

'INTERFACE' PROGRAMME LAUNCHED IN EAST BELFAST

By Paul Donnelly



Ian McKee at launch. Photo: Michael Briggs.

East Belfast Partnership, with support from their community partners, the East Belfast Community Development Agency, have developed and launched a new project entitled 'Interface – Working Together in Inner East Belfast'.

The project was launched at public presentations in May 2005 in four inner East Belfast venues:

- Nettelfield Primary School
- Ballymacarrett Library
- Mountpottinger Baptist Church

- Short Strand Community Centre

The project aims to increase participation in the communities of inner East Belfast, sweeping from below Dee Street through the Lower Newtownards Rd, Short Strand and into the

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'Gearing up for the summer'

by Chris O'Halloran

BIP's new Thematic Discussions series aims to provide networking and peer-support opportunities to members and key stakeholders on issues of common interest.

'Gearing up for the summer: A thematic discussion on summer interface conflict management', was held on May 26th at NVTV's premises in Donegall Street and was chaired by our Development Worker, Paul Donnelly.

The format for the event, which ran from 10am – 12.30pm, was that four panel speakers each gave a short presentation addressing the following:

- What plans are you making to ensure that your interface is peaceful this summer?
- How do these plans fit with the longer term objectives of your community?
- What do you feel positive / concerned about regarding your capacity do the above?

This was followed by a plenary open discussion session, with a short break for lunch where participants had the opportunity to network and follow up issues raised on an individual basis. Finally, a brief re-grouping allowed for feedback regarding the usefulness of the format and content. *Continued overleaf*

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Lower Ravenhill and Lower Woodstock Roads. It is envisaged that local capacity will increase through increased participation in community activity, with groups working more effectively together and community volunteerism rising.

The project is centred on five key themes and at each of the sessions in May the three new workers outlined their responsibilities within the areas and gave a view of what their programme of work would entail. The five themes are:

Community Renewal: this programme will focus on working with communities in identifying ways to make their areas more attractive through environmental projects with the support of the relevant statutory agencies.

Young People: the project seeks to identify existing resources for youth in the area and by working alongside the groups and individuals who provide these, to encourage the sharing and better use of skills and resources between youth groups and providers, thereby enhancing the opportunities for young people in the area.

Volunteering: this element recognises the valuable volunteering that exists in communities and seeks to harness that experience into attracting others to do the same. It also seeks to celebrate the work of volunteers and to highlight the positive contributions that volunteers have made in areas.

Education: getting access to and recognising the value of education is a major community priority in Inner East. Funding is available through the programme to support more effective interaction between local schools and communities. The programme aims to help create a new vision for education in the area.

Participation: promoting increased participation levels is at the project's core. It is envisaged that increased levels of group participation and co-operation, alongside the strengthening of existing networks, will lead to an increase in local capacity to identify and meet the needs of the area.

We wish the project every success.

Interface staff:

Allison Wilton - Community Participation worker

Ian McKee - Volunteer Development worker

Jenny Stuart - Youth Coordinator

A Community Renewal worker will also be joining the Interface programme shortly.

Allison, Ian and Jenny welcome inquiries about the project, and can be contacted on 028 90451512 or email: Allison.wilton@ebcda.org, ian.mckee@ebcda.org or Jenny@ebcda.org.

Gearing up for the summer

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The panellists were Jean Brown (Suffolk Community Forum), Deirdre Hargey (Markets Development Association), Janice Cherry (Inner East Forum), and Joe Marley (North Belfast Conflict Transformation Forum).

Planned summer initiatives which were outlined by the panel of speakers included:

Operation of inter-community mobile phone networks; the drawing up of agreed guidelines and ground rules for phone-holders; meetings between community representatives from both sides of the interface; utilising the nationalist 'template for interface intervention'; empowering young people who are influential with their peers through programmes of debate re issues such as parades, policing, operation of the Parades Commission; programmes of

diversionary work with young people.

Longer term objectives included: Keeping the area stable; building effective inter-community relationships; promoting genuine dialogue with those who can reduce violence; promoting a transition from contested space and contested rights to shared space and shared rights, where rights are not absolute.

Concerns raised by speakers included: Lack of resources for the community sector and for youth provision; low levels of educational achievement; distrust in policing; community activists need more statutory support, especially, in dealing with recurring issues and incidents; the need to not act solely on an ad hoc basis, summer to summer; people 'parachuting in' from other areas to cause trouble (e.g. 'the blue bag brigade'); a concern that



Thematic discussion panel. Photo: Genevieve Lennon

A NOTICEABLE DIFFERENCE - BEING GAY AT A SECTARIAN INTERFACE

By Liam Larmour

A rainbow over the Westlink. Photo: Liam Larmour

I grew up on the Falls Rd, in Bombay Street. Towering over the houses in front of us was the infamous Peace Line.

I grew up oblivious to what lay on the other side. I didn't understand who would be throwing bricks and bottles over the wall. Didn't they know we were living there? My friends and I watched the bottles smashing and hitting the window-grills. It was fun. But soon enough we were bored, and weren't allowed out to play. My best friend lived across the street. When the bottles came over, we played in his house. He showed me a game he played with his other friend. It didn't have a name. You had to guess whatever your opponent had behind his back; then you had to touch him if you got it wrong. After several games, we had practically touched everywhere we could think of (I was bad at guessing games), so he told me I could



Thematic discussion participants. Photo: Genevieve Lennon

resources will stop being directed to those who are effectively managing conflict, in the mistaken belief that ‘there isn’t a problem there anymore’.

The event was well attended and the discussion which followed the presentations was lively and constructive. A wide range of other issues were raised here, including:

The value of positive political leadership in promoting inter-community dialogue; interfaces are only stable when people are constantly working at it; mobile phone networks have proved invaluable in empowering interface communities to defuse incidents and dispel rumours, thereby building levels of trust; there is a need to record and quantify levels of money saved by conflict management programmes including mobile phone networks; burnout is an issue given that so much of the work is carried out on a voluntary basis; the value of the COSI (Community Off-Sales Initiative); the use of

Community Charters in promoting responsible citizenship; the need to identify and disseminate dates of key contentious events to ensure co-ordination of effort to manage conflict; counter-protests can be a necessary community safety valve and help reduce the chance of violence; the role of trans-generational trauma in reinforcing prejudice; the role of the media in promoting only negative images of interface communities; the need for public bodies and politicians to come and feel the pressures we face (e.g. from our young people: "you won't let us riot"); work with young people is so important – need educational programmes over the winter, to make a difference over the summer; parents can also be a problem – active citizenship training can help address adult prejudice; resources are a key issue ("an 18-month contract would look great to us"); only a handful of people from our community are actually engaged in work with ‘them’, although

our community supports the work – need to expand to involve more local people.

Comments about the usefulness of the event included:

Debate on these issues is often very heated – this was relaxed, honest and practical, not defensive; it was very informative; a sense of a long-term strategic approach, with the summer as a bridge to go over, to get to the other side safely; we can't always legislate for isolated incidents and things shouldn't fall down because of that; hope that by next summer we'll have moved further forward again.

In terms of the upcoming summer, there was common agreement that people were concerned regarding the potential for conflict in interface areas of Belfast. At the same time, there was a clear view amongst those present that many people will be working pro-actively to manage that conflict.

touch him in naughty places as his friend said that was more fun. We were afraid of being caught, but it was more fun that way.

I enjoyed this secret game. We didn't play it outside. Friends said we were girls and made fun of us. But then the bottles came and no-one seemed to care, as we had new names from the people over the wall, like Fenian, Taig and Irish B*stards.

When I was ten, we moved to Poleglass. It would be safer there. My friend's family stayed behind. I never saw him again. Poleglass was nice, lots of grass to play on, no concrete walls except around gardens, and no bottles or stones being thrown over them. I didn't get called a Taig.

My new school was okay, the teacher was a friend of my mum's, so he was nice to me, but the other boys were horrible. They called me a poof just because I was quiet and worked hard. Teacher told me they were just jealous.

I passed the 11-plus and got into St Mary's, and made

new friends. I also got slagged constantly, bullied, pushed, shoved, spat at, had books stolen etc., because the boys from my class told others that I was a poof. They had other names for it, like faggot and queer. I thought faggot was something you light fires with, and that queer meant strange.

My life went from bad to worse. I wanted to die, and tried it a few times too, but it didn't work. It wasn't my fault I liked boys...was it?

Compared to being a Taig or Fenian, being gay (I later found out what it meant) was a nightmare. I asked my parents to move back to Bombay Street, as I'd rather be a Fenian than a queer. I wasn't ashamed of it, but it was easier to not be there.

I have embraced my sexuality since. I'm proud of who I am. I've been pretty much cross-community in everything, even my choice of boyfriends.

I came to a conclusion when writing this. People in a

sectarian interface are too busy noticing the differences in people on the other side of the Peace Line (who ironically they cannot see) to notice the differences in you. But move away, to a place where people know only themselves, and they can spot those differences a mile off. Maybe they should build Peace Lines everywhere... then one day us queers might be left alone.

Useful contacts:

Cara Friend Gay helpline
Mon/Tue/Wed 7.30pm-10pm 02890 322023

Lesbian Line Belfast
Thursdays 7.30pm-10pm 02890 238688

for general information:
www.queerspace.org.uk

‘WE’LL NEVER BE THE SAME

By Rosie Burrows

Parenting in a Divided Society is a Barnardo's project which began in 2002 following a number of consultations with children, young people, parents, and workers who were deeply concerned about the impact of more than 35 years of violent political conflict in the current period of transition from conflict. A resource 'We'll Never be the Same: learning with children, parents and communities through political conflict and trauma' was developed, produced and disseminated between 2002 and 2005. The aim of the work is to support the development of a more thorough understanding of trauma and in particular, conflict related trauma, as well as skills and practice related to working with intergenerational trauma within communities and organisations. Our vision is to contribute to building an inclusive and peaceful society by identifying and beginning to address the ongoing nature, as well as the legacy of political conflict.

Current research indicates that all those who inhabit the environment of the child need to be aware of how children are affected developmentally by trauma and the mechanisms by which inter-generational trauma moves through and emerges in subsequent generations. For example, incidents of young people either attempting to take, and/or taking their own lives, can be related to intergenerational trauma at the level of the individual, the family, and community. Increasing our understanding of the messages children and young people are attempting to give to us is critical to developing support and promoting well being for and with children and young people.

Each of us has been uniquely affected by the conflict individually, and in our families and communities. Learning about and paying attention to the indicators of unresolved trauma can be part of our everyday relationships, particularly with our children, thereby encouraging resilience and influencing how services are developed in support of children and their families, and the wider community.

The Resource 'We'll never be the same: learning with children, parents and communities through ongoing political conflict and trauma: a resource' is made up of one main document and five accompanying booklets:

Main document: considers the context of the work, the work with two interface groups, the model of work, and key learning.

Considering trauma and recovery: explores definitions of trauma, and seeks to offer a more appropriate definition for the context of



Cupar Way. Photo: Frankie Quinn

over 30 years of violent political conflict in the north of Ireland.

Considering children and parents/carers: focuses on children and trauma and a framework for working with children and adolescents, then presents information on loss and bereavement, concluding with a bibliography and further information.

Considering victims and workers: explores definitions of 'victim', and looks at victimisation and implications for workers, with an inclusive model for working with victimisation that includes the worker's own experiences.

Considering groups and leadership: explores group life, including trauma focused groups, and experiential approaches to participatory education using the work of Paulo Freire.

Considering communities and transformation: asserts the centrality of addressing the cultural and political context in this work.

Training workshops:

Having worked with a wide range of organizations in the greater Belfast area, the project will be making workshops more widely available at a number of levels suited to the needs of those involved. The workshops are progressive in terms of skills and knowledge development.

- Level 1 Basic awareness raising (for all, including managers, policy makers and others involved with planning and provision of services)
- Level 2 Intermediate awareness raising (for those more directly involved with children and young people in a range of contexts e.g. teachers)

- Level 3 Skills training (for those involved in working closely with the personal and emotional needs of young people e.g. youth workers, parents, peer educators, community workers)
- Level 4 Advanced skills (for those involved therapeutically with children and adults e.g. counsellors and therapists)

The training involves:

(a) An introduction to the resource – trauma theory relating to the key areas of children, families, workers and within the community and wider political context.

(b) Training in key areas including:

- How you can recognise the impacts of conflict related trauma on children and young people, families, groups, communities
- Why it is important to notice trauma related affects
- Applying key theory
- Essential skills (e.g. noticing 'triggers', 'resourcing' of oneself and working with another person/group, supervision and support)
- How trauma and political conflict impact on learning and development from the early years through to adulthood
- Trauma as a physical experience
- The intergenerational impacts of trauma
- Considering helpful/effective responses to trauma and victimisation
- Building resilience and recovery
- Supporting ourselves as workers/facilitators: in this context what support might be needed/can be provided?
- Trauma recovery, human rights and politics

Methodology

The programme is experiential i.e. using your life experiences as the core of the work. A variety of methods, including theoretical/research inputs, group discussion, skills development and personal and professional reflection forms the structure of the training.

Research

The project will also be involved in researching the impacts of the conflict, intergenerational characteristics and experiences, and implications for provision of services and support including community development.

The Facilitators

The facilitators and co-authors of the resource are Rosie Burrows and Bríd Keenan

Rosie Burrows is a Project Manager and a psychotherapist with specialist international trauma training (Somatic Experiencing work with the impact of trauma in the body - see www.traumahealing.com). Rosie has a background in community and women's education, community development, parent support, and group work. She has written and co-authored research, articles and resources for use in a variety of statutory, community and voluntary agencies and settings.

Bríd Keenan is a Gestalt psychotherapist also trained in the use of Somatic Experiencing work. She is an independent consultant working with Barnardo's on this project. Bríd's background was originally in education - teaching in schools, FE and University as well

as adult and continuing education. She has been involved in management training and early years work in the community sector and has published articles, research and resources relating in particular to early years, organizational development and the impact of conflict related and intergenerational trauma. Anyone interested in availing of the training can contact the project by ringing Rosie Burrows 028 90806473 or email: rosieburrows@ntlworld.com

Free copies of the resource are available at <http://www.barnardos.org.uk> under Resources and Publications, then Community life. A link is also available via Belfast Interface Project website.

TACKLING SECTARIANISM: AN ANTI-SECTARIANISM CHARTER



Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum Anti-Sectarianism Charter.

By Malachy Mulgrew

In March 2005 the Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum launched an Anti-Sectarianism Charter through its community relations project. This was a single identity piece of work as members of the Protestant, Loyalist, Unionist community who were asked to take part felt unable, at that time, to take up the offer. Some participants felt that it might be a meaningless exercise without this input, but most people wanted to make a start somewhere. The charter seeks to define sectarianism, recognises the misery it has inflicted on communities and that it exists within all communities. It seeks to promote behaviour and practices that challenge sectarianism within communities and to promote tolerance between them.

Launched during community relations week by pupils from the Belfast Royal Academy, Sacred Heart Primary School and Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain, the charter was also delivered to 3,500 households with a response slip attached for comments.

The response has been very encouraging with numerous phone calls and written replies. Some people have expressed an

interest in helping to develop the charter further, whilst others have congratulated the Forum for attempting it in the first place. These responses have come from all sections of our community.

Those who have developed the charter and the groups who have endorsed it have made a commitment to anti-sectarianism. For this to work we had to build into the charter possible activities for implementing our commitment. This needs to happen with all future developments of the charter.

The Boys' Brigade have requested, and received, a copy of the charter as well as an outline of the process used to develop it. The North Belfast Community Action Unit has expressed an interest in helping to develop the charter further. It will also be circulated round other C.E.P.s (community empowerment partnerships) and other organisations, schools and churches for endorsement and ratification. The Linen Hall Library will keep a copy of the charter permanently for their records. We see this as the start of a process to develop the charter and make it more representative of our community.

The North Belfast Conflict Transformation Forum (a forum of groups from both sides of the interfaces in North Belfast) will be using the process and questions that were used to develop this charter with other groups across the interfaces. This will lead to a conference later in the year at which this can be developed to become more representative of all the community in North Belfast.

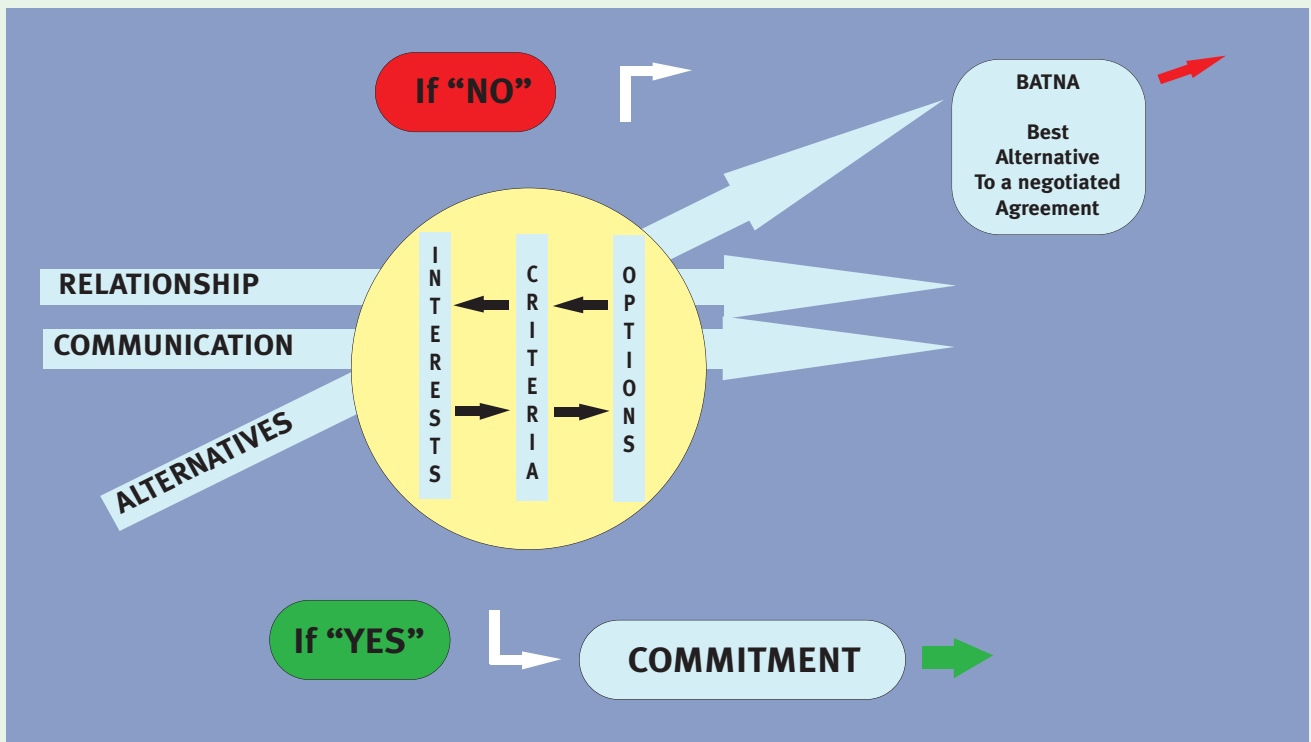
The charter has already been a very worthwhile piece of work and must continue to be rolled out through new groups and new areas where people are willing to work at it for a better future.

Malachy Mulgrew
Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum

For further info contact
Malachy on 07708657440 or
email: Malachy.ccrf@btconnect.com

The Good Negotiator's Checklist

By Diarmuid Moore



The Workers Educational Association believe that some practical steps, ideas and hints that you can immediately apply to your work on interfaces might be useful and relevant to the readership of *Interface*. What follows is a checklist based on seven elements of the Principled Negotiation Skills Model.

RELATIONSHIPS

Good negotiators learn to separate the people from the problem and deal with each on their merits. A good working relationship will go a long way to achieving a successful negotiation.

Hint: when you feel you are being attacked do not respond in kind, stick to the issues in hand i.e. do not react: reframe.

COMMUNICATION

Communication is the ability to convey information back and forth, clearly and accurately. Good negotiators are always identifying information to be given to the other side and questions to be asked of them.

Hint: learn to listen actively and show the other party that you have heard them.

ALTERNATIVES

Carefully consider what your alternatives are if you cannot reach an agreement with the other side, i.e. how you can get what you want without them. Identify your Best Alternative to a Negotiated Agreement (BATNA); you might need it if the negotiations do not go well.

Hint: if you have a really strong BATNA, i.e. you believe you can get what you want without the other side's agreement; you might not want to negotiate in the first place.

INTERESTS

Negotiations are often wrecked by sides adopting fixed positions and then trying to bully the other side into accepting them. The good negotiator tries to get below the surface of positions to identify their own interests and uncover those of the other party.

Hint: if the other side keeps sticking to their position keep asking the question why? i.e. why do they want that/ or why do you believe that?

OPTIONS

Having explored each others interests the sides should be ready to start generating possible solutions. Good negotiators should be able to separate generating ideas from making decisions. Try to keep this part of the process as open and creative as possible, as this will improve the quality of any agreement that is eventually reached.

Hint: this process can be improved if both sides can see themselves as a joint problem solving team i.e. they are colleagues addressing issues together not enemies trying to beat each other.

CRITERIA

Criteria are ways that can be used to judge how fair, wise or sensible any potential

agreement is. They might include things like laws, good practice standards, precedent or expert opinion. Of course they only really help if both sides can agree that they can be used.

Hint: often, in terms of community negotiation settings, there is little in the way of law or good practice standards that can be 'taken off the shelf' and used as criteria. In this case it is often helpful to design and agree the criteria between you. This can help to ensure that everyone buys into the outcome of the negotiations.

COMMITMENTS

Just when the prize is there for the taking many negotiations unravel because they rush this stage. Negotiations are dogged by vague, undocumented and ambiguous agreements. Good negotiators do not rush this stage and make sure that commitments are clear, time scaled and documented.

Hint: it might be a good idea to set up a monitoring mechanism as part of your commitments, so that both parties can check on progress.

If you want to know more about the Principled Negotiation Skills training project please contact Maura Kavanagh at the WEA, 90329718, maura.kavanagh@wea-ni.com or Diarmuid Moore, Building Communities: Programme Manager, WEA



POST:

I have been the Strategic Development Co-ordinator with the Lenadon Community Forum since 1996. I work at community level with our groups, at a policy influencing level and in seeking funding. In other words: everything!

YOUR COMMUNITY:

Lenadon is an estate of 9,000 people on the outskirts of West Belfast. It was built in the 1960s, housing both nationalists and unionists and its development was shaped by the events of 1969 onwards. By the mid '70s it had become a predominantly nationalist estate. Most of Lenadon is within the Glen Colin ward which is amongst the 10% most deprived in Northern Ireland.

Lenadon has a large youth population and ongoing issues include poverty, unemployment and health. Additionally it has an interface with the Unionist Suffolk area which was violent throughout the last 30 years. Through partnership with Suffolk Community Forum we created the Stewartstown Road Regeneration Project which has created a shared and open space for both communities at the interface.

LOW POINTS:

There are ongoing levels of frustration particularly around the funding cycles for ongoing work. The Lenadon Women's Group lost their funding in September 2004 yet have continued on a voluntary basis. I've always said we're the West Belfast air force due to the number of 'pilots' we've had! Housing is a sore point too. We need investment in social housing, not private apartments!

HIGH POINTS:

Seeing real change happen such as the Half Moon lake and community park becoming of real benefit to the community. Also, it's positive when you hear people talk in a manner that shows that attitudes have changed.

GOOD PRACTICE:

I believe the Forum is an example of good practice as we consult the community at all stages. We have met on the first Wednesday of each month since 1992. We're launching our third five year work plan for the area this month. The plan has been informed by the views of the community from the start. The Glen community complex and the Women's Group would be good examples as they use holistic approaches to complex issues.

YOUR DAY:

There is no such thing as an average day, it can start with a plan which is irrelevant within a couple of hours and I like that variety! There are night meetings, conferences, the interface...everything!

HOBBIES:

Family, lots of reading and oil painting, some of which might get finished some day!

BIP Develops Race and Ethnicity Support Strategy

By Paul Donnelly

Belfast Interface Project has developed a strategy to identify the support needs of members of ethnic minority communities living in interface areas of Belfast. With growing awareness of racial issues and attacks on ethnic minorities in our society increasing, as highlighted in previous issues of *Interface*, BIP felt that it was appropriate that we include the examination of these issues within our remit of developing the knowledge base within the organisation and for our membership and key stakeholders. With this in mind, BIP set up a working party in October 2004 to develop a response to these issues. Also informing the work of the working party was Neil Jarman's research into new and emerging interfaces, 'Demography, Development and Disorder: Changing Patterns of Interface Areas' (2004) in which Jarman identifies violence against ethnic minorities and the fear of such violence as an emerging element of the changing nature of interface issues.

The working party met with the Chinese Welfare Association and a number of community workers in South Belfast before Christmas 2004 to inform potential work in this area. The group drew up the following recommendations, which were endorsed by BIP's Management Committee in April 2005:

- The development of a year long pilot project involving the Development Worker meeting with two representative groups from ethnic minority communities per month.
- These 24 meetings will record the experiences and identify possible support needs of members of ethnic minority communities living within interface communities in Belfast.
- A report will be produced at the end of the pilot to direct BIP further in this work.
- The possible hosting of a conference or seminar on the above report in conjunction with an umbrella organisation representing ethnic minority groups.
- The development and provision of further support opportunities, as identified through report findings.

Responsibility for the strategy will lie with Paul Donnelly as Development Worker for BIP's Communications and Membership Support Project. At the time of writing a number of meetings and discussions have been put in place to advance this strategy. If you are interested in assisting with this piece of work or discussing it further, please contact Paul at BIP.

INTERFACE Feedback:

In issue three of *Interface* we asked you to fill in an accompanying questionnaire seeking feedback on the first three issues. Thank you to all those who responded. The positive evaluation and information that you gave signalled very high levels of satisfaction with Interface. You provided direction on how we can maintain what we are doing well while continuing to improve Interface for the benefit of our members and the many other people who read it.

Below are the quantitative questions and the average responses:

1) Has the information in Interface been generally useful to you? (Circle the number, as appropriate)

1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9.....10
Not at all Very much so
Response average 7.41

2) Has the content of Interface improved your knowledge of good practice in other communities and projects?

1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9.....10
Not at all Very much so
Response average 7.29

3) Based upon what you may have learnt about other groups and projects from Interface, would you find it easier now to make contact with those groups?

1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9.....10
Not at all Very much so
Response average 7.82

4) How representative has Interface been of the different political, religious and geographical communities across Belfast?

1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9.....10
Not at all Very much so
Response average 7.47

All the above averages show very high levels of satisfaction and we are particularly pleased that question three has the highest average, indicating that respondents feel the information in Interface would help to make contact with other groups easier.

The following qualitative questions also produced a range of positive answers and produced clear ideas for topics and features for future issues.

5) Are there Interface features you have found particularly helpful or unhelpful? If so, please comment:

6) Are there other topics or features you would like to see Interface cover? If so, please comment:

7) Have you found the design and layout of Interface to be accessible and clear? If not, please comment:

8) Have you any other comments to make about Interface?

The responses clearly illustrated that the layout and design are considered to be very good and that you have found the range of articles to be useful and informative. There were no negative comments about design or content.

Survey respondents were entered into a draw for a digital camera. This draw was won by Intercomm in North Belfast. Congratulations to Intercomm and thank you all for your useful feedback.

Promoting social and economic regeneration in Belfast's interface areas

IS THERE A PARTICULAR ISSUE THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE HIGHLIGHTED IN *INTERFACE*?

Send us an article about an issue that you feel needs to be highlighted, or about the work you're doing. 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. While *Interface* particularly welcomes input from within our membership, we are happy to consider articles and submissions from others involved in good practice in addressing interface community issues – community workers, women's groups, youth, elderly, ethnic groups, statutory bodies, local businesses and everyone else!

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 mission statement, meet our criteria (see our website for details) 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.

COMMENTS SECTION ON *INTERFACE*

As part of our ongoing evaluation of *Interface*, BIP invites readers to submit comments on each issue. Comments can be about the previous issue in full or about the particular merits or weaknesses of specific articles. We will publish comments and internally record them for our monitoring and evaluation purposes. Comments must be attributable to a named individual or organisation with accompanying contact details. We reserve the right to edit comments received.

WEBSITE UPDATE!

Recently uploaded publications:

News-sheets:

- Interface Issue 1 (May 2004)
- Interface Issue 2 (November 2004)
- Interface Issue 3 (April 2005)
- Interface Issue 4 (due July 2005)

Annual Reports:

- Annual Report 2004 - 2005
- Annual Report 2003 - 2004
- Annual Report 2002 - 2003
- Annual Report 2000 - 2002

Booklets:

- Peace lines or Battlefields? by Neil Jarman & Chris O'Halloran (2000)
- Inner East / Outer West (1999)
- Young People on the Interface (1998)

Other Publications:

- Operational Procedures for Displaced Families, produced by the NI Housing Executive in partnership with Strategic Oversight Group (2005)
- Membership Needs Survey (2005): Full Report & Executive Summary

- Conference Report 2004, 'Moving on at the Interface?': Full Report
- Scoping Public Sector Perceptions of Interface Issues (2004): Full Report & Executive Summary
- A Policy Agenda for the Interface (2004)
- Interface Communities and the Peace Process (1998)

Check it out at:

www.belfastinterfaceproject.org

BIP SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE - Europa Hotel, Thursday 8th September 2005.

BIP Second Annual Conference - Europa Hotel, Thursday 8th September 2005.

We held our first annual conference, 'Moving on at the Interface?' in June 2004. Presentations were made at the conference of the findings of our survey of membership needs and of a commissioned scoping study on the views of statutory agencies towards the regeneration of interface areas. Participation at the half-day event was lively and feedback has been that participants felt that it was very successful. (Full conference report available at our website)

We aim that this year's conference will be an all day event at which participants will have the opportunity to discuss key issues with political representatives and key decision-makers as well as to network with our members and key stakeholders. Topics for discussion will include conflict transformation and the social and economic regeneration of interface areas.

We are currently in the initial stages of making contact with speakers, etc.

If you wish to attend the conference please email us at info@belfastinterfaceproject.org or phone 02890 242828 to register.

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.



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