnight. With this in mind and at the suggestion of one of our members (thanks, Anne), we have launched this news-sheet in the hope that this will provide a platform for our members and others to promote information-sharing about the good practice that already exists across the interface community sector in Belfast.

continued p2

Award-winning project escapes closure

by Paul Donnelly



Inset left - Stewartstown Road frontage before demolition, circa 2000.

Below - The new SRRP building as it looks today.



Suffolk Community Forum (SCF), based in outer West Belfast, has undergone 18 months of notable success as part of a ground-breaking and award-winning regeneration project. At the same time, the Forum has been under imminent threat of redundancy and closure in a set of circumstances that clearly highlight the many funding difficulties facing groups across the city as they

strive to regenerate communities and build positive futures.

After many years of polarisation, SCF and Lenadoon Community Forum took the courageous step of engaging in dialogue. One of the positive outcomes of this was the development of an economic regeneration project based around derelict and vandalised maisonettes and shop premises on the

continued p3

'Welcome' continued from p1

We hope you like the news-sheet and find it useful and informative. We see the news-sheet as a work in progress and we are open to making changes to the format and content to be most useful for our readers. So, if you have any suggestions about how to improve it, or if you have information about a particular project operating in your area that is contributing toward the vision above, then please let us know about it for future issues. We aim to produce three issues per year.

On a different subject entirely, it's coming up to that time of year again and already we're starting to hear murmurings about the possibility of a difficult summer ahead. It's almost as if we can't believe that we could be beginning to reverse the spiral of violence that has been inflicted upon our interface communities over so many summers here. For what it's worth, our experience here at BIP is that local community groups and activists in a range of interface areas, together with others, worked extremely hard to make last summer relatively violence-free. These have been described as our ordinary heroes and we owe them a huge debt. All we have spoken with so far have said that they hope to achieve the same again this year. At the same time, we hear the common refrain: 'We're not going to start it, but we're worried that they are'. We have a long way to go before we can trust each other, but if we can put our own houses in order this will help to build confidence for the future. Regardless of how the summer goes, we'll all still be here to pick up the pieces afterwards. 'Better to light a candle than curse the darkness', as somebody once said. Best wishes for a quiet summer.

Chris O'Halloran
Director, Belfast Interface Project

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND YOUTH PROJECTS FOR EAST BELFAST INTERFACES

By Paul Donnelly

Since June 2002, Groundwork NI has employed two workers, Patsy Laverty and Sean Montgomery on their Youth and Environment Project based in Inner East Belfast. The project has sought to work in three key thematic areas and has established itself as an important and innovative piece of work, seeking to improve the quality of life for those living and working at the interface in the East. Focusing on young people, the project seeks to connect them with issues around mental health and the environment they live in. It also seeks to support them to develop skills and knowledge that they can use for themselves, for their broader community or that they can transfer to their peers.

SKILLING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

It is the view of those involved that a previously-neglected area of work has been the legacy of the conflict and its impact upon young people.

This is particularly relevant given that young people are often cited as the starting point for trouble. This project has taken another angle and looked at the mental health impacts of kids witnessing conflict, with discussion groups addressing issues around stigmas attached to the topic and examining the legacy of sustained inter-communal rioting.

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As a result of these talks and after meeting Health and Social Services workers, those involved produced youth-friendly leaflets aimed at their peers. A training pack has been designed for peer education amongst young people. This work has been headed up by a steering group of five young people from each community. There are now plans to run a



Security fencing, Lower Newtownards Road 2003. Frankie Quinn

12 session roll on/roll off personal development programme addressing areas including mental health, conflict transformation and social awareness for as many as 24 young people from the interface areas who have been identified as potential peer leaders.

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IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT

The interfaces in East Belfast received a lot of publicity following the sustained disturbances that occurred in 2002 at various flashpoints. Since then much relationship building has been undertaken and complementing this have been proposals through the Groundwork team to develop an environmental improvement scheme on either side of the interface. This has again involved young people in a joint arts project producing GAA and Loyal Order murals on boards within a neutral environment. The proposal is for the appropriate boards to be placed in their respective communities. Whilst some might question this outcome, Patsy and Sean have emphasised that the production was inter-community and supported by facilitated discussion seminars and education classes regarding the organisations depicted. Furthermore, young gaelic and soccer players from both communities have taken part in mutual understanding programmes based on the issues arising from these activities.

Beyond this there are other environmental improvement proposals which are at an advanced planning stage and await planning permission in the next two months. Included in these proposals are: a small welcome archway at Cluan Place possibly drawing inspiration from the 'Samson and Goliath' cranes in the shipyard. Also the far end of Cluan may have a communal garden constructed either with murals or with wooden grids with climbing plants as an alternative to murals. Complementing this are plans to improve the entry from Mountpottinger into Clandeboye with the likelihood that Gerry Doyle (founder of the Doyle Youth Club) and Sean Martin (who founded the local GAA club in Short Strand) will be remembered for their input to youth provision in the district. On the main Short Strand and Lower Newtownards Road there are plans to redefine existing fences with new painting and decoration or have new fencing redeveloped in more attractive styles. This would further enhance the area and build upon existing improvement efforts such as the Madrid Street paintings depicting views of the street on the interface gate there.

As the project progresses *Interface* will keep you updated on the developments particularly in relation to the environmental changes to the area. Finally, good luck to Sean, Patsy and all the young people in the area. We hope the work you have put into the project and your communities helps to create stability in the following months and beyond.

www.groundworkni.org.uk

'Award-winning project' continued from p1

Stewartstown Road interface between unionist Suffolk and nationalist Lenadoon. Physically and economically blighted, the area had often been the setting for sectarian conflict. After a challenge by the Housing Executive to community representatives to develop an innovative scheme to change the area, the Stewartstown Road Regeneration Project Company Limited (SRRP) was formed in late 1999.

With a mandate from both communities achieved through public meetings, SRRP successfully secured funding from the International Fund for Ireland, Belfast European Partnership Board and Belfast Regeneration Office to demolish the existing properties and develop new structures. Open since February 2002 with access for both communities, the site is refurbished and attractive with office accommodation, a post office, various retailers and a chemist serving the areas. In 2003 the project was nominated by the Housing Executive for a British Urban Regeneration Award (BURA) which was accepted and awarded to the Project in London in December 2003.

Herein lies an absurd situation. While representatives from Suffolk and Lenadoon travelled to London to receive the BURA award, SCF was facing closure as its funding from BRO had run out in March 2003. The composition of the Project's company board

with four directors from each community forum and four independents, totalling twelve is structured in such a way that the dissolution of any component bloc leads to the demise of the whole company, as agreed by all within it. Thus there was a very real possibility that the award-winning SRRP could cease to function! So serious was the situation that Jean Brown, community worker for SCF, had been placed on notice of redundancy as of September 26th 2003. On the threatened day of closure the Forum at last received word from BRO that they would be funded until March 2004.

Commenting on the situation and the issues, Jean Brown said:

"It was a crazy situation to be in. We were receiving a prestigious award on one hand, we had built a serious working relationship with Lenadoon and brought our own community with us and it all was under threat because of confusion and uncertainty with our own funding. We were all under a lot of stress created by the uncertainty about survival. Perhaps the greatest irony was that SRRP generates income via commercial rental charges to support community work in the area. It was on the verge of becoming a profit-making organisation in an era when funders talk about the need for sustainability! Here we were about to lose a sustainable project due to a funding issue."

"It wasn't just about money though. For Suffolk, SRRP had brought other positive changes to the area. Confidence as a community had increased, civic pride in the community was better and an interface had been physically improved and violence massively reduced."

Jean does, however, acknowledge the difficulties facing BRO: over the same period they were undergoing major upheaval with the Neighbourhood Renewal process and dealing with the funding legacies of other projects in the area. This slowed progress in addressing SCF's needs. On a positive note, Suffolk have now an assurance of interim funding until March 2005 and there is a sense that goodwill exists from BRO combined with a recognition that groups such as Suffolk Community Forum need both funding and reassurances from government about their future security.

As Jean concludes: "We feel more confident about the future now but we have to be very clear about this: we don't want and can't go through all that we went through, all over again in March 2005."

Suffolk Community Forum can be contacted at suffolkcommunityforum@yahoo.co.uk or 9030 8198

Sinéad and Grace

Situated above the Ormeau Bridge and partially bordered by the River Lagan, Ballynafeigh runs southward as you leave the city towards Rosetta. Historically a mixed community in political and religious terms, the area has experienced violence in the last thirty five years, gentrification of its housing stock and the associated challenges that brings to any community. Despite this, Ballynafeigh has remained a diverse community with all aspects of identity in our society being represented in its composition. Philip Whyte and Gerry McCaffery,

two local youth workers from Ballynafeigh Community Development Association (BCDA), suggested that two young people from the area write an article for *Interface* describing their feelings about where they live. We are grateful to Grace and Sinéad from Ballynafeigh for taking the time to write this article. If having read their contributions you would like young people from your area or group to undertake a similar piece of work, please let us know at BIP.

Hi, my name is Sinéad Napier and I am a 14 year old Roman Catholic who lives in the Ballynafeigh area of Belfast.

The Ormeau Road is a nice place to live as the people here socialise together, regardless of religion or culture. Sectarian bigotry does not seem to be an issue in the area, compared to other parts of Belfast. The Ormeau Road is a mixed area with both Catholics and Protestants living side by side. The area has a number of good points such as the entertainment provided for young people. There is the Community House, Rosario Youth Club and two parks and many shops, bars and restaurants.

There are however some things that aren't nice about the area. Sometimes trouble can start between the two communities and this causes problems. I feel that these arguments are pointless and make more problems for Northern Ireland rather than changing them.

Young people sometimes get annoyed at the lack of activities for them. The youth club is not open every night which means we hang about in crowds at street corners or outside shops. Some young people hanging around street corners get bored and can turn to vandalism and disorderly behaviour.

Overall my area, the Ormeau Road, has more good things than bad. It is a mixed area which shows we can live together without hatred and violence. I have friends from both communities, including my best friend Grace and my boyfriend. We are proof the problems in Northern Ireland are changing every day.

Sinéad



Sinéad and Grace from the Ormeau Road.

My name is Grace Jones and I am a 14 year old Protestant living in the Ballynafeigh area of Belfast.

I have lived in the area all my life. The things I like about living in this area are the people in it. They make it a good place to live because they are happy, cheerful and friendly. The other thing I like is the youth clubs. There are a number of youth clubs and projects which both sides of the community can attend.

The things I don't like about living in Ballynafeigh are that some young people are not like me or my friends. We get along no matter what our religion or background is but some young people can't, which can end up in sectarian violence. I don't agree with violence or not liking someone because of their religion. The other thing I don't like is that the youth clubs or projects are not on every night. When they are closed we have to find our own entertainment on the street corners or the main Ormeau Road. We don't like doing this because some young people usually end up fighting or vandalising the area. There is not much for kids and young people to do round here.

Living in a mixed community is great to me. I enjoy living in an area where both communities can talk and get along with each other. I met my best friend, Sinéad Napier here, by being able to run about with both religions.

My point of view as a Protestant in Ballynafeigh is not an area that people would call a 'dream' place to live but living here to me is a pleasure as I enjoy the company I have. I don't agree with violence between religions as at the end of the day we are all people and I don't see any difference.

Grace

Ballynafeigh Community Development Association can be contacted at www.bcda.net/contact.htm or 9049 1161



Wyndham Street 2003. Frankie Quinn

Demography, Development and Disorder: Changing Patterns of Interface Areas

By Neil Jarman

The summer of 2003 was relatively quiet in comparison with previous years, but there were nevertheless tensions in a number of interface areas and a number of violent incidents were scattered across the summer months. Some of these incidents occurred in one of the many established interface flashpoints, but some of the disorder and violence broke out in areas that either had not been considered as an interface area or in an interface area that had been relatively quiet in previous years. We are still working with a fairly basic model of interface areas. This model tends to largely focus on interface areas as the intersection of working class residential zones which identify with opposing ethnic/political communities and, although there is growing acknowledgement that interfaces are often invisible to all but the finely tuned local eye, there is still something of a perception that interfaces and peacelines are synonymous and exclusive.

However, it is also clear that there is a much wider variety of interfaces than those that exist at the boundaries of segregated working class residential areas. Demographic change is still occurring in Belfast, although many of the recent changes have been due to upward mobility as people move out of rented accommodation and have bought their own houses. Some more middle class areas have become mixed while others have become more polarised in their identity. In terms of the traditional categories of interfaces this involves changes to the 'buffer zones', but such changes

also include a class element to local tensions. Sporadic incidents of disorder in the Rosetta area of South Belfast have been linked to the gentrification of the area as middle class, and in this case, Catholic, families move nearer to the Cregagh estate. Similarly the Deerpark Road area of North Belfast is perceived locally as a more middle class area with a high number of owner-occupied houses and there was both surprise and concern when trouble broke out last August. There was some suggestion that the violence was associated with the area becoming more residentially mixed, but equally there was speculation that this disorder was also linked to the presence of CCTV cameras at the nearby Alliance interface, which merely displaced the violence to a neighbouring area.

there is a much wider variety of interfaces than those that exist at the boundaries of segregated working class residential areas

The increased focus of community and police attention in trying to maintain order and reduce violence at problematic interfaces may also have led to trouble shifting to other nearby sites, which are perhaps less readily monitored and controlled. As a result theoretically neutral spaces may become sites of conflict for rival groups of, in particular, young people. When trouble broke out around the Donegall Road/West Link area over the summer of 2003, this was not in an area that had been recognised as a problematic interface of the traditional model. In this case the trouble seems to have been linked to the presence of young people from rival communities, identified by their football strips, in and around the Park Centre area.

This example indicates both the role of young people in helping to sustain tensions and

generate disorder in interface areas and that the tensions and violence can all too easily spread to what may be otherwise perceived as neutral spaces such as shopping centres. The redevelopment of brownfield sites also has a potential to impact upon interface violence. In some areas the strategy of redevelopment has been used, arguably, to keep people further apart, while at the same time providing common resources. But this is not inevitably the case. The opening of the new Dunnes Stores complex on the Crumlin Road was perceived by some as creating a new potential interface on a site that was already perceived as problematic. Similarly, concerns have been expressed about the impact of the housing development on the Dunmore stadium site in North Belfast on the still fragile community tensions in the area.

These brief examples indicate that interfaces and interface areas are perhaps more complex than has hitherto been explicitly defined and analysed, that such changes are affected by a number of factors including demographic change, lifestyle shifts and redevelopment. It is also worth noting that attempts to reduce violence in established interface areas may only serve to displace the violence to other locations, which may be less easy to manage. Belfast is an extensively segregated and polarised city in which all forms of territory have a potential to become contested and fought over. Interfaces are an important element of that segregation, and while some interfaces may have been made less volatile over recent years, unfortunately new types of interfaces can and do emerge. Neil Jarman is Acting Director of the Institute for Conflict Research. Contact ICR on 9074 2682 or www.conflictresearch.org.uk



Two houses in Glenbryn 2003. Frankie Quinn

Roden Street Community Challenges Racism

At a time when racist attacks are on the increase in Belfast it was heartening to meet Tina Black, Centre Manager at the Grosvenor Community Centre in West Belfast, to learn about the relationships developing between Roden Street Community Development Group (RSCDG) and Belfast's Filipino community. I also learned about inter and intra community relations training for young people in the Roden Street estate and the growing network confronting racism in our communities.

On Saturdays over the last 18 months the Grosvenor site has become a focal point for the Filipino community living in the Falls Road area and for those who come from as far afield as Dundonald in East Belfast, and Craigavon. With the emphasis on socialising and sports, a group of around 60 to 70 attend the centre each week from 9.30 am to 4.00 pm. Grosvenor

Chairperson, Belle Black, provides housing and education advice. The centre also provides free childcare to support the group and mention must be made of Patricia Mills, the Creche Coordinator, who is the main provider of this care. As relationships have grown, Filipino children have joined the Roden Street playgroup and it is hoped that older Filipino children will be involved in the summer scheme.

In addition to these developments RSCDG supports 17 young people aged 15 to 18 through the 'Moving On' initiative that combines employment skills training with cross community and cultural awareness training. This initiative is funded by the Prince's Trust and has included three residentials to Ballycastle and visits to Derry and Dublin. A particular emphasis is placed on human rights and the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission has liaised with the group to implement

the programme.

As awareness develops about the levels of racial abuse and intimidation in Belfast, new networks are forming in response. RSCDG has actively participated in the West Against Racism Network (WARN), an umbrella body formed to confront racism and work with minority communities in the west of the city. Similar bodies, many linked to the Anti-Racism Network, exist in other parts of Belfast. At the time of going to print, Springfield Charitable Association are planning an anti-racism conference on Saturday 24th April and WARN will be staging a cultural awareness day with the Filipino, Travellers and Spanish communities on Saturday 15th May at the Grosvenor Community Centre.

RSCDG can be contacted at 9031 0701 Contact the Anti-racism Network at antiracism-ni@hotmail.com

Interface Profile

Each issue of *Interface* will profile an individual or team from Belfast. In our first edition we meet Muriel Bowyer, a member of Belfast Interface Project's management committee, working in North Belfast.



POST: Director and Treasurer of Torr Heath Community Centre and Co-ordinator of Lower North Belfast Community Empowerment Partnership (CEP).

YOUR COMMUNITY: Torrens was once a thriving community in the Oldpark/Cliftonville area. We had hundreds of families but now we have

been physically reduced to five streets. The biggest issues facing Torrens are the practical ones as an enclave community, accessing facilities such as shops and the local primary school.

YOUR DAY: As of January this year I've been developing the CEP in lower North which came from the John Dunlop initiative. We have been establishing training programmes, organising advisory panel elections and undertaking a community consultation. The programmes include First Aid, forklift training, IT, and general capacity-building.

The actual delivery of the programmes started 6 weeks ago and 70 people are already on board. After condensing that into my average day I volunteer three nights a week in Torr Heath with the kids' disco etc!

HIGH POINTS: Seeing people achieve, finishing a course that they were unsure of at the start. Or people getting jobs as a result of a training programme.

LOW POINTS: I wouldn't call them that! Sometimes we need to get information about opportunities through to people. People don't come forward because they don't know what's available. There is no lack of will in our communities for people to progress.

GOOD PRACTICE: The mobile phone networks and much of the work that developed from the North Belfast Community Development Centre around 1997.

WAYS AHEAD: We had a pretty good summer last year and I think the less violence we have, the greater the potential for even less violence so hopefully this summer will be peaceful. People have worked hard on youth programmes and when young people are motivated by programmes they stay away from conflict.

HOBBIES: Late night TV shopping on Ideal World or QVC accompanied by a relaxing drink or two. Yes, seriously!

'Moving on at the Interface?'

Belfast Interface Project's first annual conference will take place on Thursday 24th June

The aim is to bring member groups and others together to meet and discuss the most important issues affecting Belfast's interface communities.

How have the needs of interface communities changed?
Has your area stood still? Are things better? Worse? How have other interface communities changed?
How has your work been supported?
How have statutory agencies changed their policies to address the needs of

interface communities?
What more needs to be done?

BIP will present the findings of a survey of its membership needs currently being carried out by our Development Worker. There will also be a presentation of the results from a new scoping study of key issues for statutory agencies who promote social and economic regeneration within interface areas. These findings will be compared with similar work carried out in 1996.

The conference will be held in the Holiday Inn on Ormeau Avenue in the city centre and will be followed by our Annual General Meeting. Further details will be sent out shortly. Please put this date in your diary!

For more information contact Marnie Kennedy on 9024 2828 or at info@belfastinterfaceproject.org

Intercomm's Peace Building Programme

By Pauline Kersten

'That was a down to earth presentation on the workings of the Assembly, we need more of that', 'I absolutely don't agree with what was presented, but it was a great discussion', 'I had heard about the Bloody Sunday Tribunal, but it was something else to be there at the proceedings'.

These are some of the comments expressed by community workers and activists that have been participating in workshops, seminars and field trips organised by Intercomm under its Peace Building Programme.

Intercomm - the Intercommunity Development Project - was founded in 1995 as a direct response to grassroots community concerns about interface violence and social and economic deprivation in North Belfast. It delivers a number of services to the local community, from a women's business project and money management course, to 'work track' and a conflict intervention programme which is active at the interfaces and works with the local community. Intercomm's Peace Building Programme is relatively new and funded by IFI, CRC and the Voluntary and Community Unit. The Peace Building programme is a rolling programme of workshops with a vision to build capacity

within the community for conflicts to be managed and resolved with justice and without violence in accordance with universally agreed standards and practices.

The Peace Building Programme, as a means of community empowerment, is a pioneering programme which intends to enhance peace building skills of community workers through informed discussion and debate, assessment of good practice and international experience of conflict resolution.

The programme hopes to give participants the tools and skills to understand and influence policy development on an all-Ireland basis and to engage in processes of peace and nation building. It aims to tie participants into the debates on the 'bigger picture', on policing, equality legislation, human rights legislation, structures of devolved governance, international experiences of conflict resolution, processes of nation building. It also wants to explore practical ways of using this legislation in community work, learning from international experiences and dealing with and making use of structures of government on an all-Ireland basis.

The current series of events organised under the peace building programme are focused on dealing with the legacy of the conflict.

On Saturday, 27 March we had organised a panel discussion on the issue with excellent speakers. The following is a short overview of what was said.

Prof. Bill Rolston from the University of Ulster spoke about the Eolas document on Truth and Justice. This document has been put together by a number of community organisations and discusses models of truth recovery.

The truth recovery process envisaged by the Eolas document looks at the setting up of a panel with local and international members which would call for submissions from the public regarding questions they wish answered and issues they wish to be investigated in relation to the conflict from all parties involved. Paula McBride, a human rights activist from South Africa spoke critically about the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission that provided a fascinating insight into the nature of power relationships in South Africa and the impact of the T&RC upon these relationships.

Martin Snodden, Director from the Conflict Trauma Centre in Belfast, explored how dealing with the past could lead to a positive future and emphasised the need to examine the contribution of wider society to our conflict and not simply investigate the actions of combatants alone.

Paul O'Connor, from the Pat Finucane Centre in Derry, focused on how the law and indeed public inquiries and truth commissions, are being used as a weapon instead of being used to deal with the issues and argued this was fundamentally antagonistic to dealing with the past in a just manner.

A full report of the panel discussion will be available from Intercomm in the next couple of weeks.

The following series of workshops will be looking at issues of equality and human rights in community development work. We will also be organising discussions on the state of the peace process, and how community activists can play their part in this period of transition.

For more information, please call Conor Maskey or Pauline Kersten at Intercomm, tel 9074 0741. www.intercommbelfast.com